

**The Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division  
Incorporating Tasmania**

# NEWSLETTER



January 2015

Volume:4No1

**“The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation”**

is  
the  
principal  
objective  
of  
the  
Navy League  
of Australia

**Patron:**

Governor of Victoria

**President:**

LCDR Roger Blythman  
RANR RFD RET'D

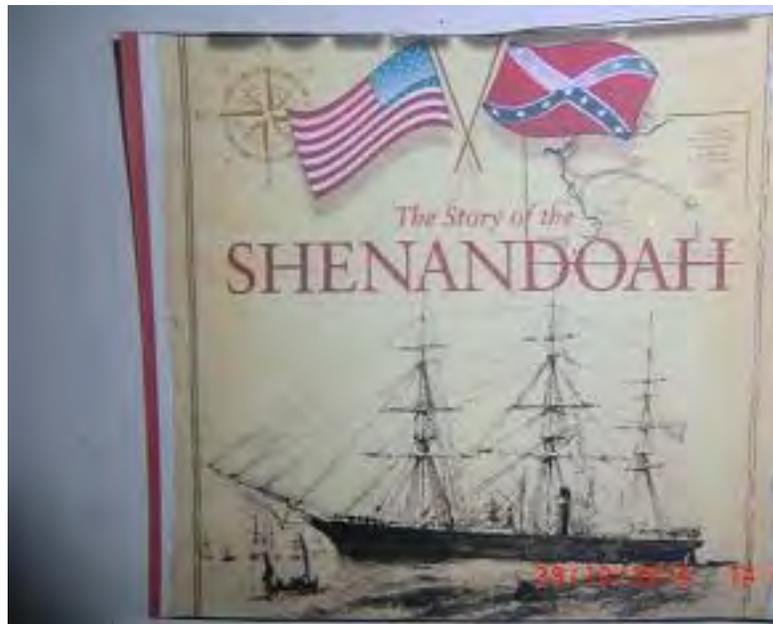
**Snr Vice President:** Frank  
McCarthy

**Vice President Secretary:** Ray  
Gill

**PP: Treasurer: Special Events:**  
CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD  
RANR

## AMERICAN VISITOR TO MELBOURNE 150 YEARS AGO

In January of 1865, Melbourne, Victoria, became involved in the American Civil War when the confederate Raider CSS SHENANDOAH arrived in Port Phillip.



Under the command of Commander James Waddell SHENANDOAH sailed into Hobson's Bay on 25<sup>th</sup> January and remained in Melbourne for 24 days.

During her stay, the ship was refitted and re-provisioned at Williamstown in spite of the strong protests to Governor Charles Darling by the U.S. Union Consul General in Melbourne William Blanchard.

Australia remained neutral during the American conflict, but somehow CMDR Waddell, whilst in Melbourne managed to recruit 42 new crew members.

Once fitted out with repairs to a troublesome propeller shaft, supplies, fuel and the new crew members, SHENANDOAH headed into the Pacific and beyond where she sank many more Union flagged ships which were mainly whalers, her prime target.

The action by Victoria, as one of England's Colonies, in giving SHENANDOAH shelter and assistance would later cost England, the equivalent now of many millions of dollars awarded in damages to the US, as SHENANDOAH had continued fighting for months after the American Civil War had ended.

However, during her Melbourne visit the ship received 7000 Melbournian visitors, such was the measure of her popularity. The Officers of SHENANDOAH were the talk of the town and treated as Southern Gentlemen, receiving many invitations to various functions.

One such event, at which SHENANDOAH'S Officers attended, was in Ballarat at a Gala Ball held in the grand ballroom of Craig's Royal Hotel in Lydiard Street.

The citizens of Ballarat were all too familiar with rebels and many had a soft spot for them, as their own rebellion at the Eureka Stockade was just eleven years prior. Craig's Royal Hotel, still operating in 2015, was established in 1853, one year before the Eureka Stockade uprising.

A further function in honour of Commander Waddell and his Officers was an official dinner held at the Melbourne Club. Established in 1838 the Melbourne Club is now located in Collins Street Melbourne.

Now in January of 2015 we may cast our thoughts back in time with a stroll down Nelson Place, where a brass plaque to commemorate the 1865 visit by SHENANDOAH is situated at footpath level, in front of the BAE shipyard Williamstown close to where SHENANDOAH was refurbished 150 years ago.

The inscription upon the plaque reads as a summary of Melbourne's involvement in Americas Civil War as follows:-

"Near here, tradesmen at the Government Patent Slipway worked on the Confederate Raider CSS SHENANDOAH during its turbulent visit to William's Town from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> February 1865, the SHENANDOAH violated the neutrality of the Colony of Victoria and stirred up a diplomatic furore however, the crew did not lack for hospitality. Repeatedly Governor Darling refused the demands of US Consul Blanchard to arrest the ship. Restored by repairs and illegal recruitment the SHENANDOAH continued her cruise and destroyed 25 US merchant ships.

In 1872 Britain paid \$3,875,000 in compensation to the United States due to Governor Darling's failure to prevent breaches of neutrality by the SHENANDOAH.



**BRASS PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE 1865 VISIT BY SHENANDOAH**

**SHENANDOAH 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT**

Williamstown certainly doesn't intend to let the SHENANDOAH anniversary slip by without making the fact known and commemorating the occasion.

Williamstown's Councillor Peter Hemphill has advised the Navy League that arrangements are well in place to ensure that the visit by SHENANDOAH, 150 years ago, will be highlighted over the Australia Day weekend.

Some of these details are included in the following, the pamphlet copy also follows:-

The "Seaworks Maritime Festival" will include special events and exhibitions during January 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. Featuring the Shenandoah exhibition, Cannon firing, helmet diver in-water display, Navy Band 10:30 AM Sunday 25 January 2015, ship models and lots more, refer to flyer below.



ADDRESS:

82 NELSON PLACE WILLIAMSTOWN, VICTORIA

## TS VOYAGER 2014 YEAR END PARADE

The Royal Australian Navy Cadet Unit ‘Training Ship Voyager’, based at Williamstown Victoria, conducted their final parade for the year on Saturday 6th December 2014. The event also included an awards presentation parade.

The Commanding Officer of TS VOYAGER, LEUT Jeff Paull, said that the unit is fortunate and grateful for the support that they receive from many organisations within the community in making the award trophies available. The unit now has record cadet numbers onboard. LEUT Paull further added that TS VOYAGER has now concluded another terrific year, one which again has been full of achievements and memories. LEUT Paull said all staff and cadets are very proud and appreciative of what they are capable of achieving together. A listing of the relevant award recipients is as follows:-

<b>TS Voyager Awards 2014</b>		
<b>AWARD</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>Nomination</b>
Best 1st year Cadet	Williamstown Lions Club	SMN Tara Briggs & AB Nikolai Stanic
Encouragement Award	Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club	SMN Alex Max
Most Improved Cadet of the Year	Rotary Club of Williamstown	AB Alessandro Di Genova
LCDR Noel Baker Memorial Award for Citizenship	Williamstown RSL	AB Tahl Persall
Coxswain of Year	HMAS Sydney Association	LS Louis Schofield
Executive Officers Award	SBLT Adam Hearsom	AB Winona Rivera
Leadership Award	Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand	LS Lenae Mackintosh
Most Outstanding Cadet of the Year	Corps of Commissionaires	PO Brittany Larkin

## **CAPTAINS TO COMMODORES**

In December 2014 Captain Kath Richards and Captain Michelle Miller were both promoted to the rank of Commodore.

CDRE Richards was previously Commanding Officer of HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Naval Officer Victoria immediately prior to current C.O. CERBERUS and SNOVIC Captain Steve Bowater.

During her time at CERBERUS, Captain Richards attended a number of Navy League functions and events, and became a much respected and highly regarded colleague of the Navy League.



**CDRE KATH RICHARDS AT CRESWELL ORATION 2013**

Navy League members may also recall that CDRE Miller was one of the guests of honour at the Leagues centenary celebrations which were held in Launceston, Tasmania, during November of 2000. This location and date marked the commencement of the Leagues official activities in Australia on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1900.

Launceston was the first Australian branch of the Navy League outside of the UK.

At the time of the centenary celebrations CDRE Miller was Lieutenant Commander Michelle Miller Commanding Officer of the Fremantle Class Patrol Boat HMAS BUNBURY Pendant No: 217, with Lieutenant Ian Campbell as Executive Officer.

LCDR Miller sailed HMAS BUNBURY from Perth WA to Tasmania via a stop-over in Geelong, Victoria to refuel and to repair minor damage incurred during the rough passage. Once across Bass Strait, and following contact with Nuship WARRAMUNGA 152, BUNBURY was then sailed 40 miles upstream of the Tamar River to Launceston.

The Navy League again made contact with LCDR Miller, when as Executive Officer of the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS STUART, LCDR Miller played host to League Members at an onboard morning tea reception.

HMAS STUART FFH153, at that time under the command of CMDR David Greaves, was at Williamstown for maintenance during July of 2003.

## CAPTAINS TO COMMODORES C'TND

Following on in 2007, Commander Michelle Miller took command of the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS PERTH FFH157. HMAS PERTH was the 10<sup>th</sup> and final Anzac Class Frigate built by Tenix at Williamstown for the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Navies.

Congratulations to both Commodore Kath Richards and Commodore Michelle Miller in achieving their well-deserved promotions.



**CDRE MICHELLE MILLER AT NAVY LEAGUE CENTENARY, LAUNCESTON 2000**

## CRESWELL ORATION 2014

This edition of the Leagues newsletter contains details of the forthcoming “Australian Navy Foundation Day” commemoration, a key feature of which will be the “Creswell Oration” to be presented by Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer CSC\* RAN.

The venue for the “Creswell Oration” is the William Angliss Restaurant. The event is to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.

You are encouraged to book now for the luncheon-presentation in line with the contact details listed below.

Bookings now open

All enquires to CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD\*RANR Ret'd

[jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au](mailto:jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au)

Telephone 9842 4256



"Creswell Oration" established 2001 by Navy League of Australia Victoria Division, and supported by Naval Association of Australia Victoria Section, Naval Officers' Club in Victoria and Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter - who jointly formed the "Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee" (ANFDOC) administered by Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division.

**Celebration of 114<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AUSTRALIAN NAVY'S FOUNDATION DAY and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual "CRESWELL ORATION 2015"**



presented by  
RAN's Fleet Commander

REAR ADMIRAL *Stuart Mayer* CSC\* RAN

to speak on



Creswell

**"Royal Australian Navy in 2015 - Old Wine in new Wine Bottles"**

**VENUE:**

**William Angliss TAFE Institute Restaurant**  
550 Little Lonsdale Street  
between King & Spencer Streets.



**DATE:** MONDAY 2nd Mar 2015.  
**TIME:** 1200 for 1230

**LOCATION:** William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne.

**COST & PAYMENT:** \$40 per head - Cheque or Direct Debit : Westpac Bank BSB.033 389 A/C No: 107631 - include your NAME

**DRESS:** Uniform S7, Lounge suit / Day dress - Decorations & Medals optional.

**TRANSPORT:** Trams - Latrobe and Spencer streets. Buses - via Lonsdale St., to Spencer St.,

Rail - Southern Cross Railway Station is City two blocks from venue along Spencer St.

**INQUIRIES:** Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Div.

Tel: 9844 6237; Email: [raydotqil@optusnet.com.au](mailto:raydotqil@optusnet.com.au)

Tel: 9842 4256; Email: [jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au](mailto:jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au)

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Tel: 9850 8497; Email: [rex.f.williams@gmail.com](mailto:rex.f.williams@gmail.com)

Naval Association of Australia Victoria:

Naval Officers Club in Victoria:

Naval Historical Society, Vict. Chapter:

William Angliss Institute Restaurant: Tel: 9606 2108 1<sup>st</sup> Mar.1901 - Foundation of Australia's Navy's Commonwealth Naval Force (CNF).

**BOOK EARLY**

**RSVP - Monday 13 February 2015**

**BOOK EARLY**



Australian Navy Foundation Day Creswell Oration 2015  
P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

**"CRESWELL ORATION 2015"** Luncheon MONDAY 2nd March 2015 @ 1200 for 1230 start.

My Cheque/Money Order attached or payment has been by direct Debit to

"Navy League" \$..... for..... persons

for Australian Navy Foundation Day "Creswell Oration - 2014" Luncheon at William Angliss Institute Restaurant, accessed from 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne - between Spencer and King Streets.

**PLEASE PRINT all NAME(S)!**

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence:- All articles for publication in the Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) Newsletter, should be addressed to the Editor, Frank McCarthy, email:- [alistle@bigpond.com](mailto:alistle@bigpond.com). All other correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) P.O.Box 2340, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149: ([raydotgill@optusnet.com.au](mailto:raydotgill@optusnet.com.au)).

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## Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

### OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

### ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly- based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

### POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

## Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

**New South Wales Division:** GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.  
**Victorian Division:** PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.  
**Queensland Division:** GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.  
**South Australian Division:** PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.  
**West Australian Division:** 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

*If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australian Division respectively.*

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

<b>THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA</b>		
<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b>		
To: The Hon. Secretary The Navy League of Australia		
_____ <b>Division</b>		
I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.		
Name: [ Mr ] [ Mrs ] [ Ms ] [ Rank ] _____		
<small>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</small>		
Street _____		
Suburb _____	State _____	P/code _____
Phone _____	Mobile _____	
Email _____		
Signature _____		Date _____
<small>Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.</small>		