



# BROADSIDE

April 2022

Volume 12 Edition 4

## Editorial



### Anzac Day 2022

While we can never forget the service and sacrifice on the Gallipoli peninsula and on the Western Front over a century ago, we cannot allow them to define us forever.

The events of the Second World War are even more significant for Australia, as for much of that conflict, they were not on the other side of the world, but in and around our country. Eighty years ago, when Australians and New Zealanders gathered to mark Anzac Day in 1942, the nations faced the most direct threat in their history. A terrible war was being waged and it was on our doorstep.

In the two preceding years the nation had seen the evacuation of Dunkirk and the fall of France in May and June 1940; defeats in Greece and Crete in April and May 1941; the siege of Tobruk and the sinking of the Australian warships Parramatta and Waterhen on the dangerous ferry run which supported it.

The months preceding April 1942 were even more awful. In November 1941 HMAS Sydney was sunk in action by the German raider Kormoran and Japan entered the war with attacks throughout South East Asia and the Pacific. In December 1941, there were defeats at Pearl Harbor and in the South China Sea.

New Year 1942 brought worse news, most shockingly of all, the fall of Singapore in early February and the surrender of the Australian 8th Division, followed by a frantic retreat south and west; defeats in the Java Sea and Sunda Strait where Dutch, British, US and Australian ships were sunk; HMAS Perth and USS Houston in Sunda Strait and HMAS Yarra to the south of Java defending fleeing convoys.

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### Events Calendar

(see [Calendar](#) for full details)



**30 Apr-01May** – Lake Goldsmith steam rally

**01 May** – Battle of the Coral Sea service

**04 May** – Soundwaves concert

**06 May** – HMAS Castlemaine service

**10-12 May** – Navy Seapower Conference

**13 May** – Recruit School graduation

**22 May** – Battle of Crete & Greek Commemoration

**31 May** – Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance service

**10 Jun** – Recruit School graduation

**13 Jun** – N Class Destroyer service

**30 Jun** – HMAS Waterhen Commemorative service

**Latest Videos, Podcasts and  
News Headlines**

Darwin was bombed for the first time in February 1942 and in April HMAS Vampire was sunk in action defending the small British aircraft carrier Hermes off Sri Lanka.

Imperial Japanese advances were on a truly oceanic scale, covering distances at a speed that had little precedent and advancing rapidly toward Australia. The defence of Australia was a desperate maritime campaign fought by a coalition of nations, by sailors, soldiers and aviators, in the waters and islands to our north, around our coast by sea, land and air.

On Anzac Day in April 1942, the defence of Australia was at its darkest hour. The usual turning points of the war in the Indo-Pacific, the Battles of Coral Sea, Midway and Guadalcanal, only took place from May 1942.

It was a bleak picture not just for the Australian nation, but also for our service personnel. They did not have the comfort we have now, the knowledge of their eventual victory. They sailed not to some interesting and innovative engagement, but to one filled with uncertainty, fear and possibly death. But sail they did and they made the most of what they had. And in doing so, I believe they showed the characteristics to which we all must aspire.

- Cooperation in the face of adversity.
- Courage to engage against an enemy seemingly without weakness.
- Determination to learn, to overcome and to succeed.

None of these things were predetermined.

None were easy.

So the freedoms and prosperity we now enjoy are to me all the greater, because they were born not in times of easy success, but came forged in the fire of defeat, tempered in the trials of weakness and failure, and honed through arduous campaigns in the air and across the waters and islands of the Indo-Pacific.

As we look to the future, with its perils and opportunities, conscious of the dangers our world faces, I think it is the character of those who served us eighty years ago in the dark days leading up to April 1942 that should inspire us. Their service in the direct defence of Australia reminds us of what really matters. Their service guides us to that which is best in ourselves, encourages us that we can prevail

Keep up to date on all the news by  
visiting our website: <https://navyvic.net>



## VIDEOS.....

- *AB Jack Le Cras, o/n F5406*
- *Follow the bouncing ball at the Invictus Games*
- *The Purple Pony gets her feet wet...again*
- *Invictus Games indoor rowing inspiration*
- *Invictus Games: Diving in aids mental health*
- *USS Abraham Lincoln, Japanese Ships Drill in the Sea of Japan*
- *Revvng it up at the 2022 Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix*
- *Day 2 at Sea Air Space 2022 – Unmanned Systems*
- *RAN Band - Navy Music Writers - Episode 4*
- *Day 1 at Sea Air Space 2022 – Constellation-class Frigate and Weapon Systems*
- *Australia partnering with Palau*
- *Indo Pacific 2022 - Register for FREE today!*
- *RAN Band presents "You Are My Sunshine"*



## NEWS.....

*Seven days of unforgettable competition and camaraderie concluded with a stunning closing ceremony celebrating the 500 wounded, injured and sick serving and former-serving military personnel from 20 nations who came together to compete at Invictus Games The Hague in the Netherlands.*

*If our Invictus warriors are the masters of their fate, then the same can be said for their family and friends who support them on their individual journeys.*

for the greater good and inspires us to go on to better and brighter things.

Lest we forget.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team



If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We will list their names in perpetuity on our special [Memorial Wall](#) on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † LCDR B.J. Bird, O.3022, 25 April 2022. Aged 72.
- † STOKER R.J. Murray, S10107, April 2022. Aged 95.
- † LCDR D. Simmonds, 22 April 2022.
- † CREM J.F. Duncombe, R32952, 16 April 2022. Aged 93.
- † ABROS R.L. Sampson, R59977, 13 April 2022. Aged 75.
- † ABSTD S. Burgess, 13 April 2022.
- † CMDR W.R. Smith, O.3006, 12 April 2022. Aged 70.
- † ORDSMN J.T. Lindsay, 4706NS, 12 April 2022. Aged 88.
- † CMDR C.W. Fitzgerald, 29 March 2022. Aged 92.
- † WRSTD H.J. Greer, née Owen, W85364, 28 March 2022. Aged 78.
- † ME S.N. Hughes, R96188, 27 March 2022. Aged 70.
- † D.T. Denton, R108724, 21 March 2022. Aged 69.
- † LCDR S.W. Cheverton, 14 March 2022. Aged 86.
- † POMTP B.R. Mathers, 10 March 2022. Aged 74.
- † SIG D.F. Vizzard, R66284, 19 February 2022. Aged 71.
- † ABRP J.D. McDonald, R95004, 02 February 2022. Aged 72.

## Lest We Forget

### APRIL HERO



#### CPOCD William (Bill) Terence Fitzgerald OAM

William (Bill) Fitzgerald was a legendary clearance diver with the Royal Australian Navy who was charged with the demolition of ordnance in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

Wearing the heavy and cumbersome equipment of the time, he would dive on the American bombs and Japanese and British mines left behind in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Often, low water visibility meant that he worked at great personal risk, hardly able to see his hand in front of his metal helmet.

In later operations he dived on an Australian atomic test site,

*Love is a powerful motivator. Just ask Invictus Games The Hague 2020 competitor Emilea Mysko, who openly credits her 10-year-old daughter, Kelsea, as her greatest inspiration.*

*The future of Anzac Day events is at risk due to a lack of young veterans signing up to volunteer with RSL sub-branches, long-serving members have warned.*

*More than 105 years after his death, the name and legacy of Private No. 5104 Matthew Tubman lives on. Able Seaman Matthew Tubman, a musician posted to the RAN Band, visited Bonjean Cemetery in France to pay his respects to his father's great-uncle.*

*The moving cries of 'Slava Ukraini' and 'Heroiam Slava' have echoed around Zuiderpark, the home of Invictus Games The Hague 2020, over the past week.*

*Bob Reck will return home to Cairns with many special memories from Invictus Games The Hague 2020.*

*After a Decade of Debate, Cruisers Set to Exit Fleet in 5 Years.*

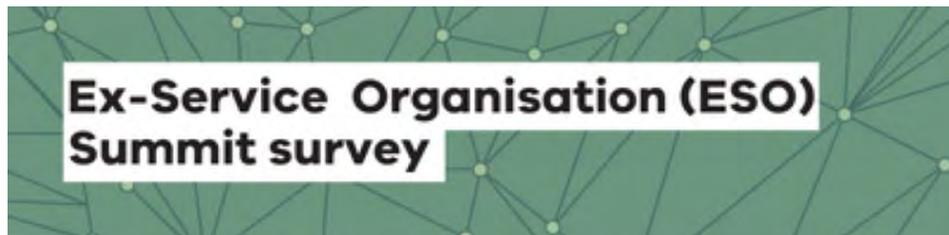
*A Royal Navy warship has been found by divers on the Scottish seabed – almost 105 years to the day it sank.*

*The Royal Australian Navy's Collins-class submarines will be upgraded with a new "cutting-edge optronics system".*

*Austal Australia to build an additional two Evolved Cape-class Patrol Boats for the Royal Australian Navy.*

despite being told by the bomb's developer that the work would leave him sterile for five years. He also made a high-risk dive to the depth of 79 metres to free the sluice gates of the Eucumbene Dam in the Snowy Mountains.

Read his full biography on our website:  
<https://navyvic.net/heroes/fitzgerald.html>



Seeking your ideas and input to shape first-ever ESO Summit.

The **Victorian Veterans Council** is preparing to host the state's first Ex-Service Organisation Summit during winter 2022.

The one-day Summit will bring together Ex-Service Organisations from all around the state to discuss the topics and issues that matter to veterans and their families.

The Summit is at the planning stage and we are writing to ask you to participate in an online survey, the result of which will help shape the discussion and ensure the event is veteran-centric addressing the topics that are important to veterans and their families right now.

The survey can be found [here](#).

Please encourage veterans and their families across your networks to complete the survey to tell us what should be discussed at the Summit.

Also ask them to share the survey link widely so we can hear from as many veterans and family members as possible.

Your feedback will be recorded anonymously and this survey will be open up to **Tuesday 3 May**.

For more information, please visit the [Victorian Veterans Council website](#).

\* The Victorian Veterans Council is an independent statutory body that provides advice to the Victorian Government about issues impacting the Victorian veteran community.



*The U.S. Navy now has five submarines homeported in Guam — up from two the service had based there as of November 2021.*

*Chief Petty Officer Sharon Brown has witnessed a significant change in attitude towards women in her 42-and-a-half-year naval career.*

*Since the British Type 26 was announced as the reference design for Royal Australian Navy's nine Hunter-class frigates, the program has been controversial.*

*Family members of Victoria Cross for Australia recipient Ordinary Seaman the late Edward 'Teddy' Sheean have experienced life at sea in the Royal Australian Navy submarine named after him.*

*RANC Class of 62-65 Visit Museum Ship ex-HMAS Castlemaine*

*HMAS Arunta returned to Fleet Base East on April 5 after a three-month regional presence deployment to South-East and North Asia, which included port visits where the crew could go ashore.*

*HII Lays Keel of Future Aircraft Carrier USS Enterprise.*

*FlyBy – A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [April edition.....](#) (Note: right mouse click link and download document)*

*Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network [March update.....](#)*

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