

# Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division September 2018 **NEWSLETTER**



*“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”*

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## **Contents**

<b>HMAS CHOULES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NAVY WEEK.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HMAS TOOWOOMBA .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NAVY VOLUNTEERING AUGUST 2018 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RAN FACEBOOK PAGE PHOTOS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SHRINE REPORT.....</b>	<b>6</b>

## HMAS CHOULES



*HMAS Choules*

HMAS *Choules* is coming to Melbourne! The ship will berth at Station Pier on Friday 28 September. The ship's company will have a very full itinerary with lunches, cocktail parties etc. The ship will not be open to the public.

The warship is a highly operational 16,000 tonne ship, 176 metres long, 24 metres wide, and capable of carrying over 300 troops, 23 Abrams tanks, 150 light Trucks, LCVP, Landing Craft Mechanised (LCM8) and is also capable of operating Navy helicopters including the [MRH-90 Taipan](#) and [Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk](#) and the Australian Army's [S-70A Black Hawk](#). *Choules* is an amphibious Landing Ship Dock which originally served with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. She was commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy in December 2011.

## NAVY WEEK

*Please note the following dates in your diary:*

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Arrival of the HMAS Warramunga

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October – dedication of Creswell plaque

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Seminar ANZAC House

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Seafarers Church Service

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Golf Tournament, Mornington

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Geoffrey Evans Yacht Race.

## HMAS TOOWOOMBA



HMAS *Toowoomba* has returned to its homeport of Fleet Base West, Rockingham, Western Australia, after the ship's longest deployment to date, successfully contributing to seven Task Groups in seven months.

“*Toowoomba* has participated in three exercises, the gruelling Principal Warfare Officer Assessment Week, and two regional deployments to engage with our regional partners and further Australia's interests abroad.”

*Toowoomba* has sailed 40,125 nautical miles, or more than 74,000km, equivalent to 1.85 times around the world.

Throughout the deployment, the ship visited various ports around Australia, Guam, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, Vanuatu, the United States, and Solomon Islands.

<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Sep2018/Fleet/4807#.W4tiWugzBIU>

## NAVY VOLUNTEERING AUGUST 2018

- Navy volunteers in Western Australia cleaned up 3 cubic metres of rubbish around Garden Island, mainly discarded fishing tackle.
- HMAS *Adelaide* crew raised funds for the Matthew Talbot Hostel in Woolloomooloo, only a short distance from *Adelaide*'s home port of Fleet Base East. It provides temporary shelter and specialised support to Sydney's homeless and at-risk community, while facilitating other essential services including more permanent housing.

- The ship's company of HMAS *Cairns* have been out in kayaks to contribute to cleaning up local waterways. They have been doing this since 2009 and have removed around 1,584 tonnes of rubbish over 171 sites – mainly plastic and fishing tackle.
- Navy musicians have brought music to the Red Centre, visiting Yirara College in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. The College is an Indigenous Boarding School encompassing students from remote areas of Australia.
- During HMAS *Leeuwin*'s recent port visit to Port Klang, Malaysia, members of the ship's company offered their time and support to the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) National Hydrographic Centre's Community Outreach Program. Participation in the program provides RMN Officers and Sailors the opportunity to give back to their local community.
- HMAS *Leeuwin* joined the Royal Malaysian Navy in conducting activities at a centre that provides live-in care to teenagers and young adults who suffer from cognitive, behavioural and physical disabilities, including down syndrome, cerebral palsy and hyperactivity.

<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Aug2018/Community>

## RAN FACEBOOK PAGE PHOTOS

*All photos copyright of the Commonwealth of Australia*



HMAS Toowoomba's MH-60R Seahawk helicopter test fires decoy flares during the ship's South East Asia deployment [#AusNavy](#)



Blast from the Past - Mother with a full deck, A4 Skyhawks HMAS Melbourne [#AusNavy](#)



Soldiers from 5 Brigade are transported to the beach onboard one of HMAS Canberra's landing craft during Exercise OCEAN RAIDER 2017 [#AusNavy](#)

# SHRINE REPORT

## Services



### Battle for Australia

Wednesday 5 September, 11am  
Wreath Laying on the Forecourt

This service honours the courage, sacrifice and service of Australians and their Allies who repulsed Japanese attacks on Australia during the Second World War. These include battles on the Kokoda Trail, Milne Bay, the Coral Sea, and other fiercely fought actions regarding the defence of Australia in 1942 and 1943.



### Battle of Bita Paka (Rabaul 1914)

Tuesday 11 September, 11am  
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) was formed in August 1914 to destroy German wireless stations in the Pacific, which were communicating with the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron. On 11 September 1914 the ANMEF captured the wireless station at Bita Paka.



### RAN Recruits September 2018

Sunday 16 September 2018, 10:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives:  
Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM  
Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Chris Le Marshall



### Submarines Association of Australia 2018

Sunday 16 September 2018, 11:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representative:  
Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM



## The Royal Air Forces Association (Battle of Britain)

Sunday 16 September, 2pm  
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Commemorating the Battle of Britain and the Commonwealth contribution to an Allied victory. Between July and October 1940 as a prelude to a German seaborne invasion of Britain, the German air force mounted daily attacks on British airfields, radar stations and cities—competing for air superiority and mass civilian damage.



## Shrine Monthly Memorial Service

Thursday 20 September, 11.30am  
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates:

- 14 September 1914 – Loss of HMA Submarine AE1
- September 1941 – The Siege of Tobruk, Libya
- 21 September 1971 – Battle of Nui Le



## Australian Commando Association 2018

Sunday 30 September 2018, 12:30pm

Wreath Laying at Memorial Tree D49

Shrine Representative:  
Shrine Governor Major Maggie More RFD

## Talks and Events



## The Last 100 Days

Tuesday 4 September, midday  
Auditorium

What were the experiences of the Australians fighting on the Western Front in the final battles of the First World War? Sourced from soldier's diaries and letters, Will Davies pieces together their experiences from Amiens to the Hindenburg line.



## The Battle Within

Thursday 20 September, midday  
Auditorium

What did it mean in a country so attached to Anzac, a legend of battlefield prowess, to have spent the war as a prisoner? Drawing on their own words, Christina Twomey presents the POWs' struggle to rehabilitate themselves and to win compensation.



## Seizing Damascus, 1918

Tuesday 25 September, midday  
Auditorium

Dr Jean Bou will examine the dramatic events in Palestine in the last months of the Great War, when a great offensive led to a rapid British advance over hundreds of miles. An advance in which the Australian Light Horse played a considerable role.

Bookings required for talks and events. Cost \$5.

Shrine podcasts. Podcasts are available at <http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts>:

Website: <http://www.shrine.org.au> Telephone 9661 8100.



## DISCOVERING THE SHRINE

Military references may be found in the Royal Botanic Gardens opposite the Shrine. Examples below.



*Lophostemon confertus*

BRUSH BOX

Planted in memory of members of the staff  
who died in Active Service

Driver A.W. Bugg, AIF 1915

Flight Sergeant E.J. Hiskins, RAAF 1944

10 September 1946