



# BROADSIDE

August 2022

Volume 12 Edition 8

## Editorial



Periodically, this newsletter has reminded its readers of the strong linkages between the Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria (to organise and conduct the commemorative aspects of Victoria's many ex-Naval Associations), the Navy Victoria Network (to generate awareness and promote activities that might be of interest to serving and ex-Navy members and their families) and the Melbourne Naval Committee (to provide financial support to Victorian-based Navy veterans and Navy Ship and Branch Associations).

Over the past decade, the strong relationship between these three now well-established pillars of the ex-Navy community has seen many memorable events being run throughout Victoria. The NCCV continues to be the driving force behind naval commemorative activities, particularly since the easing of COVID restrictions. Readers of this newsletter will be well aware of the useful information that comes into your email inbox every month, not to mention the resource that is the NVN website <https://navyvic.net/> and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/navyvictoria/>. Probably the least known part of this successful threesome is the MNC, yet it remains an important source of financial support that routinely assists associations in achieving their objectives.

The purpose and activities of the MNC are very familiar to some in the ex-Naval community. Indeed, some associations receive practical support two to three times a year to enable them to conduct their activities. For those of you who have not already received financial assistance, the next couple of paragraphs are intended to let you know what the MNC does, how individuals and associations can be helped and if you need the MNC's assistance, what you need to do to apply for it.

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## Events Calendar

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



- 03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day service*
- 07 Sep – Battle for Australia Memorial service*
- 08 Sep – Defence Force School of Music concert*
- 09 Sep - Open Day HMAS Castlemaine and commencement of Navy Week*
- 09 Sep – Recruit School graduation*
- 11 Sep – Battle of Bita Paka service*
- 11 Sep – AE1 & AE2 Commemorative Service*
- 30 Sep – Recruit School Graduation*
- 02 Oct – Daylight saving commences*
- 06 Oct – Defence Force School of Music – Concert*
- 07-09 Oct – Navy Cooks, Chefs, & Stewards Reunion*
- 08-16 Oct – Navy week in Victoria*

By way of background, the roots of today's MNC go back to 1945, when the then Ex-Navalmen's Association of Australia – Melbourne held fund raising activities in the streets of Melbourne to raise funds to establish a central meeting place for naval personnel who had served and were serving in His Majesty's Navies. In 1947, the Melbourne Naval Centre (the forerunner to today's MNC) used the funds collected to purchase property in Flinders Lane, Melbourne, known as 'Tavistock House'. This building provided meeting rooms and offices for ex-naval organisations. At the same time the Melbourne Naval Centre, in agreement with the Trustees of the Exhibition Building, established the White Ensign Club in the then northern annex of the Exhibition Building.

The White Ensign Club tended to the needs of the serving sailor in that it provided accommodation, meals and recreation for sailors ashore or on recreational leave in Melbourne, particularly trainees from HMAS Cerberus on weekend leave. The rooms and offices in Tavistock House served the needs of ex-naval organisations. In approximately 1984, the Melbourne Naval Centre was required to carry out extensive capital works for Tavistock House to comply with health and safety regulations as a place of assembly. After much investigation, reports and costings, it was found in 1986 that the cost of the work to be done was prohibitive. A decision was then made to sell the property and invest the proceeds. The Melbourne Naval Centre then fostered (using the proceeds from its investments) meeting places in Melbourne for ex-naval groups to come together. It leased premises in Flinders Lane which were used by various groups but mainly the Melbourne sub-section of the Naval Association of Australia. Other MNC locations over the years have been HMAS Lonsdale, the RAAF Sergeant's Mess at Southbank, the ESU Building in South Yarra and currently at the Mission to Seafarers on Flinders Street in Docklands.

While the needs of the serving and ex-serving elements of the RAN have changed dramatically over the years, one constant remains, namely the desire to meet, socialise and enjoy each other's company. To support these aspirations, the 'Statement of Purposes' of today's Melbourne Naval Committee is to:

- *Arrange or facilitate a meeting place for men and women whom have served in the RAN, RN or an allied Navy in order to perpetuate a spirit of comradeship and mutual assistance throughout the Naval Services;*
- *Arrange, facilitate or promote recreation, amusement and education for the men and women who are serving or have served in the Naval Services; and*

## Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

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



### VIDEOS.....

- *ADF Nordic Skiing and Biathlon - Exercise Coolshot*
- *Wreck of US warship sunk in WW1 found off English coast*
- *Pacific Partnership health fair*
- *Nuclear Powered Submarine Task Force*
- *National Science Week - Marine Engineering Officer*
- *National Science Week - Electronics Technician*
- *Astute-Class: The Royal Navy's Killing Machine*
- *RIMPAC 2022 comes to a conclusion*
- *Exercise RIMPAC 22 MV-22 embarked in HMAS Canberra*
- *Faces of RIMPAC - Able Seaman Sharni Simpson*
- *RIMPAC 2022 fleet looking sharp!*



### NEWS.....

*A U.S. Coast Guard cutter conducting patrols as part of an international mission to prevent illegal fishing was recently unable to get clearance for a scheduled port call in the Solomon Islands, according to reports, an incident that comes amid growing concerns of Chinese influence on the Pacific nation.*

*Royal Navy offshore patrol ship HMS Spey joined navies, coast guards and police in the southwest Pacific on a concerted effort to protect local fishing stocks.*

*After almost three months at sea on a regional presence deployment through the Pacific, HMAS*

- *Engage and support other groups and organisations, in Victoria, that commemorate and promote naval history, values, customs and traditions.*

The types of support eligible under these Statement of Purposes are intentionally broad. As such, associations can hold their regular meetings and social events at the Mission to Seafarers free of charge, or their activities elsewhere can be subsidised. Recent grants of up to \$5,000 have reimbursed the cost to hire buses/ferries to transport members to Association reunions, outings and events, the purchase of replacement computer equipment, and partly funded Christmas/Anzac Day luncheons. Noting the ongoing challenges in generating income from its lump sum investment and to make it 'stretch further', associations are normally expected to contribute part of the cost of an event.

In considering applications, the committee will exercise its judgement and discretion taking all known factors into account, particularly:

- whether the application falls within the Statement of Purposes of the MNC;
- the history of grants made to the applicant;
- the amount of income (from investments) available for distribution; and
- the worthiness of the application (based on detail provided by the applicant).

Applications for financial assistance are considered at quarterly meetings normally held in February, May, August and November. Applications should be forwarded to the Secretary, Andy Mackinnon, by the middle of the preceding month at email address: [andrewmackinnon0404@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmackinnon0404@gmail.com).

After a lengthy period of almost no requests for MNC support (due to COVID19 restrictions), it is clear that Associations are steadily coming out of their enforced hibernation and in the past quarter, more grants have been approved than in the past two years. If you or your association are planning an event over the next year (perhaps a bus trip to HMAS CERBERUS for its Open Day on 19 March or next year's Anzac Day lunch), the MNC would like to hear about your plans as early as possible to better predict demand on its funds and to help you refine your grant applications. Closer to the event, when costs are more accurately known and details of the event have been firmed up, applications can be submitted.

*Canberra is heading back to her home port in Sydney.*

*Veterans' advocacy services today received a boost, with more than 119 ex-service organisations (ESOs) across Australia sharing in \$4.45 million of funding under the Australian Government's Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants program.*

*The President of Nauru, Lionel Aingimea, thanked the Royal Australian Navy for its efforts on Operation Render Safe during a visit to HMAS Canberra on August 18.*

*A senior Washington official has indicated that the United States would consider providing Australia with B-21 Raider long-range bombers, if Canberra requested them.*

*A national commemorative service recognising the 75th anniversary of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations will be held in Canberra on September 14. In 1947, Australians were part of the first group of United Nations military observers anywhere in the world, and were sent to the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia).*

*The Chinese naval shipbuilding industry continues to demonstrate that it is in a league of its own: A ship spotter photo released today shows five Type 052D destroyers all taking shape in a construction dock at the Dalian shipyard.*

*The new CEO and chairman of Anduril Australia, overseeing a tiny staff of seven now, plans to*



The key takeaways from this editorial are that the MNC is keen and able to provide financial assistance to support the efforts of ex-Navy Associations based in Victoria to enhance the camaraderie and welfare of your members. The MNC is also keen to consider any personal requests for financial assistance to enhance the wellbeing of any currently serving and ex-Navy personnel living in Victoria, provided that there are no more appropriate alternative sources of funding for that assistance. We are thrilled to see that a number of Associations have already taken the opportunity (since the lifting of COVID restrictions) to develop strategies and organise events that help to reinvigorate the collective enthusiasm of their members. Others have taken the opportunity during the lull in activities over the past two years to upgrade the equipment needed to administer their organisations or to attract new members through improved IT equipment, promotional material and advertising. The MNC has been a proud sponsor of many of these reinvigoration initiatives. And finally, if you have something in mind, please give the MNC advanced warning of your plans and an indication of the likely assistance to be sought.

#### **Navy Hero:**

Our navy hero for August is Commander Rowland Griffiths BOWEN who served with distinction at the Battle of Bita Paka on the island of New Britain in September 1914. A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Bita Paka will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance Sanctuary on 11th September 2022 at 11:00 am.



**Rowland Griffiths Bowen** was born on 14 January 1879 at Taggerty, Victoria, the seventh child of David Bowen, farmer, and his wife Margaret, née Hughes, both of whom were natives of Wales. He served in the Queensland Naval Brigade, became a Sub Lieutenant in 1900 and then in 1911 he joined the RAN as a Lieutenant.

On 19 August 1914 Bowen sailed with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, in the troopship Berrima, which had been hastily raised to capture German New Guinea. In the force's first operation, at Rabaul in German New Guinea, Bowen led a party of 25 naval reservists in an attack on the radio station at Bita Paka.

*have 140 people working by next year, and his company will soon announce a "state of the art" research and development center on Sydney Harbour to build what the company believes will be the first of hundreds of large drone submarines.*

*The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy possesses the resources to field up to five aircraft carriers and 10 nuclear ballistic missile submarines by 2030, according to a new think tank report on Beijing's ongoing military expansion.*

*RAN guided missile destroyer, HMAS Sydney, displayed its sophisticated naval combat capabilities while participating in Exercise Pacific Dragon 2022 in the seas off Hawaii.*

*Applications for next year's Long Tan Bursaries open today, 18 August 2022, Vietnam Veterans' Day. The Long Tan Bursary pays for the tertiary education of children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans.*

*Leaving country Victoria and the family's 50-acre dairy farm in Nyora, Midshipman Rachael Emmett dreamt of travelling and seeing the world.*

*Naval forces for the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and Canada wrapped up the Pacific Dragon 2022 exercise on Monday.*

*Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sumedha is visiting Australia as part of global celebrations for India's 75th*

The party was put ashore on 11 September and, while pushing forward through dense jungle, was ambushed by a patrol of native soldiers led by three German officers. In the skirmish that followed one of the Germans was wounded and surrendered. Bowen ordered him, under threat of shooting him, to call on his comrades to surrender, for 800 Australians were advancing. Soon afterwards Bowen was shot in the head by a sniper and evacuated to Berrima for treatment; he was later mentioned in dispatches for gallantry and promoted to Acting Lieutenant Commander in November 1914. His full story can be read in our library of Navy Heroes located at <https://navyvic.net/heroes/heroes.html>.

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.

- † LTO A.R. Lindley, R64373, 22 August 2022. Aged 74.
- † CAMW J.J. Harrison OAM, R35399, 22 August 2022. Aged 93.
- † WOMTP C.F.R. Prentice, R58103, 19 August 2022. Aged 78.
- † EMAW M.A. Johnston, 16 August 2022. Aged 81.
- † A.L. Scarce, R104969, 14 August 2022. Aged 71.
- † PORP G.A. Goodwin, 09 August 2022. Aged 51.
- † CEE J. Yaldren, 08 August 2022. Aged 74.
- † ERA1 G.W. Patman, R42002, August 2022. Aged 81.
- † EMWE R. Bailey, 07 August 2022. Aged 77.
- † AB R.R. McIntosh, PM6058, 07 August 2022. Aged 97.
- † EMP A. Lidgard, 06 August 2022.
- † ERA D.J. Day, R104399, 04 August 2022. Aged 71.
- † CEWR E. Boron, R64075, 01 August 2022. Aged 75.
- † SAP2 J.F. Lewis, R42327, August 2022. Aged 79.
- † LSRO P. Young, 29 July 2022.
- † NAM(A) J.W. Spence, R51517, 28 July 2022. Aged 87.
- † CPOACM F.C. McCreanor, R54473, 27 July 2022. Aged 82.
- † CPOWTR G.E. Bird, R/27796, 26 July 2022. Aged 94.
- † CPO G.M. Locke, 25 July 2022. Aged 57.
- † ME R.L. Mock, R64320, 25 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † LS T.E. Henry, 26447, 23 July 2022. Aged 92.
- † LEUT R.K. Marum, O2768, 22 July 2022. Aged 79.
- † WRRO(M) H.E. Hiscock (Lane), W86746, 24 May 2022. Aged 73.

**Lest We Forget**

*Anniversary of Independence or 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.*

*Important change coming to the way you receive some DVA correspondence*

*'When I stop having fun I'll go,' is the mantra Lieutenant Commander David Gould has lived by and the reason he has just reached the milestone of 40 years in the Royal Australian Navy.*

*HII Set to Install First Hypersonic Missiles on USS Zumwalt, USS Michael Monsoor During Repair Period*

*U.S. Navy offers future sailors, veterans up to \$115,000 in enlistment, loan repayment incentives*

*HMS Spey has said goodbye to Australia after making a pitstop in Darwin for a crew swap and to take on supplies and fuel for the next leg of her Pacific patrol.*

*China's East Sea Fleet, across from Taiwan, has received a new submarine. The boat is unlike any currently in service, being distinguished by a radically angled sail.*

*The Australian Government welcomes the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide by Commissioners Nick Kaldas APM, the Hon James Douglas QC and Dr Peggy Brown AO.*

*On 11 August 2022, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide released its Interim Report, which provided a number of*

## Merchant Navy Service - Melbourne



*recommendations to help prevent those who have served in the Australian Defence Force from taking their own life.*

*The F/A-18E Super Hornet blown off the deck of USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) was recovered 9,500 feet under the Mediterranean Sea, U.S. 6th Fleet announced on Monday.*

*Royal Navy sailors delivered Covid vaccines to the descendants of the Bounty when patrol ship HMS Spey visited the tiny Pitcairn Islands in the Pacific.*

*Recently named as the inaugural patron for ADF Cadets, Governor-General General (ret'd) Sir Peter Cosgrove has met with Service Cadet organisations and ADF Cadet Headquarters in Canberra to discuss plans to enhance the program.*

*HMAS Canberra is training at night, recovering and launching embarked United States Marine MV-22B Osprey aircraft on the flight deck during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022.*

*Exercise Kakadu this year is set to be the biggest yet with as many as 19 vessels, 34 aircraft and more than 3000 personnel from 25 countries expected.*

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

*Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for more news articles not included in this newsletter.*



*WW2 veterans Harold "Hiram" Ristrom and Margaret Hattersley receive handmade quilts from the Quilts of Valour Foundation during a lunch held at the Bentleigh RSL, Victoria.*

(nee Hartley), were able to attend the ceremony at Bentleigh RSL in Victoria and were presented with a Quilt of Valour and a recognition of service certificate by Commodore Greg Yorke, Senior Naval Officer - Victoria. [Click for full story.....](#)

Three World War 2 Navy veterans instrumental in supporting General Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines, cracking enemy codes, and facing down enemy fire, were honoured for their service at an emotional ceremony on August 9.

Two of the veterans, Harrold "Hiram" Ristrom and Margaret Hattersley