



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

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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 17th - 24th 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 Queenscliff 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 19th March 2024. The speaker will be Major General (Retd) Michael O'Brien. All are welcome.

This event is supported by Military History and Heritage Victoria, the Naval Historical Society of Australia (Victoria)