



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

January 2014

Volume 4 Edition 1

Editorial

NVN current membership: 861

Christmas 2013 seems a distant memory, school holidays are nearly over, and most are back into the yearly routine. We need to look at the year ahead, which as indicated in the December Newsletter there are a number of items of interest planned throughout the year. 2013 was a major significant milestone and celebration for the RAN with the magnificent Fleet Review held in Sydney in October.

For 2014 events check the NVN Calendar where events and other any items of interest are added as they are in advised. The December Newsletter indicated a number of items under consideration by the Centenary of ANZAC Committee with some of the events to be held in Victoria.

As indicated in the December Newsletter there are two events early in the year to be held in Melbourne.

The annual "Creswell Oration" to be held at the William Angliss TAFE Restaurant, and presented by the RAN's Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett. The Oration will focus on the establishment and commemoration of the 100th anniversary with a focus on the "Significance of the Arrival of the RAN's First Fleet" in October 1913, and its enduring legacy.

HMAS YARRA 4 is planned to visit Melbourne late February for the presentation of a "Unit Citation" commemorating the loss of Yarra 2 during WW2 action against the Japanese in waters North of Australia on March 4th 1942. The YARRA 4 crew have been invited to attend the "Creswell Oration".

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)



31 Jan - 04 Feb - HMAS Tobruk visits Melbourne

02 Feb - RAN Recruits wreath laying at Shrine

10 Feb - Anniversary Voyager / Melbourne collision

13-16 Feb - HMAS Voyager reunion

15 Feb - ex-Prisoners of War & Relatives Assoc. wreath laying at Shrine

23 Feb - RAN Recruits wreath laying at Shrine

24 Feb - Naval Historical Society meeting

28 Feb - Creswell Oration

01 Mar - HMAS Perth Assoc. (Vic) wreath laying at Shrine

Latest News



MH-60R In-service Ceremony

The first two MH-60R Seahawk Romeo maritime combat helicopters were accepted by the Royal Australian Navy at an 'In Service Date' ceremony conducted by NUSQN 725 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida on the 24th January. [More....](#)

On the Record: Reporting of accountability of personnel on Border Protection Operations

With the interest in this "Citation" why not visit another WW2 veteran, the Museum Ship HMAS Castlemaine berthed at Williamstown. Castlemaine was working with HMAS Armidale North of Darwin in the Timor Sea when Japanese aircraft sunk the Armidale with a significant number of casualties.

Castlemaine played an important role in rescuing the survivors, to obtain further information visit the website

<http://hmascastlemaine.org.au>.

The new LHD Canberra is due to leave Williamstown to undertake a docking in Sydney at Garden Island in early February, and will then commence operational trials off the East Coast. The Canberra is presently clearly visible from the HMAS Castlemaine although a closer up view can be obtained in Anne Street in Williamstown adjacent to the Dockyard. The second LHD Adelaide is well on its way from Spain to Williamstown aboard the heavy lift ship Blue Marlin. The Adelaide is due to arrive in Williamstown mid-February where it will remain for approximately 12 months for fitting of the superstructure and installation of the Combat System.

If you have a reunion please use the NVN to help advertise and promote your Ship Association or any other event.

Keep an eye on the NVN Calendar for the events listed that may happen to coincide with the plans you have in line this year that may enable you to participate in naval activities, and catch up with mates you have not seen for some time.

For those who are 'tech savvy', the NVN now has its own Smartphone App. It's a great way to keep up to date with Naval happenings and once again to advertise your events. It also has a chat room 'Scuttlebutt', so you can have a chat with any of your old shipmates. Just make sure you click notifications 'on' so you know when someone is in the room. For the app to work I believe you must have your phone set up to receive emails. Hopefully with this app we can reach out to more ex-sailors (particularly the younger ones) and in turn they may be interested in joining an association. For full details go to our website (<http://navyvic.net>) and download the brochure.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

There have been assertions that Australian sailors are no longer personally liable for their actions under Operation Sovereign Borders.

[More.....](#)

Review of positioning of vessels engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and the Australian Defence Force have commenced a joint review into Australian vessels which entered Indonesian waters contrary to Australian Government policy, during operations conducted in association with Operation Sovereign Borders.

[More.....](#)

HMAS Childers arrives in Burma

The Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS Childers has arrived in Burma for a four day good will visit - the first visit by an Australian warship to Burma since HMAS Quiberon in 1959.

[More.....](#)

On the Record: Inaccurate reporting of Navy capability

The article in the Sydney Morning Herald entitled 'Submarine fleet a gold plated farce facing a reckoning' which appeared on Monday 20th January contains a number of errors of fact. [More.....](#)

On the Record - Reporting of Conduct of Royal Australian Navy Members on Border Protection Operations

It is important that I place on the record my deep concern regarding the reporting over the last few weeks in both new and old media that discredits the conduct of members of the Royal Australian Navy in Border Protection Operations. [More.....](#)

Fair Indexation for DFRB and DFRDB Recipients

VALE

- † LEM(WE) Anthony Isaac, R56959, 21 January 2014. Aged 71.
- † LTO Norman Hutchings, R93380, 14 January 2014.
- † ABRP Barry Cullen, R58861, 13 January 2014.
- † ME Bernie Meotti, R54387, 13 January 2014. Aged 75.
- † LSMUSN Darryl Mansell, R94480, 10 January 2014. Aged 65.
- † LSROS Donald Searle, R62696, 08 January 2014. Aged 68.
- † CPOSBA William Humphries, 05 January 2014.
- † POMT Bill Lyons, R56834, 31 December 2013. Aged 70.
- † ME Edward Ryder, R49501, 28 December 2013. Aged 81.

Lest We Forget

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



"Can Do Easy"

by ex-CPOCD Tony Ey

This story is based on numerous real life experiences of the Royal Australian Navy's Clearance Diving Team 3 (RANCDT3), which served in South Vietnam from 1967 to 1971. It is the author's intention to provide a quite accurate insight into what it was like to be a serving Australian Navy 'Clearance Diver' in South Vietnam during the late '60s and early '70s. Their professionalism, their at times unconventional behaviour, their ever present sense of humour and most importantly, their willingness, bordering on obsession, to confront life-threatening danger head on, were all fundamental ingredients of what made these men stand out from the crowd. For full details go to the [Amazon website.....](#)

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.

The Australian Government will ensure that fair indexation will be delivered and funded in the Government's first budget with the new measure to apply from 01 July 2014. DFRB and DFRDB retirement pay recipients aged 55 and over will see their retirement pay indexed in the same way as age and service pensions. [More.....](#)

Mystery of the Unknown Sailor of HMAS Sydney

It is a mystery that has taken decades to unfold. And the final chapters are agonisingly close to being told. Scientists just need one more piece of the jigsaw in the quest to identify the remains of their mystery man. They need a descendant of the sailor whose body was retrieved from waters off Christmas Island, three months after HMAS Sydney was sunk by the German raider HSK Kormoran in November 1941. [Read more.....](#) If you can help identify the sailor, contact:

greq.swinden@defence.gov.au

Media reporting on Armidale Class Patrol Boat Maintenance

On 31 Dec 2013, News Corp published a syndicated article (for example, Asylum seeker missions wearing down Navy's fleet) which appears to have based its reporting largely on an inquiry into a toxic hazard incident which was conducted by Major General Melick in 2011-12. [More.....](#)

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

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



Unknown Sailor(s)

DIARY NOTES

**Next NCCV meeting
1030 11th February at
Melb Naval Centre.
All Associations are
encourage to be
represented!**

**Services at the Shrine
of Remembrance
[Everyone is most
welcome to attend any
service at the Shrine]**

**RAN Recruits Wreath
Laying Service
2FEB14@1030 and
also @1100 on the
23FEB14 in the
Sanctuary**

**HMAS PERTH
Wreath laying
1MAR14@1200
Cenotaph**

Reunion



**Naval Stores Branch
Venue at Frankston
16 to 18 May 2014
Please contact:
Alan Cady-Ellis
(03) 9775 8621 or
0407 436 498**

You may be aware that the remains of a mariner washed up on the shores of Christmas Island in February 1942 are buried there. The assumption is that those remains are one of the 645 sailors lost when HMAS SYDNEY was sunk by the HSK KORMORAN, November 1941. A recent story by Bridie Smith, Science Editor, The Age provides an update on the efforts to discover who the unknown remains belong to. After several decades there is a concerted effort to name the mariner through the use of DNA technology. The remains have yielded the necessary data to enable identification. What is needed now is for the DNA from relatives of crew members of the SYDNEY. ↓ A small number of the crew is pictured below.



↑ Above is a well known image of SYDNEY II at the outset of WWII.

Separate to the grave on Christmas Island, there is an unmarked grave site at Williamstown, Victoria, also the site of an unknown sailor. The remains were discovered in the damaged hull of HMAS GOORANGAI some weeks after the tragic sinking of the vessel off Portsea, Port Phillip Bay. The loss of GOORANGAI was tragic on two counts, the loss of the entire crew of 24 hands and it was the first surface ship lost by the RAN. The recent discovery was made by POMT Andrew Campbell RANR. After considerable research PO Campbell has proved that the grave site is authentic and has remained bare dirt since 1940. He is behind a concerted effort to have this unmarked grave properly identified. Given the effort behind identifying the remains at Christmas Island, it seems reasonable to also discover who was put to rest at Williamstown. There were six bodies recovered from GOORANGAI with five identified. Given the techniques available today and the effort to identify other unnamed remains that were the result of warlike activities then the intention to do something about the unmarked grave at Williamstown should be paramount. *Notes from PO Campbell and Bridie Smith's article.*



Being able to name the remains has been given some priority. Some in Navy are strong supporters of the effort to identify the person buried at Christmas Island. Looking after our own has always been important. To assist, if you know any descendants of a member of the Ship's Company lost in SYDNEY 1, you are requested to advise them to email Navy as following: greg.swinden@defence.gov.au



President's Report

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!

As we plan for this new year there are many considerations. We ask that you keep two important aims in mind, firstly seek to attend at least one of the NCCV Flagship events and secondly, should you discover someone with a past relationship with Navy encourage them to connect. This may entail identifying an association relevant to their service or family ties. Any advance along these lines will benefit the wider Navy family and lead to greater support for Navy generally. Any increase in your participation, through attending a Flagship activity will enhance our ability to be sustainable. Our next key event is the Battle of the Coral Sea, on Sunday, 4MAY14 at the Shrine of Remembrance.. We have been very pleased to receive advice that several descendants of Veterans from LSI Manoora, Kanimbla & Westralia have formed a small committee to continue supporting the legacy of their families. If you have a connection with the LSIs, or ships of the same name let us know. This committee will also accommodate family members linked to HMAS ASSAULT. A key theme commencing this year will be the events highlighting WWI and signifying ANZAC Centenary. We will read

much around the first shot fired in WWI, which was from Fort Nepean across the bow of the German freighter SS PFALZ on 5AUG14. The PFALZ was acquired and became HMT Boorara for the duration of WWI. There is some thought of trying to find that first shell fired, whilst an exercise of some futility, it is an interesting method for publicising the early involvement of our local defence forces. Our challenge could well be to enhance recognition of events Navy over the next five years that emphasise the work of our sailors during WWI. If you are aware of such activities, by all means let NCCV know so we might take account of these important occasions. If any association you are part of plan a commemorative service, remember to advice NVN website so that we might all know it is happening. The NVN calendar also helps to avoid conflicts between activities, also knowledge of these events is advertised so we might maximise attendance levels. The NVN website can also list the details of your organization so that others can make contact. NCCV also hope you had a wonderful Australia Day.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

DEMS - ILS Members

As most will be aware, we have been pressing for new players to become involved in Ship / Unit / Branch Associations. We are very pleased to note that several descendants of those worthy sailors who served in HMAS WESTRALIA, MANOORA and KANIMBLA have come together to carry the banner(s). This is a great initiative as the three ILS Associations, as we know them today, intend to pay off each of their existing Ship Associations after ANZAC Day 2014. NCCV representatives have encouraged enthusiastic descendants to step up as we offered whatever assistance is required to make this a reality. With the shift from WWII Veterans to post WWII Service men/women and descendants we are encouraged that there are champions out there willing to give it a go. It will take some effort to retain the ship banners at significant events, such as ANZAC Day. This is a great example of how to make it happen. If you have any connection with DEMS, ILSs or any Merchant/Amphibious Ship then please encourage them to contact NCCV and we will ensure you are put in touch with the appropriate organiser. Help to ensure the legacy continues.

Key 2014 Activities

We have just commenced a new year and it would be helpful to note in your diary several of the key activities. One of the following significant events may attract your interest as we draw the attention of the Navy Family to these events:
4MAR14; Presentation of Unit Citation to HMAS YARRA IV in Melbourne. This follows the report of the inquiry into unresolved recognition of past acts of naval and military gallantry and valour that recognised the amazing bravery of the entire crew.
4MAY14; Battle of the Coral Sea. A Service is scheduled to occur at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance at 1100. This service is a joint effort with NCCV & the Australia America Association.
19OCT14; Seafarers Church Service. This service has been conducted for the past 106 years, principal organiser is the Mission to Seafarers. Today the Mission is assisted by the NCCV.
19OCT14; Navy Wreath Laying Service. A service in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
23NOV14; HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service, Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff.

HMAS PERTH 1

It seems scavengers are removing items from the sunken remains of HMAS PERTH (I). The main stream media covered this story in December 2013, with the assistance of Patty Wright, author of Ray Parkin's Odyssey and dedicated researcher of POW activities along the Thai-Burma Railway. The PERTH is a significant reminder of the tragedy of war and the supreme sacrifice made by 468 brave

Australian sailors. The challenge is how best to safeguard such a memorial in memory of our fallen sailors. Sadly there is no sympathy from the country within which the ship lays



Defending Navy

Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC Chief of Navy found it necessary to make a statement defending Navy recently. His words should be read by all by going to: <http://news.defence.gov.au/2014/01/20/reporting-of-conduct-of-royal-australian-navy-members-on-border-protection-operations/> [cut and paste this address into your browser!] We may be bold to voice an opinion of CN's statement, so be it, CN has shown the grit so desperately needed by our contemporary leaders as he defences the modern day Navy. Words such as, quote "This generation of men and women who wear the uniform are worthy of more respect than has been shown to them in the past few weeks" unquote. CN's stand is the consequence of our national media demonstrating their propensity to side with those sad souls who have attempted to cross the seas to enter Australia illegally. To think our sailors would knowingly cause injury to people at sea is unthinkable and not worthy of our time.

USS Independence

The USS Independence, type LCS [Littoral Combat Ship] is the USN's not so new pirate catcher. The 'Littoral' means close-to-shore, and that's where the USS Independence operates best. This vessel is tailor-made for launching helicopters and lightly-armoured vehicles, sweeping mines and firing all manner of torpedoes, missiles and machine guns. The build is proclaimed as being relatively inexpensive at \$A240 million, and the USN is well on its way to building 55 of them. This tri-hull represents a new breed of brown water Navy vessels, reputed to be capable of travelling at 60 knots. This platform has an extensive helo deck and huge storage capacity under the flight deck. A very impressive vessel indicative of today's far reaching technology and the ingenuity of a modern Navy and its smart sailors.



CMDR Stan Veale

Commander Richard Stanley Veale CMG VRD** RANR Rtd, 1893 - 1987, a legend within the Navy Community Victoria. Pictured at right below is Stan dressed in Navy Cadet uniform at the age of 15 years. To the left is Stan as he led the Navy contingent on ANZAC day 1987. A distinguished career over many decades, commencing as a Midshipman at the commencement of WWI. His first war like action was to be part of the expeditionary force that captured the German communications station at Bitia Paka in September 1914. He was demobilised 31DEC19, however, he continued with RANR duties. Prior to the outbreak of WWII he was transferred to the RAN Volunteer Reserve due to age. Stan was appointed to full time service as a LCDR RANVR on 31AUG39. He continued service until 12JAN50. A great sailor!



ANZAC Centenary

The list of activities likely to be undertaken by Ship/Unit/Branch Associations in Victoria is yet to be fully developed. Whilst there are some well known WWI events listed on the program, the wider intentions of our many Associations needs to be drawn together for all to see. The location for a consolidated list is ideally the Navy Victoria Network website. The Navy incidents to be commemorated this year are: the first shot fired on 5AUG14, first offence and casualty at Battle of Bitia Paka 11SEP14 and loss of AE1 on 14SEP14. The Victorian Minister for Veteran Affairs, Mr Hugh Delehunty recently announced that the Veterans Council will have additional funding to support the ANZAC Centenary with allocations up to \$20K available. As the rules of engagement for the Veterans Council are quite rigorous there are discussions taking place within the Navy Fraternity on how best to facilitate requests. If need be contact the NCCV for further advice on this matter, or just go for it! A reminder, are your activities listed on the NVN calendar??

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



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Items of special interest

Veterans Council. Victoria is very lucky to have Rear Admiral John Lord AM RAN Rtd appointed as the new Chair of the Veterans Council. This is the first time a Navy person has chaired this key committee. The other Navy representative on the Council is Peter Tanner, an ex-Writer who has been very successful since paying off from the Navy. We can be confident that Navy will receive a fair hearing when seeking support from the Council. Our associations need to know how to access the Veterans Council and make best use of its support.

HMAS Bataan Veterans National Association of Australia.

BATAAN is arranging their 23rd Annual Reunion on Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th September 2014. Primary location will be the Grand Chifley, South Terrace, Adelaide SA. The association also meets every month for lunch. New members are very welcome. If interested in attending the annual reunion, or joining in the fun at the lunch, contact John Laughton, 0417 336 423 or email johnfl@aapt.net.au or for traditionalists post: 36 Tamarisk Rd, NARRE WARREN VIC 3805

Scrap Iron Flotilla Association. The association is arranging their annual lunch, scheduled for Friday, 28MAR14 at William Angliss Restaurant.

The Scrap Iron Flotilla was the first Defence Force deployment of the Second World War and we are reminded of their exploits at this time each year. Those attending will meet and hear the Honourable Ted Baillieu, former Premier of Victoria and Chair of the State Governments ANZAC Centenary Committee address the workings of the committee as we move through the next 5 years. The cost will be \$35 pp, so RSVP Chris Banfield, at scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com or telephone Chris on 041 2832 148. Be there!!

Creswell Oration. The annual Creswell Oration will be presented by Rear Admiral Tim Barrett AM CSC RAN, Fleet Commander. The Fleet Commander will address "The significance of the arrival of the Royal Australian Navy's First Fleet". Given the enormous reception last year of the International Fleet Review the Admirals account of the significance will no doubt prove very interesting. The important date is Friday, 28FEB14 at William Angliss Restaurant, RSVP by 14FEB14 to John Wilkins - jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au or to Ray Gill - raydotgill@optusnet.com.au Crew members of HMAS YARRA may also be present, visiting to receive the unit citation.