



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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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OCTOBER NAVAL HISTORY

The month of October, in terms of Naval History, is indeed an interesting period. Some of the more memorable events spread over previous years are listed in the following:-

OCTOBER 1805

England's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar –

Two hundred & nine years ago on 21st October 1805, Admiral Lord Nelson defeated a combined Spanish-French Fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar.

OCTOBER 1944

The Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvette HMAS GEELONG, a sister ship to HMAS CASTLEMAINE was sunk in a collision with the US Tanker YORK off New Guinea on the 18th October 1944.

Fortunately there was no loss of life in this incident.

OCTOBER 1944

In October 1944 at the Battle of “Leyte Gulf” the following RAN ships engaged HMAS's AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE, ARUNTA, WARRAMUNGA, MANOORA, KANIMBLA, WESTRALIA, GASCOYNE & HDML No: 1074.

During the Battle of Leyte Gulf, a kamikaze Aichi 99 dive bomber crashed into the foremast of HMAS AUSTRALIA killing 30 Officers and ratings, including HMAS AUSTRALIA'S Commanding Officer Captain E.F.V. Dechaineux. There were also 64 Officers and men wounded in this attack including Commodore J.A. Collins RAN.

The 25th October 1944 also marked the date of the Battle of Surigao Strait in which HMA Ships SHROPSHIRE & ARUNTA engaged. Radar played an important part in this engagement, which would probably be the last of the Battle Line actions in the history of sea warfare.

OCTOBER 1954

The Daring Class Destroyer HMAS VENDETTA was launched on the 27th October 1954 at Williamstown Victoria.

OCTOBER 1969

Fifteen year later and it was HMAS VENDETTA again the only Australian built ship of the RAN to serve on the gun line during the Vietnam War, as she fired her first shots in anger during that conflict on 3rd October 1969, now forty five years ago.

EVENTS AND OCCASIONS

A big day on Sunday 19th October 2014, with the Seafarers Church Service 10; 30am at Saint Paul's Cathedral, then the Navy Wreath laying service at 12:30pm at the Shrine of Remembrance, followed by events at Prince's Pier Port Melbourne to mark the centenary of the departure of the first convoy of troop ships to depart from Victoria to the Middle East in October 1914. One of the leading troop ships was HMAT ORVIETO. Next stop Albany Western Australia.

YACHT RACE FOR THE GEFFREY EVANS CUP

As part of the Navy Leagues Navy Week 2014, the Leagues Victoria Division advises that the yacht race for the "Geoffrey Evans Trophy will take place on Saturday October 24th 2014.

The race is conducted by the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in Williamstown and hosted by the Navy League. Results of the race can be obtained via the internet on RYC Race Results.

OUR STORY OF TASMANIA'S NAVAL HISTORY CONTINUES

TASMANIA AND THE NAVY

A joint survey of Australian waters was undertaken in the 1850s and 1860s with the colonies sharing costs with the British Admiralty. Tasmania, however, was unable to meet its part of the costs and withdrew from the survey after just one year, Major-General Sir William Jervis making special reference to Tasmania's largely unsurveyed waters in his report on colonial defences in 1878. Tasmania never had its own dedicated colonial naval force but it did have a naval presence throughout the 1800s firstly through the schooner *Eliza*, manned by British marines in the 1830s and 1840s and used to prevent convicts from escaping by boat. A torpedo boat, designated TB1, arrived in Hobart in May 1884 to be operated by the Volunteer Engineer and Torpedo Corps. The 63 ft, 12 tonne boat was a major investment for Tasmania costing some £3,300, however, it was barely seaworthy and the volunteers lacked the technical expertise required to operate it. It leaked, the concussive effects of the engine caused rivets to spring apart and its first trials were not until five months after its arrival, and then only because two engineer officers from HMS *Nelson* were visiting the colony. It took the better part of half a day to get the boat off its slipway and steaming. Consequently TB1 was rarely used and when it was, it remained within the confines of the Derwent River. It had fallen into complete disuse by the turn of the century and was transferred to South Australia in 1905. Seven days after the granting of the Royal Assent to the Australian Navy on 10 July 1911, Tasmania was assigned its first permanent naval presence. Captain Walton Drake, RAN, was appointed as the state's District Naval Officer (DNO) based in Hobart, while a Sub-District Naval Officer was appointed in Launceston. A plot of land was also purchased on the western bank of the Derwent River in 1911 for the purposes of establishing a naval depot. Construction began the following year.



HMAS CANBERRA at the Hobart Regatta February 1934

AS IT WAS

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look a more recent naval history, at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our "Keep Watch" brie. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports of October 2004, we note that it was around this time we reported:

SUBMARINE ACCIDENT

A fire onboard a Canadian submarine on 5th October 2004, off the Irish Coast resulted in nine casualties one of which was fatal.

The submarine HMCS CHICOUTIMI, is one of four sold by the Royal Navy to the Canadian Navy. They have been plagued by problems since being brought out of mothballs refurbished and handed over to the Canadians. Some of the problems included cracks in the diesel generator exhaust, hull and back- up valve.

Rescue efforts by several British naval ships were made extremely difficult by very rough Atlantic weather, as the CHICOUTIMI drifted out of control.

HMCS CHICOUTIMI, a Canadian Victoria Class diesel electric submarine, was formerly HMS UPHOLDER, name ship of her RN Class and four days into her maiden voyage as a Canadian boat. She was sailing from Britain to Halifax when it sent out distress calls. The Canadians selected the British Upholder Class submarines to replace their ageing Oberon class ships.

A listing of the four ships follows together with details of the main characteristics of the Upholder Class Submarines and the Oberon Class, however, we should remember that any comparison of the two submarine types must be weighed against the years of technological differences.

Therefore the Upholder Class reflects technology of the 1970's and 1980's whereas he Oberon Class dates back to the 1950's and 1960's. As such, the Upholders have more automation which has resulted in reduced crew numbers.

HMCS VICTORIA	FORMERLY	HMS UNSEEN
HMCS WINDSOR	FORMERLY	HMS UNICORN
HMCS CORNERBROOK	FORMERLY	HMS URSULA
HMCS CHICOUTIMI	FORMERLY	HMS UPHOLDER
	UPHOLDER CLASS	OBERON CLASS
DISPLACEMENT – DIVED	2455T	2410T
LENGTH-FEET	231	295
SPEED-KNOTS-DIVED	20	17
DIVING DEPTH-FEET	700	550
CREW	49	67
TORPEDO TUBES-FORWARD	6	6
AUTOMATION	EXTENSIVE	MINIMAL

RAN PATROL BOATS

During the Prime Minister Mr. John Howard's electioneering campaign, he announced that should his party be re-elected to power, he would be increasing the forthcoming patrol boat fleet by an additional two boats.

His announcement as reported by the press advised that Australia's fight against terrorism would be boosted by the \$85 million acquisition of two new Navy Patrol Boats that would help protect valuable northwest shelf oil rigs.

At the time of Mr. Howard's announcement, he was in Western Australia at the Austal shipyards to inspect construction of the Armidale Class Patrol Boats.

So it will indeed be of interest to see when and if the planned fleet of twelve Armidale Class Patrol boats increases to fourteen.

Whilst on the subject of Patrol boats it was of further interest to note a letter from a reader in a recently published naval magazine.

AS IT WAS C'TND

A brief extract of the reader's letter to the magazine follows:-

The Fremantle's used to be based in North and the South (e.g. Bass Strait Patrols) early in their service, but all were sent north as more boats were needed to fulfill patrol requirements. It would be interesting to have more details by an independent expert on:-

1. The areas of Australia that need patrol boat coverage and desirable number of boats needed.
2. The abilities to upgrade the capabilities of the Armidale Class in times of conflict.
3. The need for a larger, second type of offshore patrol boat/ship for the rougher Bass Strait and Southern Ocean.

Ken Crook has forwarded his most informative Shrine Report:-

SHRINE REPORT SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

The Shrine will be the heart of the many Centenary celebrations around Victoria, commencing on August 4th this year: 100 years to the day after Great Britain declared war on Germany. On this day, there was a wreath laying ceremony at the Eternal Flame, the re-opening of the Visitor Centre on the completion of its refurbishment and the opening of the Centenary of ANZAC Travelling Exhibition – "Australia will be There: Victorians in the First World War (1914 – 1919)". Four years of ceremonies, exhibitions, education programs and public talks are to follow these commemorations. The Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, will dedicate the redeveloped Shrine following this year's Remembrance Day service (Tuesday 11th November), which just happens to coincide with the Shrine's 80th birthday: the building was dedicated just five years before World War II hostilities commenced.

The commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of Bitia Paka (11 September 1914) on the island of New Britain (the then German New Guinea), resulted in Germany's first defeat on German soil and Victoria's first casualty, Able Seaman William Williams. (The German Imperial Double Eagle Flag captured at Bitia Paka is the prize exhibit in the Museum of HMAS Cerberus at Crib Point.)

The 2000 square metres of exhibition space in the Galleries of Remembrance is progressing on schedule. The Crypt has now reopened with access via the stairs from the Sanctuary. When the project is completed, access will also be from the Gallery level. From the refurbished Visitor Centre, there will be a journey from pre-Federation to Iraq and Afghanistan, finally ending in the Peace Gallery, leaving people with a message of peace, rather than one of conflict. There will be 800 collection items, including the Gallipoli Landing Boat, which tells of individual stories and military units.

There will be a digital Honour Roll of the 368,000 people who were born or enlisted in Victoria and served in World War II. Technology will enable visitors to lay a digital poppy on the screen to mark their individual commemoration. There will also be digital Roles of Honour in the Vietnam Gallery and Korea Gallery. Including peacekeeping missions, there will be 500,000 names on the Rolls.

Of the 730,000 visitors to the Shrine last year, about 30 percent were from overseas. There have been increased visitations from Victorian schools and cruise ships.

All four courtyards, including the recently completed South-West (WWII) courtyard, are now completed and form an attractive symmetrical balance to the original Shrine architecture, which remains intact. The new expanded retail centre provides an increased number of rare books, DVDs, CDs and many other items.

Ken Crook
September/October 2014

NEWS - IN - BRIEF

Nuship CANBERRA LHD02, has now successfully completed her final contractor's sea trials, and is at Williamstown for minor adjustments. She is berthed beside her sister ship, the Landing Helicopter Dock Nuship ADELAIDE LHD01.

Nuship CANBERRA is now building her ships company numbers from the 100 already on board to 200 and then to a reported 380. The ship is under the command of Captain Jonathon Sadler.

Nuship CANBERRA will sail from Williamstown for Sydney in November where she will be commissioned on 28th November 2014.

Both CANBERRA and ADELAIDE will be capable of amphibious operations in each landing a force of 1000 personnel by helicopter and watercraft plus their weapons, ammunition vehicles and stores.

ELECTION RESULT AND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VICTORIA DIVISION 2014

The Victoria Division of the Navy League of Australia is pleased to advise that LCDR Roger Blythman RANR RET'D has been re-elected to the position of NLA Victoria Division President.

Lieutenant Commander Blythman was appointed President for the 2014-2015 period at the Victoria Division Annual General Meeting of 18th September 2014.

At the request of LCDR Blythman, the Senior Vice President's AGM report has been included in this months newsletter as follows:-

NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIA DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 1ST JULY 2013 THROUGH 30TH JUNE 2014

During the course of the past 12 months the Navy League of Australia, Victoria Division, has been involved in, and has firmly supported a number of Royal Australian Navy events and has made contact also with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy.

I have the pleasure of presenting this report, in line with my involvement in some of the events as Senior Vice President representing the President and the executive committee members of the Leagues Victoria Division.

I report on those events, and other relevant items, as I have via the newsletter and in this instance in the summary format of a condensed package spanning the past 12 months in this, the 99th year since the founding of the Victoria Division on the 15th October 1915, now just one year away from this divisions centenary.

Report Summary

During the period covered, I reported on the visit to Melbourne, of the USN'S Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer USS LASSEN DDG82. USS LASSEN arrived in August of last year unexpectedly for the League as forward advice of Naval Ship Movements, in and out of Melbourne, is now difficult to obtain. During my visit to USS LASSEN I was made very welcome by her Commanding Officer CMDR Scott McClelland and his Senior Officers. The 9000 tonne LASSEN was on her way back to her "Forward Deployed" base in Japan following her participation with other USN and RAN vessels in exercise "Talisman Saber" held off the Queensland Coast. Not long after LASSEN'S visit, the League played host at Williamstown's Royal Yacht Club to the OIC and XO of the RAN'S Sail Training Vessel YOUNG ENDEAVOUR. The visit to Melbourne by YOUNG ENDEAVOUR was just one of many conducted by the Barque as she circumnavigates Australia during her training voyages. On this occasion however, YOUNG ENDEAVOUR also engaged as part of the "Tall-Ships" fleet on their way to Sydney as part of the "International-Fleet-Review" celebrations. The Indonesian Navy tall ship DEWARUCI was to have also been part of the League's 'YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" welcome luncheon, but unfortunately DEWARUCI was dismantled when 60 miles off the coast of Western Australia and limped directly home to Indonesia from Western Australia. Following closely behind the Tall Ship fleet were two more naval visitors to Melbourne in the form of the Royal Navy destroyer, the lead ship of her class, HMS DARING D32, in company with the RAN'S HMAS PERTH FFH157. Although difficult to establish contact with HMS DARING, due to no local RAN liaison, the League managed through the fine work and tireless efforts of Special Events Co-ordinator CMDR John Wilkins, OAM, RFD, RANR to arrange an excellent luncheon presentation at Melbourne's Mecure Hotel for the Commanding Officers and Executive Officers of Both HMS DARING and HMAS PERTH. The League was also pleased to host the British Consul General, Gareth Hoar at this event.

A comment I also include in this report is that not so long ago our Federal President, Graham Harris, wrote:-
'Each State Division has had its own way of pursuing the aims of the League. The Victorian Division has regularly hosted lunches for visiting ships. I have personally ALWAYS enjoyed these functions. They have proved to be a very good way of promoting "Navy" – and also of promoting the "League" to Navy"
I would agree that those well chosen words are fair comment.

I reported also on my visits to the ANC TS VOYAGER in Williamstown including their end of year parade.

My report also includes the arrival in Port Phillip of the Netherlands Flagged Carrier Ship MV BLUE MARLIN with the Spanish built hull of Nuship ADELAIDE on board.

Nu ship ADELAIDE joined her sister ship CANBERRA 02, at Williamstown for completion work to be carried out to ADELAIDE in line with the same procedures as that of CANBERRA 02.

At this point in time CMDR John Wilkins was putting the finishing touches to the arrangements for the 2014 Creswell Oration presented by Fleet Commander RADM Tim Barrett, now Vice Admiral Tim Barrett Chief of Navy, when word was received of the pending arrival in Melbourne of HMAS YARRA in line with Navy's "Unit-Citation-for-Gallantry" investiture ceremony.

Further arrangements were put in place to facilitate an earlier arrival of the ship which enabled the Officers and sailors of HMAS YARRA IV to attend the Creswell Oration event.

My report detailed that four days following the Creswell Oration, the Unit Citation award was presented by the Governor General, the Honorable Quentin Bryce AC, CVD., and accepted by Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs in the presence also of Fleet Commander RADM Tim Barrett, Senior Officers from HMAS YARRA IV, descendants of crew members from HMAS YARRA II and many members of Victoria's naval family.

The Unit Citation for gallantry was awarded to HMAS YARRA II for acts of extra-ordinary-gallantry in action off Singapore on the 5th of February 1942 and in the Indian Ocean on the 4th March 1942. The League was well represented at this event which was held at Melbourne's Docklands precinct.

My report in brief also includes the following:-

1. The visits to Melbourne by HMAS STUART
2. Naval history dating back to the first fleet period of 1788; plus details of the visit to Melbourne by the largest fleet of navy ships to enter Port Phillip, when 44 ships of the USN arrived in July 1925. Next year 2015 marks the 90th anniversary of this event. Next year also marks the centenary of the Victoria Division of the Navy League of Australia which was established in 1915. Also January 2015 will be the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne of the Confederate Civil War Raider, CNS SHEHANDOAH.
3. Navy League events AS-IT-WAS 10 years ago.
4. Williamstown Yacht Race for the Geoff Evans Trophy.
5. HMAS SLEUTH coming to Melbourne.
6. Antarctic Ice Breaker incidents
7. Centenary of RAN Submarines 1914-2014.

I spoke with the majority of the Commanding Officer's and Executive Officers of the ships mentioned in this report during their Melbourne visits. I flew the flag of the Navy League of Australia, distributing spare copies of the Leagues magazine "The Navy", plus Navy League mementos to the Commanding Officers. I acted as the Leagues ambassador to the best of my ability and hopefully left our visitors with a better understanding of the Navy League and our brief to "Keep Watch", all the while projecting and galvanising the Leagues statement that "The Maintenance of the Maritime well-being of the Nation is the principle objective of the Navy League of Australia", plus acknowledging and reinforcing that Australia was discovered by sailors, explored and settled by sailors, governed by sailors and is defended by sailors, and that the Navy, under the good providence of God, the wealth, the safety and the strength of this nation chiefly depends.

These last few words were taken from King Charles 2nd articles of war dated 1672 now 342 years ago. Although these words were written before the days of US Nimitz Class Aircraft Carriers and before the days of the RAF or RAAF, there is nevertheless a strong element of truth still ringing through these ancient words for, we must never forget that we are an Island nation and for the sake of our safety and security, plus the strength of our economy we are a nation that depends most on the sea for our survival, protected by a Navy, the RAN, capable of fighting and winning at sea.

Frank McCarthy

Senior Vice President

The Navy League, Victoria Division

AGM REPORT 2013-2014

18th September 2014

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*.

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). 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).

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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.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP	
To: The Hon. Secretary The Navy League of Australia	
_____ Division	
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>	
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<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>	