



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

September 2015

Volume 5 Edition 9

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1001*

### REFLECTIONS

Have you ever wondered where all your time goes – just when you think you have caught up with all your tasks – sure enough another one comes along?

That is where I find myself now and the next task is to complete this newsletter editorial.

So, what better topic than a cameo of some of the busy females in the Royal Australian Navy today and yesteryear.

### NANCY BENTLEY (1914-1999)

Some of you may know the story of the first female to be enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy – it was not a WRAN but a six-year-old girl named Nancy Bentley. She was enlisted as a full member of the RAN.

In 1920 Nancy lived with her parents in Port Arthur, Tasmania. The Navy often called in there and on this occasion, following the completion of sea exercises, there were about six naval vessels anchored in Carnarvon Bay.

Nancy had been out in the paddock playing and as her mother called all the children into tea, Nancy, running through the long grass slipped and was bitten by a snake. Her father put a tourniquet on her wrist and rowed her out to HMAS *Sydney* where he sought immediate medical help from the ships commanding officer, Captain Henry Cayley RAN. Although against Kings Rules and Admiralty Instructions this was obviously a case of life and death and Nancy was treated on

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**28 Sep** – NHS meeting (all welcome)

**04 Oct** – Recruits wreath laying.

**06-08 Oct** – Seapower Conference

**17 Oct** – Anzac Naval Commemorative Ball.

**18 Oct** – Seafarers Service 10:30

**18 Oct** – Navy week wreath laying  
12:30

**19 Oct** – Navy week golf tournament

**21 Oct** – Navy week Seminar

**21 Oct** – HMAS Lismore wreath laying

**22 Oct** – HMAS Australia  
Commemoration Service at St Paul's  
Cathedral

**23 Oct** – Navy week bowls tournament

**11 Nov** – Remembrance Day

**22 Nov** – HMAS Goorangai march and  
service, Queenscliffe.

## ANZAC Centenary Events

*ANZAC Naval Commemorative  
Ball*

*The Atrium, Flemington Racecourse,  
448 Epsom Rd, Flemington (10  
Minutes from the CBD). Full details at:  
<http://www.anzacball2015.org/page2.html> and  
<http://www.anzacball2015.org/page6.html>*

board.

Once the immediate danger had passed the doctor explained that she was not to be moved for several days. In order to comply with naval regulations there was nothing for it but to enlist Nancy in the Navy and she was formally enlisted as an honorary member of the RAN. Her enlistment was for a period of eight days and she was issued with a Service Certificate, a Conduct Record Sheet, an official number – 000001, a uniform and her official rating was “mascot”. Nancy’s papers recorded that her period of enlistment was “until fed up”.

The *Sydney* conveyed Nancy to Hobart, where she received medical treatment after which she enjoyed a trip to the cinema with the crew. She was returned to Port Arthur and discharged from duty, as she was “required by her parents”, and her conduct record reported that she was of good character and was “exceptional” in her seaman’s duties.



The crew of HMAS Sydney kept in touch with her for years, and in 1986, as part of the Navy’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations she was made a life member of the HMAS Sydney Association.

## **CMDR MELANIE VEHRO**



CMDR Vehro is the current XO of HMAS Cerberus.

In 1991 – when females at sea were still a relatively new concept – she tells the story of having to wear “steel capped boots with her white bowling dress and stockings” while being fallen in on the forecastle of HMAS Jervis Bay as they departed port. She has served in over a dozen ships (many of them now dive wrecks or razor blades) across seven different platforms. She has sailed through the South West Pacific, South and North East Asia and to many ports in Australia. After 10 years of training that taught her “do not run aground” or “do not

## **Latest News**

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**NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:**

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

### ***Innovation core to Navy business***

*As part of a recent trip to HMAS Stirling, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Tim Barrett held a roundtable discussion on innovation with sailors and officers.*

### ***ADF tests latest amphibious capability***

*The Australian Defence Force is testing its newest amphibious capability ahead of the upcoming cyclone season.*

### ***On The Record - CN***

*I believe it is important to go on the record following the allegations made in Paul Farrell’s article ‘Revealed: senior military figures suppressed allegations of sexual misconduct at navy training base’*

### ***Minister for Defence – Marise Payne:***

*Ladies and gentlemen I wanted to take this opportunity to speak to you about what I regard as an extraordinary honour and a very humbling appointment of myself as Australia’s Minister for Defence.*

### ***Support to helicopter training project on track***

*A major step towards delivering a comprehensive helicopter training system for the Australian Defence Force occurred on 12 September with the commencement of a \$157 million construction project at HMAS Albatross and Jervis Bay Airfield.*

### ***Australia welcomes Japanese defence reform***

run into another ship” in 2005-2006 as the CO of HMAS Labuan she had to do both.

Her second command was the Armidale Class Patrol Boat Crew ATTACK FIVE.

### LEUT DI BUCKINGHAM



Transition into Navy life was easy for LEUT Buckingham who had spent years in the Naval Cadets, she was one of the first of the “new breed” WRANS as she joined in 1986 – and the WRANS had officially disbanded in 1985. Deploying to Somalia for Operation Solace on Boxing Day 1992 was one of her scariest things she has ever undertaken. LEUT Buckingham believes this was one of the earliest operations where women were deployed.

### ABLE SEAMAN SARAH BATTENALLY

As part of a team, Sarah has completed an emergency change out of a LM2500 gas turbine in HMAS Darwin and fixed and maintained a mountain of different plant machinery along the way. She has managed to serve on three platforms and spent over three years at sea! If you ask me - I’ve been pretty lucky. The questions I get asked a lot are, do you find the work hard? Truthfully, sometimes I do, but it’s like a dog with a bone I can’t walk away till I know it’s done and done properly, like anybody who takes pride in his or her job.

Physically it can be demanding and I wonder sometimes, if the boys are just keeping their chin up because I am, and neither of us wants to be the first to give in! But I do make a lot of time to train hard just so I can pull my own weight. The other is question I get is, “How is it, working as the only female in your department?” The only analogy I can use to explain it is, it’s like having a lot of brothers, sometimes you butt heads, but most of the time they’re looking out for you. I’m just getting the hang of it - but it’s about being a bigger sister too.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

Information for this editorial has been sourced from the book [“Winning at Sea: The Story of Women at Sea in the RAN”](#) and from the website [Shaping Tasmania](#)

*I welcome the decision of the Japanese Government to reform its defence policies to enable Japan to play a greater role in promoting peace and security.*

### **No change to eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal**

*The Australian Government has accepted the recommendation of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal that the Australian Government does not have the legal authority to change eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.*

### **Pension increase for veterans**

*Veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see an increase to their pensions from 20 September 2015 as part of the bi-annual indexation process.*

### **Statement on Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Operations in the Middle East Maritime and Peacekeeping Operations**

*In addition to our commitment in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ADF continues to support vital work in maritime security and peacekeeping operations in the wider Middle East and around the world.*

### **Better Online Alcohol Management Support**

*The Right Mix website has been enhanced to provide better support for veterans and serving ADF members in order to help them manage their alcohol consumption.*

### **Veterans’ Reform Bill Delay**

*The leaders of the Ex-Service Organisations are concerned that the passage of the Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 has been delayed in the Senate.*

## VALE

- † CEWE T. Hatchard, 23 September 2015. Aged 74.
- † LEUT(SMEX) F. Lawrence RAN, 21 September 2015.
- † AB F.R. Lear, S8716, 20 September 2015. Aged 90.
- † LSETC K. Smith, 20 September 2015. Aged 65.
- † CPORS B.J. Lynch, R52104, 12 September 2015. Aged 76.
- † LEMP D. Lodding, 10 September 2015. Aged 66.
- † LEUT SDEX(C) G. Linning, R50356, 07 September 2015.
- † CMDR W.T. Gascoigne RAN, 03 September 2015. Aged 69.
- † LEUT R.C. Cran, S3385, 31 August 2015. Aged 95.
- † LRO K.K. RORISON, R52637, 30 August 2015.
- † WO(AH) G.J. Linaker, R50530, 29 August 2015.
- † CAPT D. Johns RAN Rtd., 25 August 2015.
- † TEL A.B. Dick, B3388, 25 August 2015.

## Lest We Forget

**To all who read this:** If 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.

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### Navy Week Victoria – 2015

Details of Navy week events in Victoria can be found at:

<http://navyvic.net/news/navyweek2015.html>

### Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division, Centenary Celebration Dinner



*Celebration of the Centenary of Navy League in Victoria and to remember all those who over 100 years gave voluntary service to the Australian Community through the League. The Celebration dinner will be held at the Box Hill RSL on Saturday 14 Nov 2015.*

[Download the flyer with full details.....](#)

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

### Suicide Prevention App Supports Veterans Anywhere, Anytime

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, released a free mobile phone app to help serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel deal with suicidal thoughts.*

### Historic World War II Corvette HMAS Castlemaine Has Her Bottom Cleaned

*Over the period 14-28 August 2015 while at BAE Systems the ship was dry docked in the Alfred Graving Dock and the hull was cleaned and painted.*

### Expressions of Interest - The Victorian Reserve Officers' Dining In Night

*The Victorian Reserve Officers' Dining In Night has been arranged for Friday 13th November 2015.*

### Defence launches Pride Network

*A network to support Defence Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) personnel was launched at the inaugural Military Pride Ball at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney on Saturday.*

### HMAS Sydney Decommissioning

*HMAS Sydney IV will decommission on Saturday 07 November 2015 after 32 years of service to the nation.*

### HMAS Sydney II Veteran, Honoured at Sea

*At dusk on 30 August, amidst the rolling waves of the Indian Ocean, the crew of HMAS Sirius gathered on the flight deck to celebrate the life and service of Richard "Dick" Vincent Radcliffe, in the vicinity of the HMAS Sydney II wreckage.*

### Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) September newsletter.....

**NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)**

**Don't forget to visit the [website](#) as there are many more news articles that may be of interest to you but are not included in this newsletter.**





# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### KEY ENGAGEMENTS

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

**RAN Recruit  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
4OCT15@1000**

**Navy Week  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
18OCT15@1230**

**HMAS Lismore  
'Corvettes'  
Wreath Laying  
Dedicated Tree  
21OCT15@1030**

**Significant Events  
At St Pauls Cathedral**

**Seafarers Service  
18OCT15@1030**

**HMAS Australia Ass  
Leyte Gulf offensive  
22OCT15@1100**

**All Ship/Unit/Branch  
Associations are en-  
couraged to be repre-  
sented at the next  
NCCV meeting**

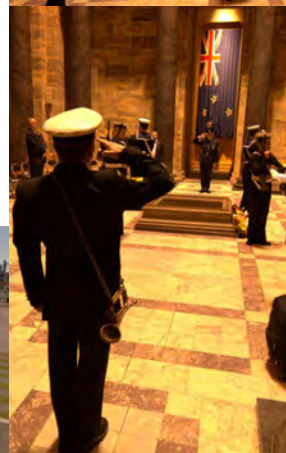
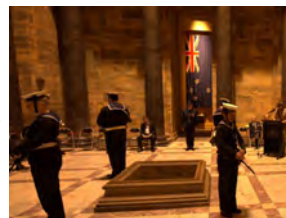
**13OCT15 @ 1030 at  
Melb Naval Centre**

### *The Battle of Bita Paka*

The Battle of Bita Paka was again commemorated at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 101 anniversary of the offensive. It was at this offensive that the first Australian Serviceman made the supreme sacrifice, with the first casualty being AB Billy Williams of Northcote, Melbourne, an ex-employee of the City of Melbourne. Some refer to Bita Paka as a skirmish, whilst it was an offensive that may have only taken 48 hours to succeed, the impact of this success was to have a profound impact on the Australian community. Given it occurred at the outset of hostilities in 1914, it was a significant occasion for the fledgling Commonwealth of Australia. We had no history of our own and this was an event that would provide a foundation for other military feats, whether they be successful or otherwise. Another casualty on the first day of the Battle was the death of Army Doctor CAPT Brian Pockley. CAPT Pockley gave his Red Cross armband to another naval serviceman, Stoker Kember, so Kember could carry Billy Williams back to safety and medical attention. Shortly afterwards, Pockley was also wounded, unprotected due to his unknown medical status.

To mark the occasion a small number of VIPs and Veterans, supported by a Catafalque Party with a Colour Party carrying the relevant Ensigns. The commemorative Service

was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance, co-organised by Darebin RSL and the NCCV. The address was delivered by CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus. CAPT Bowater reminded everyone of the tremendous spirit of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force. He spoke of the adverse situation and courage of those engaged in this battle. CAPT Bowater referred to the comparisons made on a time basis, stipulating that the period of conflict is not the appropriate method of measuring the contribution made by individuals under the most impossible circumstances.



Left, the Catafalque Party at Rest as MAJ Charles Castles delivers a reading. Also pictured is POMUS Simon Potter, the Bugler at the service when the national anthem was played with the Catafalque Party at Present. After the service in the Sanctuary, VIPs and family members ad-



journed to the Raibaul tree to also lay wreaths at the ANMEF plaques.





### Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Author's thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available.

### Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is a service to the entire Navy Community.

The purpose is to share information and where possible avoid a clash with other activities scheduled by others in the Navy Community.

Log on to

<http://navyvic.net>

### Melbourne Naval Centre

MNC is an organization that has provided much needed funds to Ship Associations over many decades. In need

# President's Report

We are approaching a month of some significance and we hope you will support the initiative to re-boot Navy Week Victoria - 2015 during October with some vigour.

Many within the Navy community will be doing something, all good stuff - but have you factored in at least one of the several Navy Week activities arranged between Saturday, 17OCT and 24OCT15. You will see the list of events listed within this and past editions of Rogues Yarn, all in a keen effort to get you to something during this year of the Spirit of ANZAC. There are a few Champions that have put considerable effort into Navy Week events, we should not let them down. HMAS Cerberus has been terrific in providing support for a multitude of activities during this year, with plenty more to go. Routinely, we remind ourselves of the commemorative milestones that represent 100, 75 & 50 year anniversaries, plus the normal reflection of events. It has proved very difficult to achieve a change in numbers attending

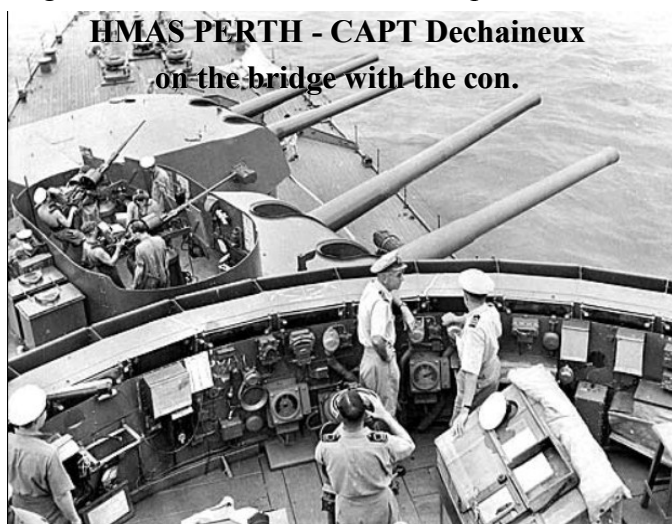
these events, each arranged to build on the heritage of the past. Whilst it seems there is renewed interest around offensive activities encountered during WWI, there remains many occasions when the tragic circumstances of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Timor and later Operations in the Middle East should ignite some interest from ex-Service men and women. Also, descendants of those that actually participated in war-like operations should engage. On a different matter, we await the outcome of the recent review by the Victorian Veterans Council as they seek to improve support to Veterans. There will be a range of ideas gathered that will be of benefit to the many independent Ship/Unit and Branch Associations that seek to bind the Veteran community together. Notwithstanding the wide range of views and interests, we should be able to bring them together to maximize our support and value to Navy.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## HMAS Australia - Battle of Leyte, Phillipines

The HMAS Australia Veterans' Association extends an invitation to all within the Naval fraternity to attend their Commemoration Service at 1100, St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, 22OCT15. This service reflects the sacrifice made during the World War Two Leyte Gulf offensive. This service is well placed during our newly rejuvenated Navy Week Victoria, where significant activities have been scheduled for several days of that week. Attendance at this service will be welcomed by the WWII HMAS Australia Veterans who arrange this service. During October 1944, Australian ships were part of the massive Allied invasion fleet that landed American troops at Leyte Gulf, in the Philippines, enabling General Douglas MacArthur to honour his promise, made two years earlier to return to the Philippines. The frigate HMAS Gascoyne and motor launch HDML1074 were part of a hydrographic survey group that plotted the approaches to the landing beaches and then the landing ships HMA Ships Kanimbla, Manoora and Westralia were among hundreds of transports and landing craft. The cruisers HMA Ships Australia and Shropshire and destroyers HMA Ships Arunta and Warramunga were part of the covering force. They shelled positions on

shore and protected landing craft taking soldiers to their designated landing beaches in Leyte Gulf. It was during this battle that Kamikaze attacks first occurred. Japanese aircraft were packed with high explosive or armed with bombs. On 21OCT44 HMAS Australia became the first Allied warship to be hit by a kamikaze aircraft. The plane flew into the Bridge, killing the command team, including CAPT Emile Dechaineux DSC pictured below.



**HMAS PERTH - CAPT Dechaineux  
on the bridge with the con.**



## Wreath Sunday



Our records note that during the mid 1960s NCCV worked with Navy to initiate Navy Week. We understand the wreath laying was in direct response to the death of Admiral of the Fleet Andrew Browne Cunningham RN, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet during WW2. Admiral Cunningham was highly regarded by the Australian Sailors who had served in the Scrap Iron Flotilla and the N Class Destroyers whilst they were under his command in the Mediterranean. It was a mere twenty years since the end of WW2 and their memory of those heady days remained fresh in their minds. Several of the Australian warships involved were lost, each loss etched in their minds the magnitude of the risk surrounding their day to day activities. The Wreath Laying Service will be at 1230, Sunday 18OCT15 in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Senior Naval Officer Victoria will deliver the address. A Catafalque Party will be provided by Cerberus. We hope Service and ex-Service men and women, and descendants will appreciate the significance of the occasion.

## Seminar Wednesday



We have an opportunity for anyone interested in military to attend a seminar where you can hear from the Senior Military Officers in Victoria, CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN Senior Naval Officer Victoria, MAJGEN Paul McLachlan AM CSC Senior Army Officer Victoria and GPCAPT Terence Deeth, Chief of Staff to Senior RAAF Officer Victoria. We are very pleased to have Admiral Chris Barrie AC present. We will hear Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO CSC on submarines, to round everything off we will hear about medical from GPCAPT Annette Holian RAAFR, an orthopaedic surgeon. Each presenters is well placed to highlight how a particular stream of interest was tackled by the Defence Force during World War One and compare that to today! This opportunity will occur in the theatre at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Cost will be \$30 with lunch. We start at 1000 and finish at 1500. If you are interested, please reserve your seat by email us at [naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com](mailto:naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com) or telephone 0411 135 163. After receiving your advice, we will let you know the bank details so you can make your payment prior to the day. We need to avoid accepting coins at the Shrine of Remembrance.

## Golf Monday



A wonderful golf tournament has been arranged for those skilled in the use of club and ball! Waveley Golf Club is a terrific course and the only hurdle is the need to make the decision to participate. At \$50 Per Person, with group bookings most welcome, the ability to join in the fun is only limited by your capacity to send an email or at worst ring Rohan at HMAS Cerberus. Before you start, you may have to stand at attention for a few minutes, Colours and so forth, just as a reminder for the Old Salts about what it used to be like. The plan is for a game of golf, lunch, generous prizes across all grades (including ladies), nearest the pin, longest/straightest drives etc. To help the aging disgracefully, individual Stableford (Callaway for non-Golf Australia handicapped players) will apply. Be ready for a 0900 shotgun start, that follows (0800-0845) registration and a briefing. You will be in good hands, thanks to Event Co-ordinator Chief Rohan Jennings. You can contact Rohan by email [rohan.jennings@defence.gov.au](mailto:rohan.jennings@defence.gov.au) or telephone 03 5931 5806, Mob: 0414 871 957. You may also obtain more info at our website, see below. This will be a great day with like minded folk!

## Bowls Friday



The opportunity to show off your skill as a bowler is being offered to any 4s Team who wish to challenge. At a mere \$100 per Team, you can attend the Bowls Tournament at the Mulgrave Country Club on Friday, 23OCT15. This is all part of Navy Week, but you don't have to be Navy or Ex-Navy to join in the fun! The plan is to play three games of twelve ends. A good test of your skill and ideally suited to draw out the champion Team. On the day, you will experience strong competition, a catered lunch and light refreshments inbetween to the team fuelled up. Prizes will be presented to the best Team and maybe even those who exceed their expectations. The excitement will commence at 0930, again with Colours to remind us that Once Navy always Navy! Entry is by Teams, no doubt you can source other players from your normal fraternity of bowlers. The Event Co-ordinator is Chief Gregory McClelland and we are very thankful for his support. If interested email the Co-ordinator: [gregory.mcclelland@defence.gov.au](mailto:gregory.mcclelland@defence.gov.au) or go to our website and see the proforma for the tournament. The website also shows the banking details for payment and advises on how best to let Gregory know who wishes to play. Lets give it go!!

## ANZAC Centenary

Whilst it appears as if things have slowed down since ANZAC Day, this lull in activities may be reminiscent of the sentiment after the August offensive on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The failure experienced by those at Gallipoli, through extraordinary losses and strategic mistakes occurred beyond the view of Australia. Notwithstanding the mistakes, defence of Turkey by the Ottoman Empire was intense, structured and successful. Defence of Turkey culminated in the departure of Allied Forces on 20DEC15. The Gallipoli campaign had been bookended by HMAS AE2 first in and the RAN Bridging Team last out.



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## Items of special interest

**Unveiling.** A reminder that the East Gippsland Sub-Section, NAA will unveil the memorial plaque at the Beaufort Gardens, Bairnsdale at 1100 on Sunday, 4OCT15. The memorial plaque is in memory of those who lost their lives during their service in the Fleet Air Arm during WW2.



**Navy League.** The Navy League of Australia has been in business for 100 years. To mark this significant occasion NL has arranged a bonanza celebration at the Box Hill RSL, Upton Room. Given the contribution by NL over this extraordinary period it warrants our support. If you

are interested in joining the fun, go to the Navy Victoria Network, or to the NL website for the proforma to advise of your interest. Fun for all!

**HMAS AE1 & AE2.** The Submariners Association held their annual commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 13SEP15. Approximately 20 Service and Ex-Service people

attended. The Submariners were supported by a Catafalque Party from HMAS Cerberus and also POMUS Simon Potter who played the Last Post. Given the significance of the occasion it would have been nice to see a larger level of support, however, the Association continues to mark the loss of AE1 & AE2 as key historic milestones.

**Merchant Navy Service.** There was also a service at the Shrine of Remembrance in September to recognise the contribution made by those who served in the Merchant Navy under high risk war-like conditions. It takes occasions such as this to remind us of the enormous losses that occurred during War involving Merchant men of Australia & Allied Forces. We only need to recognise the losses experienced up and down the east coast of Australia to appreciate the effort by these sailors.

**Recruits.** Individuals joining the Navy as General Service visit the Shrine of Remembrance at the end of week three. This experience has improved the level of retention, their connection to the past by way of explanation and touring the Galleries of Remembrance emphasises their new heritage.