



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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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HMAS BUNDABERG

The Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS BUNDABERG Pendant No: 91 was engulfed in flames last month (August 2014) whilst undergoing a refit in a Brisbane shipyard.

HMAS BUNDABERG, one of 14 of the RAN'S fleet of aluminium patrol boats was vessel No.9, commissioned in 2007.

It would seem that the 54 million dollar vessel could be a complete write off such was the damage caused by the fire, fortunately there were no casualties.

HMAS BUNDABERG is one of four of the Class based at HMAS CAIRNS.

Navy League members may recall a visit to Melbourne by two of the Class over recent years, when HMAS ARARAT, 89, was commissioned in Melbourne during November of 2006, and HMAS CHILDERS 93, when she visited in June 2009 for the Navy Leagues commemoration celebrating the arrival in Port Phillip of the first 'CHILDERS', a torpedo boat to join the Victorian Navy in 1884, which at the time of the CHILDERS No: 2 visit marked the 125th anniversary.

The Lead Ship of the Class HMAS ARMIDALE Pendant No: 83 was commissioned in June of 2005. Some of the main characteristics of the Armidale Class are as follows:-

DISPLACEMENT	300 TONNES
LENGTH	56.8 METRES
BEAM	9.5 METRES
SPEED	25 KNOTS
ARMAMENT	1X25 MM RAPID FIRE CANNON 2X12.7MM BROWNING MACHINE GUNS
CREW	21 PLUS EXTRA AREA FOR 20

The Armidale's have been busy over recent years with the Border Protection tasks of Operation Resolute in Northern waters.

NEWS - IN - BRIEF

AIR WARFARE DESTROYERS

A media report, published mid-August 2014, advised that the \$8 billion Air Warfare Destroyers project is now running at \$500 million over budget, and will be delivered at least two years late.

It would seem that the latest cost increase estimated to be approximately \$150 million, has been recently advised by the builder A.S.C.

LHD'S LANDING CRAFT

A recent Navy report details that the RAN'S latest and largest ship, the LHD HMAS CANBERRA No: 3, will also have the largest ships company with a total of 375, the largest number in 30 years.

The numbers include photographers as permanent crew members for the first time since the 1980's, plus the first Army Chefs to be posted to a Navy ships company.

The LHD'S CANBERRA and ADELAIDE will be fitted out with six new landing craft (LLC) each, although each ship is capable of carrying four each the additional two each will be utilized during maintenance periods and for training purposes.

The Spanish built 56 tonne LLC'S are 23 metres in length and are equipped with two water-jet propulsion units.

HMAS DARWIN BACK FROM MIDDLE EAST

The US built Adelaide Class Frigate HMAS DARWIN FFG, Pendant No: 04, returned to her Fleet-Base-East home Port on 16th August 2014 following a seven month deployment to the Middle East area of Operations (MEO)

The 30 year old HMAS DAWIN completed her deployment to the MEO, which was rotation No57 for the RAN, since the Gulf War period of 1990.

HMAS DARWIN currently under the command of Commander Terry Morrison has been replaced in the MEO by the nine year old Williamstown built Anzac Class Frigate HMAS TOOWOOMBA, FFH 156, under the command of Commander Catherine Hayes.

HMAS TOOWOOMBA sailed from Fleet Base West on 2nd August 2014. CMDR Hayes is the first female in the Royal Australian Navy to command a warship in the Middle East area of operations.

TASMANIA'S NAVAL CONNECTIONS

As we welcome our Tasmanian friends to our newsletter, we thought it might be appropriate to have a browse through the history books and to highlight some of Tasmania's rich naval history.

The first of these features follows:-

As Australia's island state, Tasmania has a long naval and maritime tradition reaching back to the earliest days of the Australian colonies. Its contribution to the naval defence of Australia has been substantial and well out of proportion to its small size.

Tasmania's first major encounter with the navy occurred in unusual fashion. Following the Rum Rebellion in Sydney in January 1808, the former Governor of New South Wales Captain William Bligh, RN having spent a year under house arrest in Sydney, spent another 12 months effectively under house arrest aboard HMS PORPOISE anchored in the Derwent River just off Hobart. Bligh has been given command of PORPOISE in January 1809 on the condition that he returned immediately to England. Instead, he sailed to Hobart where he tried to enlist the help of the Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land, Colonel David Collins, to retake control of New South Wales. Collins refused. Bligh eventually returned to Sydney in January 1810 after Brigadier Lachlan Macquarie had been appointed NSW Governor and subsequently returned to England. Governor Macquarie visited Tasmania in 1811 and initiated its first colonial defence's, issuing orders for the construction of a signal station atop Mount Nelson and a barracks in Hobart to be manned by British colonial troops. Earthworks for gun batteries around Hobart were started in 1854 but the batteries themselves were not installed and the works were allowed to fall into disrepair. Tasmania's first volunteer unit the Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery Company, was formed in October 1859 and set about completing the batteries.

The first Royal Hobart Regatta was held in 1838 and did much to establish Tasmania's maritime and naval heritage. The day was declared a public holiday and consisted of friendly competition between amateur sailors and members of the merchant navy. The event became a popular attraction for the ships of the Royal Navy's Australia Station and, along with annual fleet exercises conducted in Tasmania waters in the later years of the 19th century, helped to make Hobart one of the most popular Australian ports amongst the British sailors.



Ken Crook has forwarded his most informative Shrine Report:-

SHRINE REPORT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

- The refurbishment of the Northeast Visitor Centre has now been completed, opening to the public on Monday August 4th.
- The excellent exhibition “AUSTRALIA WILL BE THERE: VICTORIANS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-19) was launched on August 4 in the Western Visitor centre and will be displayed at the Shrine until 12 October 2014. The exhibition will then tour around Victoria until August 2019. The first stage of the Victorian tour will begin at the East Gippsland Art Gallery 23 October-2 December 2014.
- The new public facilities include a considerably expanded Retail Centre, a larger Reception Area and Cloak Room, improved Exhibition and Ceremony spaces, a relocated audio-visual facility, new and larger staff kitchen and administration offices for the considerable increase in staff numbers.
- The North Western (Garden) courtyard is now open for public access, as well as the North Eastern courtyard, allowing an improved flow of people through the GALLERY OF MEDALS.
- There will be new and improved lifts from the Ground to the Crypt and Exhibition Gallery levels when completed in October. The Crypt has now been re-opened with access via stairs only from the Sanctuary until the availability of new lifts and stairs from the new Education Centre as well as the refurbished Visitor Centre.

- The complete redevelopment will be officially opened on November 11th this year, being 80 years since the original Dedication on November 11th 1934.

Ken Crook
September 2014

**SEPTEMBER REMEMBRANCE
“THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA” DAY
AND
“THE MERCHANT NAVY” DAY**

The first Wednesday in September is when we commemorate the “Battle for Australia”.

The “Battle for Australia” day, this year Wednesday 3rd September, was commemorated at a Shrine of Remembrance service 11:00am to remember and honour the service, the sacrifice and the courage of Australians and their allies as they fought back the Japanese threat to Australia in the “Battle of the Coral Sea”, at “Milne Bay”, on the “Kokoda Track” and in the many other hard fought actions during World War two in the darkest hours of the war in the Pacific.

On this day Wednesday 3rd September we also remember the Merchant Navy.

This year “Merchant Navy Day” was commemorated at a 2:00pm Shrine of Remembrance Service.

During this period we remember these brave souls who provided such vital support at home and in battle zones abroad.

LEST WE FORGET

AS IT WAS

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history, at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our “Keep Watch” brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports of September 2003, we note that it was around this time we reported:-

1. HMAS PARRAMATTA IV, less than one year old at that point in time, spent most of the August-September 2004 period in Melbourne. During her stay the NLA played host to her Senior Supply Department Officers. HMAS PARRAMATTA’S Commanding Officer at the time was CMDR Michael Noonan, who is now Rear Admiral Michael Noonan.
2. USS STENNIS, in September of 2004 the Nimitz Class Aircraft Carrier USS JOHN C. STENNIS paid a visit to Australian waters, arriving off Fremantle 27th September.

HMAS PARRAMATTA VISITS MELBOURNE

The Anzac Class Frigate HMAS PARRAMATTA arrived in Melbourne on 12th August 2004. HMAS PARRAMATTA berthed at the builder’s dockyard Tenix Williamstown, where she is currently undergoing a routine post shakedown maintenance period.

The Navy League of Australia Victoria Division, played host to Officers from PARRAMATTA’S supply department at a luncheon held in their honour on August 23rd 2004. The luncheon was held at the Naval & Military Club of Melbourne.

AS IT WAS C'TND

HMAS PARRAMATTA, which was commissioned in Sydney on 4th October 2003, was represented at the luncheon by Supply Officers LEUT Chris Jones and Ameer Heal.

HMAS PARRAMATTA, FFH154 is ship Number 7 of a 10 ship Class of Anzac Frigates being built by Tenix of Williamstown, she is the 4th RAN ship to bear the name PARRAMATTA, however, the first to be named for the NSW City of Parramatta rather than the NSW River.

Extending over the last 94 years, one gets the feeling that except for a few intervals in between, there has always been a Parramatta in service with the RAN and even prior to the RAN.

On the 1st March 1901, a collection of old gun boats, torpedo boats, a monitor and a light cruiser became Australia's new Navy, "The Commonwealth Naval Force".

The first new ship for the new Navy was the ACNS PARRAMATTA arriving in 1910, by the following year she would be HMAS PARRAMATTA a 700 ton torpedo boat destroyer that served with distinction during WWI on deployment in operations as far apart as New Guinea and Russia.

The second HMAS PARRAMATTA was a WWII Sloop; she was unfortunately a casualty of that War, torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat off the coast of Tobruk with a heavy loss of life in November of 1941, just 19 months after her commissioning.

Then came PARRAMATTA No:3 a River Class Destroyer-Escort that served the RAN for almost 30 years, her list of activities and achievements includes having provided a naval escort for the Royal Yacht Britannia, participation as a unit of the Commonwealth Reserve Force in Singapore, including numerous exercises with SEATO warships in S.E. Asia.

This third PARRAMATTA was one of the first RAN warships to be fitted with the missile system, Seacat and Ikara.

PARRAMATTA No: 3 also operated as escort to convoys bound for the Vietnam War area of operations.

Now back to the current HMAS PARRAMATTA, the 4th PARRAMATTA and her Pendant No: 154 will revive memories of another ship HMS DUCHESS which also wore the Pendant No: 154. A British built Daring Class Destroyer that would commission into the RAN as HMAS DUCHESS, and fill the gap left open by the loss of HMAS VOYAGER.

Although not yet in commission for 12 months for 164 crew of the latest HMAS PARRAMATTA, under the command of CMDR Michael Noonan, have indeed been busily engaged on patrol in the vicinity of Christmas Island during Operation Relex and recently on an important exercise off the coast of Hawaii with other navies including the USN.

It was during this exercise, Rimpac 2004, that HMAS PARRAMATTA distinguished herself in a live fire 5 inch gunnery exercise with repeated hits on the exercise target ship. PARRAMATTA was instrumental in sending the target ship, the decommissioned Spruance Class Destroyer the ex USS HARRY W HILL, to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

HMAS PARRAMATTA'S current maintenance programme is expected to be completed in time for her to sail from Williamstown on September 27th 2004.

US CARRIER VISITS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A recent visitor to Australian shores was the United States carrier JOHN C STENNIS, CVN 74.

The USS JOHN C STENNIS, a Nimitz Class Carrier, arrived at Fremantle on 27th September 2004, to provide rest and recreational leave for members of her 5680 crew.

Whilst on the subject of United States carriers, the latest Nimitz Class Carrier to join the US Fleet the USS RONALD REGAN CVN 76 is now fully operational which results in the Nimitz /Class list reading as follows:-

USS NIMITZ	CVN68	DATE DEPLOYED 3 RD May 1975
USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER	CVN69	
USS CARL VINSON	CVN70	
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT	CVN71	
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN	CVN72	
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON	CVN73	
USS JOHN C STENNIS	CVN74	
USS HARRY S TRUMAN	CVN75	
USS RONALD REGAN	CVN76	

AS IT WAS C'TND

The last ship of the Nimitz Class, the USS GEORGE H W BUSH CVN 77, is programmed to join the fleet in 2008, which will be followed by the first of the CVN21 next generation of carriers in 2014. The main characteristics of the Nimitz lass of carriers are as detailed:-

OVERALL LENGTH	1090 FEET
DISPLACEMENT	99000 TONS
SPEED	30 KNOTS
FLIGHT DECK WIDTH	252 FEET

In addition to the Nimitz Class Carriers the US has one other nuclear powered operational carrier, the USS ENTERPRISE CVN 65 plus two conventionally-powered carriers, the USS JOHN F KENNEDY CV 67 and USS KITTYHAWK CV 63.

The main characteristics of these three carriers are as follows:-

<u>USS ENTERPRISE CVN65</u>	Date Deployed 25 TH November 1961
OVERALL LENGTH	1100 FEET
DISPLACEMENT	91000 TONS
SPEED	30 KNOTS
AIRCRAFT	85
FLIGHT DECK WIDTH	252 FEET
CREW	5800

<u>USS JOHN F KENNEDY CV67</u>	Date Deployed 7 th September 1968
OVERALL LENGTH	1050 FEET
DISPLACEMENT	83000 TONS
SPEED	30 KNOTS
AIRCRAFT	85
FLIGHT DECK WIDTH	252 FEET
CREW	5600

<u>USS KITTYHAWK CV63</u>	Date Deployed 29 th April 1961
OVERALL LENGTH	1060 FEET
DISPLACEMENT	82000 TONS
SPEED	30 KNOTS
AIRCRAFT	85
FLIGHT DECK WIDTH	252 FEET
CREW	5600

The US Navy expects each of their aircraft carriers CV and CVN to be operational for approximately 50 years.

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA DIVISION

Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road Box Hill Victoria

On Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7: 00PM

2014-2015 ANNUAL DUES

VICTORIA DIVISION Including TASMANIA

We extend a very warm welcome to all our Tasmanian based members.

Tasmania Established 26TH November 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915

Please forward your annual payment off **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP by 30 June and that will assist our honorary officers responsible for the administration. Payment can be made direct by internet banking direct into our account, but make sure your name is included

BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank

or post to

P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

Hope you are enjoying Frank McCarthy's Monthly Email Newsletter and the Navy League's Quarterly journal "The Navy" "We hold occasional "Welcome luncheons" and "special events" depending on ship arrivals so let us know when you send your payment if you are interested in being notified of these events and we will update our records.

Events and news items are listed in the Monthly Newsletter which is distributed by email and for those without a personal email may I suggest that if you have family members or a friend to whom we can send it, please let us know the email address.

Ring the Secretary 9884 **6237** if you and/or a friend would like to attend events or need advice.

Yours Aye!

CMDR *John M Wilkins* OAM RFD*Past President / Hon Treasurer

03 9842 4256

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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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.

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>		
Street _____		
Suburb _____ State _____ P/code _____		
Phone _____ Mobile _____		
Email _____		
Signature _____ Date _____		
<i>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.</i>		

