



# BROADSIDE

February 2024

Volume 14 Edition 2

## Editorial



Although this year's HMAS *Cerberus* Open Day being held on Sunday 3 March hasn't been given much publicity in mainstream media, hopefully all of the NVN's readers will have already either noted its inclusion in our Calendar of Events (on the [NVN website](#)) or heard about the Melbourne Naval Committee's generous offer (last October) to the Presidents and POCs for all VIC-Based Navy ESOs to apply for grants to help cover the cost of hiring coaches to take their members to the Open Day.

The NVN is pleased to report that three Sub-Sections of the Naval Association of Australia (Footscray, Dandenong and East Gippsland) took up this excellent offer. As the Submariners Association, along with the St Kilda RSL, have also organised their own Coach, they will be afforded the same VIP treatment as their colleagues from the NAA which includes having a dedicated Navy Tour Guide embarked in each Coach for the whole day, special viewing opportunities at some of the key attractions and an invitation to rest and recuperate in the magnificent ante-room of the Wardroom at any time during the Open Day.

But don't despair if this is all "news" to you! Whilst it is now too late to organise large groups of ex-Navy personnel to attend the Open Day, all members of the wider "Navy Community" in Victoria are still strongly encouraged to make the effort to visit "The Cradle of the Navy" for what is always guaranteed to be a heart-warming "walk down memory lane" and an exciting revelation of the "new and improved" Navy. And because the main objective of these Open Days is to encourage members of the younger generations to consider "joining-up", why don't you bring your Grandchildren or other relatives and friends who are still planning their future careers?

**Join NOW**  
**Membership is FREE**



Scan the code  
or

[Click here to go to  
the Registration page](#)

## **Events Calendar**

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



**26 Feb - 03Mar** - Navy week - various events (below)

**26 Feb - 0900** - Father of the Navy Service - Brighton Cemetery

**02 Mar - 1100** - HMAS Perth & USS Houston Service - Shrine, Sanctuary

**03 Mar - 1000-1600** - HMAS Cerberus Open Day

**03 Mar - 1100** - HMAS Yarra (II) Commemorative Service - HMAS Yarra (II) National Memorial, The Strand, Newport, Vic.

**06 Mar - 1230** - Creswell Oration - Waverley RSL

**09-11-Mar** - All Day - Wooden Boat Festival - Geelong - (STS young Endeavour visiting)

**19-Mar - 14:00** - Commemoration of the Centenary of the Visit of the

Some of the major attractions and events in the Open Day Program include:

- 🚢 Demonstration of the hi-tech indoor Survival at Sea Trainer
- 🚢 Demonstration of the 'rocking and rolling' Damage Control and Firefighting Trainers
- 🚢 Maritime Security displays (incl. RHIB and boarding party equipment)
- 🚢 Indoor weapons (small arms) simulator training
- 🚢 Replenishment at Sea demonstration
- 🚢 ADF Preconditioning Training, indoor Rock-Climbing wall and Obstacle Course
- 🚢 Flag Hoists, Flashing and more modern communications equipment demonstration
- 🚢 Logistics simulator, forklift driving demo, clothing store RAN 'dress-ups'
- 🚢 Field Kitchen (serving free scones & jam!)
- 🚢 Field Dental display
- 🚢 Radar, sonar, diesel generator, welding, hydraulics and auxiliary machinery displays
- 🚢 Torpedo 'air shot'
- 🚢 Recitals by the Melbourne Detachment of the RAN Band
- 🚢 Drone flying demonstration, War Plane flyovers, static displays of contemporary Military Aircraft
- 🚢 Vintage Classic Car Display

If any of this interests you (and why wouldn't it?), please click on this link to the [HMAS Cerberus Open Day](#) poster which includes (in the bottom left-hand corner) a QR Code that you can easily scan with the camera on your mobile phone to register your intention to attend the festivities; with whom; and what time you plan to arrive.

You will then be sent an email from ADF Careers confirming your registration. There's no need to bring a copy of this registration with you as your names will automatically be included on the "Check-off List" held by Security Staff at the East & West Gates.

However, if you are not sufficiently 'tech-savvy' to be able to register your visit plans via the 'ADF Careers' QR Code, don't be discouraged from attending the Open Day... on arrival, tell the staff on the gate that you're ex-Navy and (upon production of your Drivers Licence or

*British Special Service Squadron to Melbourne 1924 – Shrine – free talk and exhibition*

**20-Mar** - 14:00 & 19:00 - *Soundwaves Concert - Cerberus cinema complex*

**25-Mar** - 1900 - *Naval Historical Society meeting - Waverley RSL*

**28-Mar** - 10:30 - *Defence Force School of Music 'At Home' Concert - Simpson Barracks*

**09-Apr** - 11:00 - *HMAS Vampire Service - Shrine*

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### **Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines**

*Keep up to date on all the news by visiting our website:*

<https://navyvoic.net>

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### **VIDEOS.....**

- *Chief of Navy - Surface Fleet Review*
- *Brumbies Pre-Season Camp at HMAS Creswell*

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### **NEWS shorts.....**

*U.S. forces recently struck an unmanned underwater drone amid a busy few days in the Middle East, marking the first observed employment of an underwater drone by the Houthi militants since they began their attacks in October, according to U.S. Central Command.*

*Senator Malcolm Roberts has questioned whether Royal Australian Navy vessels were at a publicity photo shoot instead of attending the search and rescue of a fatal MRH-90 Taipan helicopter crash during Talisman Sabre 2023. Senator Roberts made the accusations during a Senate foreign affairs, defence and trade legislation committee (Senate estimates) meeting on 14 February.*

other Photo ID) they'll make the necessary arrangements to let you enter.

Finally, if you have decided to attend the Open Day, please note that you can either drive and park outside the West Gate (off South Beach Road) or catch the train to Crib Point and walk into the Base via the East Gate (off Stony Point Road). Thereafter, you can either walk onto and around the Base in any direction that takes you to your favourite events or catch one of the six Shuttle Buses that will be continuously circulating around (and stopping at) all of the nine pick-up and drop-off points along the route shown on the Map that can be viewed and downloaded from the [NVN website](#).

Come along and be amazed by the latest technology being used to train our new Sailors. Enjoy a "trip down memory lane" and marvel at the excellent results of the Federal Government's investment of over \$500 Million in the Base Re-Development Project.

Notwithstanding the fact that a number of old and ugly buildings have been replaced with new facilities, it is wonderful to observe that all new buildings have been designed to blend-in with the beautiful heritage-listed A, B and C Blocks that still look majestically over the central Parade Ground and sporting fields. And even these iconic buildings have had a 'facelift' and significant internal upgrades. And while you're there, please make an effort to pop-in to the Marquee situated near the entrance to the Historical Collection (near the Chapels) and say "hello" to the NVN Team and representatives from most of the other major Navy Ex-Service Organisations based in Victoria.

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## OUR FEBRUARY HERO

### **LCDR John Morrell BAND, US Navy Cross, RANR(S)**

After a rather 'colourful' start to his life and an amazing 'string' of 12 short-duration postings during the first 3 years of his service as an officer in the RANR at the outbreak of WW2, LCDR John Band is best remembered for his skill and bravery as the OIC of the Naval Beach Party attached to the US 532nd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment that landed at Scarlet Beach (near Finschhafen in PNG) in the early hours of 22 September 1943.

Although Band was mortally wounded by Japanese machine gun fire during this amphibious landing, he continued to direct operations and saved a group of vessels from beaching in the wrong

*The Houthis fired missiles and drones at two U.S.-owned bulk carriers earlier this week, U.S. Central Command said Tuesday. On Feb. 19, the Houthis first fired two anti-ship ballistic missiles at MV Sea Champion, which was sailing under a Greek flag. One missile exploded near the ship, causing minor damage.*

*Having devoted 20 years of his life to the Navy, Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Graney reflected on the motivations that have guided his successful career in the ADF. Growing up in Tasmania, Lieutenant Commander Graney knew he wanted a meaningful life far away from the comfort of his living room.*

*Services and supports for veterans and their families in the Surf Coast and Geelong region will soon be enhanced, with the Albanese Labor Government today awarding RSL Victoria a \$5.445 million grant to establish a new Veterans' and Families' Hub with satellite services across the region.*

*Warships of the Royal Australian Navy, United States Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force conducted two days of combined training in the Indian Ocean while sailing to India for Exercise Milan.*

*A top Navy admiral in the Indo-Pacific, and the nominee to lead the region's joint force, warned the Combat Logistics Force is on "narrow margins" at a time when both the Pentagon and outside analysts are closely watching for a pending conflict between China and Taiwan.*

*The Houthis hit a British-owned cargo ship traveling in the Red Sea, U.S. Central Command announced*

position. He also continued to carry out his responsibility for measuring the approach depths to the beach until he was dragged from the water and taken to a field hospital, where died the following day.

For his heroism, he was posthumously awarded the US Navy Cross; one of only three officers of Australia's Naval Forces to be decorated with this prestigious award. For a more detailed account of this little-known but important piece of RAN history, click on the following link to our Navy Hero article: <https://navyvic.net/heroes/band.html>

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## **Remembrance Services**

### **HMAS Perth National Association, Victorian Branch**

A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of those aboard HMAS Perth.

Saturday, 2 March 2024 11:00 am to 11:30 am

Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance

Watch on live stream: <https://youtu.be/HycSPI4pmws>

For information on all Shrine ceremonies:

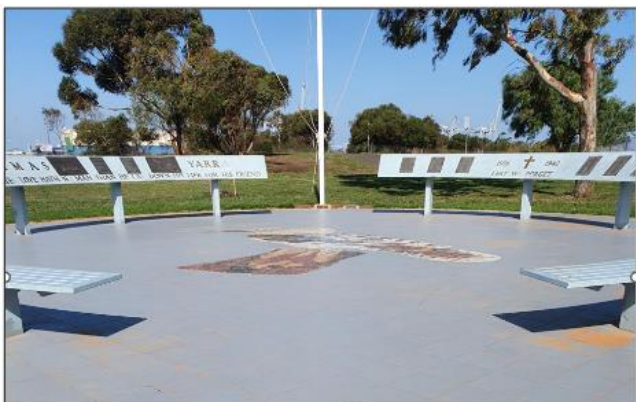
Phone: 03 9661 8100

Email: [ceremonies@shrine.org.au](mailto:ceremonies@shrine.org.au)

### **HMAS Yarra Commemorative Service**

On the first Sunday of March at 1100 each year, a commemoration service is held at the HMAS Yarra National Memorial on The Strand at Newport, Victoria, in honour of HMAS Yarra II, which was lost during enemy action on 4 March 1942 with only 13 survivors. This year's event will take place at 1100 on Sunday 03 March.

Contact: David Leviston at: [yarranatmem@gmail.com](mailto:yarranatmem@gmail.com)



Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

*via social media site X Monday morning.*

*Today, the Albanese Government has released its blueprint for a larger and more lethal surface combatant fleet for the Royal Australian Navy, more than doubling the size of the surface combatant fleet under the former government's plan.*

*Australian senator Jacqui Lambie has raised concerns about periscope upgrades being undertaken on the Royal Australian Navy's Collins Class submarine fleet.*

*Merchant ships and warships in the Red Sea have been under frequent attacks from anti-ship cruise missiles, anti-ship ballistic missiles, explosive surface drones, and aerial drones. Now a new threat has emerged from underwater.*

*For Lieutenant Commander Will Singer, serving as the Deputy Director of Navy Communications and Media often involved juggling multiple high-pressure roles. At 6 one morning, in August last year, while doing solitary planning work on a whiteboard, Lieutenant Commander Singer collapsed, waking up five minutes later, the red marker still in his hand.*

*Before HMAS Warramunga commenced Australia's first 2024 Indo-Pacific regional presence deployment, Commanding Officer Commander Jennifer Graham put her crew through rigorous training to ensure they were 'fully mission capable'.*

*The Admiral of the Russian Black Sea Fleet has been dismissed from his position following the loss of several battleships under his command. According to the MOD, Admiral Viktor Sokolov, had been removed from his post due to his failures in the role.*

If you know of any of our Navy family who has crossed the bar and don't appear on our list below or Memorial Wall on our website, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). If possible, list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † P.R. Lynn, 14 February 2024. Aged 67.
- † MIDN P.G. Stevens, O.2097, 06 February 2024. Aged 83.
- † RO A.L. Lutton, R95136, 06 February 2024. Aged 74.
- † POCY J.H. Hawkins, R57047, February 2024. Aged 81.
- † CPOFC R.H. Graystone, R104574, February 2024. Aged 70.
- † CPOMTH4 M.J. Lusham, R64576, February 2024. Aged 79.
- † WOCC W.J. Rose, R54172, 01 February 2024. Aged 84.
- † ABTEL K.S. Smibert, PM4510, 01 February 2024. Aged 99.
- † POETC H.E. Petty, R63033, 29 January 2024. Aged 80.
- † EMWE I.C. Dennien, R62986, 28 January 2024. Aged 77.
- † CPOQMG S.J. Devine, R128091, 27 January 2024.
- † ME P.L. Tascas, R65039, 25 January 2024. Aged 75.
- † WO L.M. Carr, 24 January 2024. Aged 62.
- † ABSR A.R. Brierty, R65619, 23 January 2024. Aged 74.
- † LEUT D.G. Mortimer, R43041, 23 January 2024. Aged 75.
- † CPORP E.B. Buckley, R57022, 13 December 2023. Aged 80.
- † PODM D.H. Tomlinson, R58188, 13 December 2023. Aged 79.
- † GUNNER F.R. Birmingham, PM6592, 05 September 2023. Aged 98.

All of the above names now appear on the special [Memorial Wall](#) on our website.

### Lest We Forget

#### Women's service recognised in mural



An impressive mural representing women who served in, or supported, Australia's and allied defence forces in times of war has

*When China opened its fifth research station in Antarctica this month, analysts sounded alarm bells about potential security threats on Australia's southern doorstep.*

*A necessary precondition for the sale of second-hand Virginia class submarines to Australia in the 2030s is that their rate of production needs to be substantially increased. This, in turn, requires an increase in funding – an increase that now will not happen because of internal US politics.*

*The 1943 sinking of HMAS Patricia Cam, and the loss of 9 men – including 3 Yolngu passengers – is one of Australia's least-known wartime tragedies. A commemorative service to mark the 81st anniversary was held at the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre at Yirrkala, East Arnhem Land, on 22 January.*

*Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower and its accompanying warships have spent four months straight at sea defending against ballistic missiles and flying attack drones fired by Iranian-backed Houthis, and are now more regularly also defending against a new threat – fast unmanned vessels fired at them through the water.*

*On a dramatic night in the waters of the Mediterranean off the coast of Egypt in 1942, the heroic actions of three people altered the course of the Second World War – and one of them was just a teenager.*

*Sailors in the United States Navy are now allowed to place their hands in their pockets after the service implemented sweeping changes to its uniform policy.*

been unveiled at the Violet Town RSL Sub-branch in North East Victoria.

It is the largest mural in Australia dedicated to honouring all women's contribution to war. Painted by recognised mural artist Tim Bowtell, the largely black and white artwork tells the story of local women from the Violet Town area who served, but set in the context of Australian women's service in all military conflicts.

The large mural is 17 metres long and nearly 2 metres high, and is located next to the town's Boer War Memorial in Cowslip Street, just off the busy Hume Highway linking Melbourne and Sydney.

The RSL project to build the mural, which extended over several years, highlighted that while there were about 20 local women who had been identified as having served in the Army, Navy, Air Force or on the home front, they served only during the First and Second World Wars.

The project team was keen to create a mural that symbolically represented those who served across the spectrum – from the Boer War to the present – as well as those who helped on the home front.

The mural covers the major areas of conflict of the 20th and 21st centuries, and shows portraits of local women and other women, representing those who played their part. Other features are women at work in factories highlighting work on the home front, and high-ranking officers, representing the rise of women in the ranks of military services. Storyboards highlight the different organisations which women joined and the roles they played.

The mural will become part of Victoria's military history trail, extending from Seymour northward. The Violet Town RSL Sub-branch is proud that the RSL is recognising the women of the district as well as the men, as Australian women have been able to serve in all combat roles since 2016.

*North Korea carried out its fifth cruise-missile launch of the year this week, firing a new surface-launched antiship missile (ASM), overseen by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.*

*For Able Seaman Clearance Diver Luke Alderton, being able to come back to his hometown of Hobart on HMAS Diamantina, his first ship posting as a clearance diver, was an experience he won't forget.*

*Lieutenant Commander Paul Newton is first over the gangway at Betio Port, Kiribati, to greet his Navy colleagues who have come to liaise with the local in-country shipping agent and relay information back to the captain on the bridge.*

*Lieutenant Daniel McMillan may be executive officer of HMAS Diamantina now, but his career started in 1991 when he joined the Navy from his hometown of Hobart as a marine technician.*

*Australian Defence Vessel Reliant delivered 116,000 litres of fresh water to Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. Usually one of the wettest places in the world, Pohnpei declared a state of emergency on January 12, due to a lack of rainfall.*

*The head of US Pacific Fleet today said his command plans to establish its second operational unmanned surface vessel squadron in May, though he kept tight-lipped about what "exquisite capabilities" might be available to the unit.*

*The Israeli Navy has begun using an unmanned Bluewhale submarine developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The new addition to the Navy's submarine capabilities will help confront the growing threat posed by Iran in the naval domain.*



## Commemoration of the Centenary of the Visit of the British Special Service Squadron to Melbourne 1924.

MELBOURNE  
MARITIME  
HERITAGE  
NETWORK

In March 1924 a fleet of Royal Navy ships visited Australia as part of a world-wide goodwill cruise. The largest battleship in the world (HMS Hood) was accompanied by HMS Repulse and four light cruisers. Melbourne, then the nation's capital, hosted the fleet from 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March. The visit was a sensation with over 500,000 visitors to the ships, an RAAF flyover, ceremonial marches, dinners, dances and fireworks.



British Fleet met by Couta boats from the Quenscliff Fishing Fleet as it enters Port Phillip Heads at dawn during the visit to Australia. [National Library of Australia]

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network together with the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria will commemorate this centenary by a free talk and exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance at 2 pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The speaker will be Major General (Retd) Michael O'Brien. All are welcome.

*A new robotics rating is likely coming to the US Navy, the sea service's top leader said on Tuesday. The Navy is exploring the option of a robotics rating in order to build a team that would be responsible for the Navy's unmanned platforms, Adm. Lisa Franchetti said.*

*Defence contractor Babcock says the next generation of British frigates could be crewed by as few as 50 sailors. John Howie, the company's corporate affairs chief, said recent technological advances mean fewer crew members are needed.*

*The bell of the USS Jacob Jones (DD-61), the only American destroyer sunk during World War I, has been recovered by a special salvage unit with the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense at the request of the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command.*

*From flying sky-high to saving lives, Lieutenant Andrew Colebourn's career in the ADF continues to go from strength to strength.*

*After a successful trial in 2023, the Royal Australian Navy now offers eight sailor positions on two-year postings to Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) Reliant.*

*HMAS Diamantina was the first vessel of its kind to be the flagship of the Royal Hobart Regatta, now in its 186th year. It was a proud moment for the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Georgina Rae-Martin, and crew.*

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