



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

September 2016

Volume 6 Edition 9

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1037*

As we have now passed the 30th Anniversary of the first females officially entering into the Royal Australia Navy, I thought it might be of interest to some to go way back and look at some of the women who played their part under the Naval banner well before this.

Going way back:

At the outbreak of WWI the RAN requisitioned a merchant ship to become a Hospital ship and renamed it HMAS Grantala – at the same time they were looking for Nurses to become members of the ships company, 7 nurses from St Andrews Hospital in Sydney were selected- What an intrepid group of ladies they must have been. On the 19<sup>th</sup> August they departed for German New Guinea with our first contingent of men of the Australian Naval & Military expeditionary Force. While this was a short Naval deployment, and the nurses were never actually enlisted into the Navy they are our first Women on record.

On their return to Sydney on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1914, the Grantala's naval and medical personnel were paid off. The nurses were keen to continue in active service, but were advised



that further service aboard was unlikely as the war would soon

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**01 Oct** – In 1942 – WRANS officially sworn into the Navy.

**02 Oct** – Daylight saving commences

**16 Oct** – Seafarers' Service at St. Pauls

**16 Oct** – Navy Week Service at Shrine

**19 Oct** – Navy Week Seminar at Shrine

**21-24 Oct** – HMAS Adelaide alongside Station Pier, Melbourne

**23 Oct** – Open Day at HMAS Cerberus

**24 Oct** – NHS AGM – all welcome

**11 Nov** – Remembrance Day

## Latest News Headlines

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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>

**Videos to view on the 'News' page:**

- \*Exercise Kakadu comes to an end
- \*USS Jackson full ship shock trials
- \*Chinook trials on HMAS Adelaide
- \*Senator Lambie's message to Vets
- \*Zumwalt departs for weapons testing

**Successful Sea Trials for First Air Warfare Destroyer**

*Today marks the successful completion of ship builder sea trials for the future*

be over. Sister Kirkcaldie promptly made her way to England and joined the QAUMNS. Matron de Mestre and four of the others later joined the AANS and served overseas, several on hospital ships

It took another 27 years before women played their part in Australian Naval history.

Mrs Florence McKenzie a woman before her time, in 1922 became the first woman to graduate in Australia as an electrical engineer and went on to be the first female to obtain an amateur radio operator' licence.

When it was obvious that war was inevitable she realised that Communications in Australia would play a tremendously important part. She gathered a group of friends together and started to teach them Morse code; soon others joined her. She and her husband wired hundreds of Morse code keys so that different groups could be held. Soon the Armed forces heard of her school and as there was nothing like it available Navy army Air Force Merchant Navy Indian Navy and later the American servicemen used her school in a frantic rush to train troop for active service.

By the end of 1940 she had over 600 women highly skilled in wireless telegraphy.

As the RAN controlled all international communications Florence McKenzie approached them with a vision of enlisting women into the Navy. Of course this did not go smoothly and it took until early 1941 to achieve

In April 1941 she was responsible for forming the Women' Emergency signals Corps (WESC). Three days after ANZAC Day 1914 fourteen civilian were recruited for wireless telegraphy work at the Royal Australian Navy Wireless / Transmitting Station in Canberra, HMAS HARMEN.

It was part of a trial to free up men for service aboard ships, but it wasn't until 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 that the Women Royal Australian Naval Service was formally established as a women's auxiliary service.

The surge in recruitment led to the development of an internal officer corps.

Shelia McClemans enlisted in January 1943, entering the first WRANS officer training course at HMAS *Cerberus*. Promoted to third officer in the February, 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer McClemans was appointed to the staff of the director of naval reserves and

*Air Warfare Destroyer Hobart, at  
Techport Australia in Adelaide.*

#### **US Navy hosts 100-nation International Seapower Symposium**

*The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) welcomed the 22nd edition of the Chief of Naval Operations' International Seapower Symposium (ISS) which began September 20 with senior representatives from more than 100 nations attending in Newport, Rhode Island.*

#### **Milestone Reached – First EC135 Flight**

*It was up, up and away for the EC-135T2 helicopter, the latest aircraft to be acquired by the Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army as part of the new Helicopter Aircrew Training System (HATS). The first aircraft lifted off from HMAS Albatross yesterday.*

#### **US Navy's priciest destroyer ever built suffers engineering casualty**

*Sailors aboard USS Zumwalt, the U.S. Navy's next-generation stealth destroyer, found a fault in the ship's engineering plant while the ship was in Norfolk, navy officials told to USNI News.*

#### **Navy Week Victoria – Seminar**

*NCCV & RUSI Victoria invite all interested in Navy to attend the seminar on Wednesday, 19th October 2016. Venue: Theatrette, Shrine of Remembrance - From: 1000 to 1500.*

#### **Increase to veterans' pension**

*Veteran pension payments will increase from today. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said pension payments would increase from 20 September 2016 in line with indexation for veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia. The pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, so pensioners will see a partial increase on their next payday – 29 Sep 2016.*

mobilisation, Navy Office, Melbourne. She rose rapidly in the service, being promoted to second officer in July and to first officer in November 1943. (This was indeed very rapid promotion with only months in each rank – now there are years between ranks not months)1<sup>st</sup> Officer McClemans was re-appointed to Navy Office in January 1944 to administer the WRANS and in August 1944 she was appointed the first and only Director WRANS in WWII.

Confronting stringent service limitations that offered female (WRANS) personnel fewer occupations than members of the Australian Women's Army Service and Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, 1<sup>st</sup> Officer McClemans strove to increase recruitment, to expand areas of employment and to improve promotion provisions. Many of her endeavours, however, were frustrated by the very conservative hierarchy of the Royal Australian Navy. She travelled extensively, bringing understanding and deep benevolence to bear on the problems of administration. Promoted to chief officer in January 1945, she was selected the following year to travel to Britain to represent the WRANS in the Victory March. Although many stood in awe of her, beneath a slightly austere exterior she was a warm and compassionate person. Rear Admiral G. D. Moore, formerly second naval member of the Australian Naval Board, was to attribute the success of the WRANS largely to her 'untiring interest in the welfare of every Wran, her kindness, and perhaps above all her sound common sense'. Before her appointment terminated on 27 February 1947 she submitted a paper entitled 'Proposals for a Permanent WRANS' in which she maintained her criticism of the lack of support for the WRANS from the RAN. She was appointed OBE in 1951.

Over the course of World War II, over 3,000 women served in more than 22 categories. Initial categories were Telegraphist, Writer, Sick Berth Attendant, Stores Assistant, Cook, Steward and Regulating

The organisation was disbanded in 1947, and then reformed in 1951 at the time of the Korean War, when any WWII WRAN (who had not married in the meantime) could rejoin.

1952 the first of the post-war WRANS entered HMAS CERBERUS.

The first rating to rejoin was PO Writer Eve Ekert, who had served during WWII, she remained in the service for a further 10 years, retiring as an acting-First Officer.

1958 one of our better known WWII WRANS became Director

### ***New Zealand Navy tanker to feature Rolls Royce's wave-piercing hull form***

*New Zealand Navy's new 23,000t Polar-class logistics support vessel, which will replace the 30-year-old tanker HMNZS Endeavour, will become the first naval vessel to feature Rolls-Royce's Enviroship leadge bow, the company announced September 20. Rolls-Royce has signed a contract with Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) to provide a concept design based on the Rolls-Royce Enviroship leadge bow.*

### ***Britain hires industrial team to work on laser weapons***

*The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) is preparing a £30M contract which will see a number of companies join together to develop a Laser Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) capability demonstrator that will give the government an insight into laser weapon possibilities.*

### ***Operation Render Safe helps bring safety to the Solomon Islands***

*The dangers posed by explosive remnants of war in the Solomon Islands will again be tackled with the commencement of Operation Render Safe 16 over the weekend.*

### ***Australian peacekeeping memorial – construction underway***

*Construction has commenced on a National Memorial in Canberra to honour Australia's 90,000 peacekeepers, Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel the Hon Dan Tehan MP announced today.*

### ***Addressing mefloquine concerns***

*The Department of Veterans' Affairs has established a dedicated mefloquine support team for our serving and ex-serving community.*

WRANS – Joan Streeter,

CAPT Joan Streeter notched up several firsts – in the course of her 15 years' service:

She became the first female to be promoted to CAPTAIN, and saw the first WRANS take up postings overseas (Singapore) also in 1959 she saw the WRANS become a designated part of the Australian military Forces.

When the post war girls arrived back in HMAS Cerberus they found that the accommodation was primitive, by today's standard, initially temporary, huts (Nissan huts) used in WWII were again used for the Post War WRANS. Once the RAN College was relocated to HMAS Creswell in December 1957, the Cerberus WRANS took over the old RAN College building (Grant Block) and remained there until mid-1980's. Grant block is currently the Command building at HMAS Cerberus.

In 1959, the WRANS were designated a permanent part of the Australian military.

Late 60's and Early 70's saw the beginning of vital changes for the WRANS – as working conditions were becoming more closely aligned to their male counterparts.

1969 Females could remain in after marriage, and then eventually in -

1975 they could remain even when they became pregnant – only up to the 5 month mark.

1977 it was decided that selected WRANS of the Weapons Electrical Engineering Branch would undergo specialist training at HMAS NIRIMBA. It took until 25<sup>th</sup> March 1979 to address the matter of accommodation; the Senior WRAN was ETC Linda Neilson

In the 1980s WRANS of non-technical categories began to take up Ship's Company billets.

WRANS were employed in the categories: cook, steward, writer, stores victualling, regulating, radio operator, radar plot, motor transport driver, electronic technical communications, dental and medical.

It is only in recent years that females have been eligible to train and work in all categories across defence.

***Government response to Senate Inquiry Report on mental health of ADF members and veterans***

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Dan Tehan, said the Government would increase mental health support for ADF members and veterans.*

***Streamlined processing reduces red tape for veterans***

*Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said the Government had cut red tape which meant veterans' claims would be processed faster.*

***Australian Navy's first Aegis destroyer starts builder's sea trials***

*HMAS Hobart, the first of three Royal Australian Navy Aegis-equipped air warfare destroyers, has started builder's sea trials leaving ASC's Osborne, South Australia shipyard for the first time.*

***An upgrade for the Air Warfare Destroyer — already?***

*Analysing Australian defence expenditures is like a game of Battleship. Occasionally you'll score a hit, but attempting to understand a given acquisition often results in an ineffectual splash. A big part of the problem is the lack of official information, especially about future acquisitions.*

***Businessmen aim to sink French sub***

*A group of prominent businessmen has launched a push to torpedo Australia's \$50 billion plan for a fleet of French-built submarines. Jaycar Electronics owner Gary Johnston, Dick Smith, John Singleton, Boyd Munro and John Tait have urged the government in an advertisement in The Australian today not to build the Shortfin Barracuda in Adelaide.*



## RANNS

Then there were the women of the RANNS, Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service – a completely separate unit again.

Whilst commencing in April 1941, it wasn't until Oct 1941 that 23 qualified nurses were able to commence working in RAN Hospitals,

By the time WWII ended 56 nursing sisters were working all over Australia and at Milne Bay.

The RANNS disbanded in August 1948 and re-established in Nov 1964. They were enlisted in the RAN with the rank of sub-lieutenant on probation, and after undergoing training as naval officers at HMAS Creswell, they then undertook familiarisation at the RAN Medical Training School at HMAS Cerberus, after which they were posted to billets in either the RAN Hospital, HMAS Penguin, in Sydney or the RAN hospital at HMAS Cerberus.

After their initial period of service nurses could expect to be posted to Albatross, Creswell, Nirimba, Leeuwin, Stirling or the Patrol Boat Base at Lombrum, in Papua New Guinea. They were also responsible for medical and surgical nursing and for on-the-job training of medical branch sailors. [WRAN](#)

Women (with the exceptions of Sister J.E.W Tame appointed to Hospital Ship Manunda) were not permitted to serve aboard Royal Australian Navy ships until 1983.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

## MNC: New Name & New Digs

The President and members of the Melbourne Naval Committee (previously known at the Melbourne Naval Centre) are pleased to announce the following changes to the MNC's "modus operandi":

### 1) New Name:

Recognising the fact that the 'good old days' when the MNC actually owned and operated a venue (the White Ensign Club: 1947 to 1970) which provided accommodation, meals and recreation for Sailors ashore or on leave in Melbourne are long-since gone, the Committee of the MNC has recently decided to replace the word "Centre" in its title with the word "Committee" to more accurately reflect the contemporary role of the MNC (see "About Us" in the "Associations" link on the NVN Website). This also retains the organisation's "MNC" acronym which is already well known and truly appreciated in the wider ex-Navy

### ***Veterans' Suicides - Historic Senate Committee Investigation – Media Statement- 5.9.16***

*Senate given permission to investigate Veterans' Suicides and DVA performance after Lambie motion succeeds. (also view the video message to vets on the News page)*

### ***Veterans' grants build community connection***

*Ex-service organisations will share more than \$600,000 to enhance the lives of those in the veteran community. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said the latest round of 35 grants under the Veteran and Community Grants program would directly benefit veterans and their families.*

### ***Australia orders new anti-ship missile test simulator***

*The Royal Australian Navy has awarded BAE Systems Australia a \$32 million, three year contract to provide an improved anti-ship missile test capability. Under the contract, BAE Systems will deliver the Future Advanced Threat Simulator (FATS), an airborne radar system designed to closely emulate the in-flight behaviour of a range of anti-ship missiles.*

### ***BAE Systems told to refine Type 26 design for new Australian frigates***

*The Australian government has awarded BAE Systems a contract to further refine its design of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship (GCS) for the Royal Australian Navy under the SEA 5000 (Future Frigate) program.*

### ***Response to Defence Abuse Response Task Force Final Report***

*The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, has thanked the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce for its work*

community in Victoria.

## 2) New 'Digs':

Although the English Speaking Union (ESU) in South Yarra has served the MNC and a number of ex-Navy Associations well as a venue for our meetings and events for many years, due to the pending sale of this magnificent old building, the MNC has had to look elsewhere to provide a suitably central and accessible alternative meeting venue. The MNC is now really thrilled to report that it has 'struck a good deal' with the Mission to Seafarers (MtS) at 717 Flinders Street, in the Docklands district. This arrangement includes a priority booking for a modern meeting room (the "River Room"); use of the MtS bar; use of a kitchen for either 'self-help' meal preparation or fully catered functions; use of BBQ facilities and either outdoor or indoor function spaces for Anzac Day reunions; and free use of the St Peter Memorial Chapel for annual Memorial Days or a special events.

Any ex-Navy Associations which have traditionally utilised the free meeting or function room facilities provide by the MNC in the past, and any Associations now interested in availing themselves of this support, are encouraged to make contact ASAP with the MNC Secretary (CPO Paul Taylor) at the following email address:

[paul.taylor3@defence.gov.au](mailto:paul.taylor3@defence.gov.au)

## VALE

- † CPOUC P.W. Peard, 20 September 2016. Aged 70.
- † LCDR C. Fischer RAN, 16 September 2016. Aged 85.
- † CAPT B. Nye OAM RAN, 15 September 2016. Aged 64.
- † STO L.D. Clough, S/9415, 15 September 2016. Aged 89.
- † CDRE P.D. McKay RAN, 10 Sep 2016. Aged 79.
- † ME K. Davenport, R57540, 10 Sep 2016. Aged 72.
- † ME R.J. Wells, R95486, 09 Sep 2016. Aged 66.
- † LSTO W.J. Cumberland, PM1895, 06 September 2016. Aged 98.
- † RADM G. Loosli CBE RAN, 05 Sep 2016. Aged 90.
- † CPOMTH A. Asplin, 04 Sep 2016.
- † SAPPER M.A. Bird, SX29911, 03 September 2016. Aged 92.
- † CMDR W. Milfull RAN, 31 Aug 2016. Aged 69.
- † LSTO S. Triffitt, S4179, 23 Aug 2016. Aged 98.

## 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([webmaster@navyvic.net](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net)). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

**Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria's newsletter, "Rogues' Yarn" is attached below**



*after the Taskforce's final report was released by the Government yesterday.*

### **Australian navy senior commander stood down after female officer complaint**

*A SENIOR navy commander has been stood down after a complaint from a female officer following a late night drinking session while the ship was in Singapore last month, ABC News is reporting.*

### **Independent complaints process for Defence**

*The Australian Government today announced it will expand the functions of the Defence Force Ombudsman (DFO) to provide an additional independent complaints process for allegations of abuse in Defence. This function will complement the cultural change strategy being implemented by Defence.*

### **Australian Defence Force Targeting of Daesh**

*The Australian Defence Force now has the full authority needed to target all members of Daesh, in accordance with international law.*

### **Naval Historical Society of Australia (Victorian Chapter)**

*President's September Musings are now available to [download.....](#)*

**Navy League of Australia(Vic & Tas)** September newsletter – [download.....](#)

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

**NAVY NEWS APP:** Simply search 'Navy News Australia' in either the Apple store or Google Play.

*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

### Navy Week Victoria

Time to commit; note the Seafarers Church Service, 1030 Sunday 16OCT16 at St Pauls; the Seminar, 1000 to 1500 Wednesday 19OCT16; Open Day HMAS Cerberus, 1000 to 1600 Sunday 23OCT16. HMAS Adelaide at Station Pier. *Let's get behind all Navy Week events, go to [navyvic.net](http://navyvic.net) for more information!*



### You should attend:

***NCCV will meet on  
Tuesday, 11OCT16  
at the MNCentre.  
1030 start!***

***Associations, please  
send along a REP.***

***Taylor Division  
Recruit School  
Wreath Laying Service  
16OCT16@1000  
Sanctuary Shrine of  
Remembrance***

***HMAS Lismore  
Wreath Laying,  
dedicated tree  
21OCT16@1030 at  
Shrine of  
Remembrance***

### *We will Remember*

Anniversaries experienced during September are significant and include the Merchant Navy service, Battle of Bita Paka and the loss of HMAS AE1. Each of these commitments provides an opportunity to honour those that served and in particular remember those that made the supreme sacrifice. It may be somewhat difficult for many to appreciate the importance of these occasions, in particular to appreciate the level of commitment and ultimate sacrifice made by man and boy. Opportunities presented are a catalyst to the Navy family so that they may demonstrate their gift to remember. These services are organised by a few dedicated ex-service men and women, including Mariners from Allied Merchant Navies. On our journey through the month several significant commemorative event occurred: Merchant Navy Day service, which is discussed at page 3; the Battle of Bita Paka on Sunday 11SEP16, 102 years since Australia's first military engagement. Below; L-R Bob Cross, President Darebin RSL Sub-Branch,

RANR - guest speaker, Terry Makings and Ken Coughlan Secretary, Darebin RSL. After the service in the Sanctuary, participants moved to the dedicated tree and placed wreaths on the three plaques. Below is the flag party assembled at the tree. Immediately



after the Battle of Bita Paka service was a service to honour and remember HMAS AE1 and AE2. Below, a



Hon David Feeney MP, John Brownbill, Ron Mullinger Descendent of AB Billy Williams (first Australian Service casualty of WWI, HON Ted Baillieu Past Premier, CMDR John Goss AM

wreath placed at the Stone of Remembrance as a tribute to the loss of the entire ship's company of the AE1 - their tombstone is a rusting hulk. The loss of both of Australia's submarines early in WWI emphasises the heart-breaking experience of be encountered by Australians. The impact on Australia, commencing with the Battle of Bita Paka was profound. Each of these commemorative services helps to keep the legacy of WWI foremost in our minds. During WWI, 114,000 Victorians volunteered, 89,000 went overseas and 19,000 of those that served overseas made the supreme sacrifice.





### Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Authors thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available. Political articles will not purposely appear in R's Yarn.

### Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for anyone with an interest in Navy. Also, if you are involved in arranging a Navy specific function why not provide information on the activity to the wider Navy Victoria Community. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

# President's Report

We are now in the lead up to Navy Week Victoria. There are a few activities that should be of interest to the Navy family. The Seafarers Church Service is a key event and marks the commencement of Navy Week in Victoria. The finale of Navy Week is the Open Day at Cerberus and this year it will be a gang buster of events. We will also see HMAS Adelaide alongside Station Pier. We don't see our Warships too often, seeing Adelaide here will be a great boost for Navy Week Victoria. We can thank CAPT Bowater for persuaded Navy to put a ship at Melbourne for Navy Week - a great occasion and we acknowledge the effort required to achieve this fantastic outcome. The Navy Week Seminar on Wednesday, 19OCT16 is also a key activity. The seminar is being arranged by NCCV, partnering with the Royal United Services Institute. Hopefully

we will see a good number of attendees in the theatrette, Shrine of Remembrance. The purpose of the Seminar is to help update our knowledge of today's Navy and its focus. The seminar will help us to engage in meaningful conversation with our non-Navy colleagues. Other activities, such as the golf, bowls and the yacht race are also planned. Go to Navy Network Victoria for more information. NCCV is keen to have all ex-Service Organisations take part in Navy Week Victoria by arranging their own activity. The point being to focus on promoting Navy to the wider community. One way to engage, is for each RSL Sub-Branch and Naval Association Sub-Sections to look at providing transport for their Navy folk to get to HMAS Cerberus for the Open Day and maybe even Seafarers.

*Yours age, Terry Makings*

# HMAS CERBERUS OPEN DAY





## HMAS CERBERUS OPEN DAY

### SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2016

ENTRY VIA SOUTHBEACH ROAD (MELWAYS ref194 D1)  
FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY AND ENJOY A DAY OUT AT THE NAVY'S BIGGEST TRAINING BASE. PACK A PICNIC, BUY LUNCH FROM ONE OF THE MANY FOOD STALLS OR TASTE THE CUISINE OF AN OPERATIONAL ARMY FIELD KITCHEN.



MILITARY AIR SHOWS

NAVY STEAM CLUB

KIDS ACTIVITIES

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

VINTAGE CARS

The open day at HMAS Cerberus this year will be a big event. The range of activities is extensive and covers every minute of the day, from when it starts at 1000 through to 1600. If you have yet to see the Federation Guard in action, this is a great opportunity to witness precision parade ground drill, a tad better than when we had to do it. This will be a fair dinkum tri-service occasion. There will be things to see from the Bandies strong hold (the old cinema) down to the old Seamanship School, next to the wharf. Many may not recognise the current names of schools, however, as you familiarise yourself with places you may have trained/instructed/worked yourself, the training today will stir your interest. Helicopters, flyover by vintage fixed wing aircraft will entertain everyone. The enjoyment of the day will cost nothing, maybe lunch and the purchase of something in support of Legacy. Most important is that we make an effort to get there. Navy has gone to a lot of trouble this year to make this a key feature of Navy Week Victoria and it deserves a visit. Another great aspect of Navy Week will be the participation by HMAS Adelaide, berthed at Station Pier. We don't often see one of our own Warships in Melbourne, this is the result of the good work undertaken by CO, HMAS Cerberus to support the Navy Family. To enter HMAS Cerberus, head for the West Gate, Wilson Avenue - this is along South Beach Road at its intersection with Davies Road, Mornington. Go to the web for more information.



**INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION**



NAVY

ARMY

AIR FORCE



# Merchant Navy Day

Merchant Navy Day is a simple reminder to us all that the contribution of our Mariner colleagues has been significant. The losses experienced by the Merchant Navy through periods of war has in many instances been beyond belief. For instance, Battle of the Atlantic witnessed the loss of 30K Mariners. The ships of many Mariners were sunk, some on a number of occasions. They bravely continued in their profession, re-arming and reprovisioning all of the allied countries, particularly the Defence Forces. These Mariners were from all allied nations, including Australia. In Melbourne, a service to commemorate and remember shipmates who are no longer with us was held in the Reserve of the Shrine of Remembrance. Below L-R Ken Shewan BM President RSL Merchant Navy Sub Branch, accompanying Ken are two WW2 Veterans, one was de-

ployed on all of the world's oceans. During the Service a new plaque was dedicated to the legacy of earlier war service by our Mariners. The photograph on the right below shows the plaque and wreath placed during the service. On the left is the



original plaque being overgrown by the now magnificent tree that continues to grow as the legend grows. Ken advised that the RSL Sub-Branch is likely to disband later this year due to the reduced number of members. There are few allied seamen locating to Melbourne, notwithstanding that today there are over 1,000,000 Mariners at sea on any given day. The effort made by our Mariners has been amazing, may we be worthy of their sacrifice.

## Legacy

Legacy, a vital support organisation dedicated to supporting the families of deceased Service men and women. The importance of Legacy can not be underestimated, with over 400 Legatees currently supported in Victoria. Thankfully, there is an army of men and women who dedicate their time and energy to facilitate the work in the name of Legacy.

Since the inception of Legacy in the 1920s, its generous work has mustered the support of senior Service men and women. Below left aboard HMAS Choules, supporting Legacy are the Wiggles. On the right, the launch of Legacy week in Canberra, located at the Australian War Memorial are Defence Chiefs, past and present & Victoria Cross awardees.



## ***History of the Navy***

Knowing about the exploits of the Navy over the past century, or even before Federation can be something of particular interest to many. We may already have bookshelves crowded with memorabilia, but you might like to think about a volume or two that details the awards to Officers and Sailors of the RAN since the Royal Australian Navy began. This compilation of information has been written by CAPT Dr Ian Pfennigwerth RAN Rtd, with considerable help from a team of ex-Navy colleagues. Two volumes, a necessity due to the amount of information collected; that being the citation, plus other information has been sourced to broaden the understanding surrounding the achievements of those listed. Each volume is a comprehensive list of men and women who have been done their best for Australia. *Chie of Navy* is scheduled to launch V2 on Thursday 20OCT16 at ADFA. If interested in more information regarding the purchase of these two books or about the launch by CN go to [www.nautilushistory.com.au](http://www.nautilushistory.com.au) for details.



## ***DIRECTORY for NCCV***

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## ***Special Notes***

**Exhibitions.** The National Wool Museum Geelong will be hosting the exhibition War At Sea - The Navy in WWI from 17 September to 11 December 2016. They are offering free entry to the National Wool Museum for any Navy personnel, veterans and cadets during the period of the exhibition. A similar exhibition is being viewed at Queenscliff Maritime Museum. Both offer an opportunity to see several stories regarding our sailors experience.

**HMAS Vendetta Association** (Qld). Get together at Tim and Val Wall's place was a great success and all ex-Navy remotely associated with Vendetta, or other warships of the Scrap Iron Flotilla should make themselves known to the Association. Email Bill & Margette at [mkrause@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mkrause@bigpond.net.au)

**UK Recognition for Mariners.** The UK Shipping Minister John Hayes announced on 2 September the first recipients of a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. This new medal is being awarded to those who are serving or have served in the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets of the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands for exemplary service and devotion to duty, re-

warding those who have set an outstanding example to others by: providing operational achievement through leadership, management and sensitivity in a migrant rescue in the Mediterranean in 2015; dedication to seafarer training and removing barriers for those entering the industry, devotion to welfare work and fundraising support to maritime charities and young seafarers.

**Get Together.** The Royal Naval Association, Port Phillip Branch invite all to draw near and give their attention at the Frankston Naval Memorial Club on Sunday 9 OCTOBER 2016, join them at the Club, 36 Barretts Road, Langwarrin South.

**Westralia.** Victor Meet & Paul Corcoran went to Kirribilly House Friday 09SEP16 to receive the posthumous Bravery award for the late Leading Seaman Bradley John Meek who died 05MAY95 whilst serving in HMAS Westralia II. This brave young 'Stoker' died fighting an engine room fire.

**ANZAC Day March.** If your ESO has a concern regarding the proposed changes to the Melbourne ANZAC Day march, you must write to the Chair of the ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee, ANZAC House. Your opinion is important!

