

BROADSIDE

December 2020

Volume 10 Edition 12

Editorial



Christmas and the New Year festivities will be a time to contemplate the past year and the opportunities presented through a new year. The NVN Management Committee wish all of our readers a safe and festive Christmas and New Year. May your aspirations be fulfilled as we acquire Covid normal, whatever that means! We also recommend your pursue the Department of Veteran Affairs initiative of contacting Five (5) Veterans to ensure they are okay. Keep safe!

Covid, covid, covid – when will it all end! 2020 in most instances has been a year to forget. Restrictions applied across the Veteran community, as it has with the wider community have been harsh. Some may question how the restrictions were determined, why the dramatic limitations on a massive range of activities. The outcome, from being denied involvement in what was routine has proved

Events Calendar

(see [Diary of Events](#) for full details)



NOTE: Due to COVID-19, it is advisable to check with the coordinators to confirm whether the event you were planning to attend is still going ahead. We will endeavour to keep the Diary updated as news comes to hand.

At present the Shrine of Remembrance is closed, but ceremonies are still being conducted and they are live streamed on the Shrine's [Facebook page](#).

25 Dec – Merry Christmas

01 Jan – Happy New Year

26 Jan – Australia Day Parade – Town Hall.

10 Feb – HMAS Voyager Service

15 Feb – Prisoners of War Service – Shrine

01 Mar – HMAS Perth / USS Houston Service

Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<https://navyvic.net/news/news.html>



VIDEOS.....

- Farewell Captain Mike Oborn CSM RAN
- HMAS Cerberus - Base Redevelopment Flyover - December 2020
- The Royal Australian Navy Band

effective, in that the Covid 19 pandemic was reduced to zero Victorians with the infection.

Collateral to the prime objective has been a range of adverse consequences within the Veteran Community. After decades establishing routine meetings, commemoration services and important welfare support, all of these activities were stopped or necessitated a more contemporary response. For some this has been stress-free, for far too many it has been tedious. All this highlights the need to look after our Shipmates. The use of 'technical' solutions has proved invaluable to those that embraced 'not so new' communication formats.

It may well be the experience of limited, or no communication that has tested the broader spectrum of relevance. For example, encouraging younger Veterans (between 45 and 60 years) to embrace traditional Veteran organisations and their customary dealings has proved virtually impossible. The question is, has the absence of normal activities caused a change in thinking, seeking to broaden the interest of veterans who are yet to engage. There is belief that individuals do not wish to join organisations, this is questionable as there are many thousands of organisations under the guise of Veteran organisations, most with virtual membership. Most of these entities provide a level of satisfaction, presumably for something outside the remit of traditional organisations. How do we get them on side?

Roughly speaking, 5,000 to 7,000 members of the Australian Defence Force leave the service every year, probably every year since demobilisation post WWII. Between a thousand and fifteen hundred Navy Veterans are in this group. The age of those discharging range from early 20s years to 60s years of age. Interest levels differ markedly, the challenge being to excite those with a spark of enthusiasm to connect with a Veteran organisation, hopefully one of the traditional entities, Such as: Returned Services League, Naval Association of Australia, Air Force Association or Legacy. Engaging a Ship Association is a positive step, notwithstanding the tedious situation of needing to know someone already in the Association. Bottom line is that there are opportunities, provided a

Christmas Video 2020

- *Engineering students get hands-on with Navy capability*
- *Chief of Navy - End of Year Message 2020*
- *Three DDGs sailed in company*
- *Mr Randall Wilson presented three original paintings of HMAS Sydney*
- *808 Squadron defends engineering title*
- *Lieutenant Ryan Fisher HMAS Ballarat Navigator*
- *HMAS Armidale (I) Commemoration*
- *Defence Minister pays tribute to war hero Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC*
- *Morrison, Albanese welcome Victoria Cross for Teddy Sheean*
- *The story of Teddy Sheean's sacrifice 'should inspire us': Governor-General*
- *Teddy Sheean awarded Victoria Cross in official Canberra ceremony*
- *RAN Band performs Eternal Father - Investiture of the VC to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean*
- *HMAS Arunta returns home from a successful five-month regional deployment*
- *Exercise MALABAR 2020 a success*

NEWS.....

Able Seaman Britney Beech has been looking forward to Christmas for months. She is currently providing support at Sydney Airport on Operation COVID-19 Assist.

Austal USA has announced it has successfully delivered its 13th Independence Class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) to the US Navy, from the company's shipyard in Mobile, Alabama.

In a major milestone for Australia's largest surface shipbuilding program, BAE Systems Australia has announced it has reached a major milestone today with the official start of the prototyping phase of the Hunter Class Frigate Program.

Royal Australian Navy warship HMAS Ballarat has returned to her homeport of Fleet Base West near Rockingham, Western Australia, following a successful Indian Ocean deployment.

potential member can see a degree of relevance between the entity in question and themselves.

No doubt the question asked by many will be, 'What's in it for me?' This could prove difficult, particularly as traditional Veteran organisations appear to be hampered in their approach to some age groups. Whilst there is no obvious tactic capable of overcoming this shortcoming, there may be benefit in conducting a workshop to determine the extent of enthusiasm from those attending. Let's hope the idea of re-invention over the festive season will assist to facilitate a new age of engagement.

The Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria (NCCV), in conjunction with the Melbourne Naval Committee (MNC) have discussed the need for another strategy workshop, an assembly of willing participants. The purpose of the workshop would primarily be to establish a scheme focused on collaboration across the Navy fraternity. Two past attempts to workshop this initiative have proved ineffective. With the continued decline in membership across all Ship Associations, the likelihood of success may be dubious; however, there are a dedicated few that continue to canvas others for new ideas and support.

It may well be that one or more of our readers, involved in entities such as a Ship Association has an idea that could well make a difference. Should that person be you, we urge you to email our Webmaster. Your message will be passed onto the NCCV and MNC. You will be contacted in due course with one simple objective, to improve the wellbeing of the Navy.

Recounting: try to make contact with five Shipmates over the festive season. May you, your family and friends enjoy a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.

For many officers and sailors in the Royal Australian Navy, nautical-themed tattoos are a tradition that provide a sense of identity, belonging and a form of remembrance.

Every Australian state and territory is set to join forces with the Morrison government to develop a skilled national naval shipbuilding workforce by signing co-operation agreements with the government's Naval Shipbuilding College.

The Leeuwin Class hydrographic ship has resumed operation after a number of weeks of critical maintenance involving over 500 tasks.

The Royal Australian Navy's three Hobart Class Destroyers have exercised together for the first time, demonstrating their cooperative capabilities to increase maritime security and stability in our region.

Sub Lieutenant Alison Smith has packed a lot into her three years at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). She has been on a language exchange to Indonesia, been the president of a sporting club, participated in flying activities and she graduated from ADFA on December 6 alongside 300 Navy, Army and Air Force classmates.

The parents of a sailor missing from the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt and feared to have gone overboard Thursday have identified him as 20-year-old Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Apprentice Ethan Goolsby of San Antonio.

Lt. Cmdr. Luke Bogan of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was recently recognized by Capt. David Hart, Southwest Regional Maintenance Center (SWRMC) commanding officer, for his hard work during the execution and delivery of USS Spruance (DDG 111).

The Royal Australian Navy took part in a virtual trilateral naval warfare exercise this month. Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint 20/72 was a week-long exercise in which HMAS Parramatta tested various tactical and operational elements of sea

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (webmaster@navyvic.net). 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.

- † AB K.J. May, PA5432, 18 December 2020. Aged 93.
- † POSTD M.W.Glynn, R62752, 16 December 2020. Aged 76.
- † LTO G.R. Ogg, R54886, 12 December 2020. Aged 81.
- † CMDR M.T.E. Shotter AM, 08 December 2020. Aged 83.
- † NSAA R.G. Grimsey, R95265, 08 December 2020. Aged 70.
- † LSRO T.N. Mander, R59450, 06 December 2020. Aged 85.
- † WOSBA D.W. Jones, R56745, 04 December 2020. Aged 79.
- † WRWTR R.F. Green, W2333, 01 Dec 2020. Aged 94.
- † R.E. LANDER, R106486, 29 November 2020. Aged 67.
- † LRO(S) L.A. Poore, R93564, 28 November 2020. Aged 75.
- † WOSE G. SOMMER, R62067, 27 November 2020. Aged 78.
- † POME K.J.W. Copelin, R37528, 23 November 2020. Aged 88.
- † POCK A. Ruffy, 22 November 2020. Aged 43.
- † LCDR B.M. Howe, 09 November 2020. Aged 72.

Lest We Forget



**Our December Navy Hero is:
Chief Petty Officer Erle Alwin
Greglach Boyd**

Forgotten Hero of the RAN

Amongst the thousands of men and women who have served in the RAN there have been heroes and rogues, scholars and scoundrels. In a career spanning nearly 40 years and the two World Wars, Erle Boyd was definitely one of the heroes.

Erle Alwin Greglach Boyd was born in Bendigo, Victoria on 24 April 1892, the ninth child of Scottish born Hugh Boyd (a medical

combat in a virtual environment with the United States and Royal Canadian navies.

Four decades of continuous service in any profession is an achievement and for Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diver Lieutenant Commander Michael Gough, it has been an honour.

With Australia's relationship with China under great pressure, a project that challenges our strategic national interest has been quietly endorsed by the Papua New Guinea government. The town of Daru is the closest PNG community to Australia.

The name of the game in the Pacific is stand-off range. But with longer range torpedoes and anti-ship missiles in the arsenal, submariners are looking to a new domain to help them extend their deadly reach: The air. In an October request for information, Naval Sea Systems Command's Submarine Combat and Weapons Control Program Office asked industry for input into a "Submarine-Launched Unmanned Aerial System," or SLUAS, currently in development.

U.S. servicemen and women and National Park Service officials gathered at Pearl Harbor on Monday to remember those killed in the attack — but elderly survivors stayed home to pay their respects from afar to avoid health risks from the coronavirus pandemic.

Defence is adopting a new approach to the sustainment of its Navy fleet, creating significant opportunities for Australian industry to become involved.

Sailors hear tale of gallantry at airport When Leading Seamen Alisha Mosley and Alan Williams arrived at Brisbane Airport ready for duty on Operation COVID-19 Assist, they could not have imagined what they were about to experience.

How do you go from singing in the shower to delivering a stunning showcase performance to an audience watching you from within the theatre, as well as from around the world via an

practitioner) and Bendigo-born Julia Elizabeth Boyd (nee Maddox). After growing up in a strict Presbyterian family and working as an apprentice fitter and turner he joined the Australasian Naval Forces (ANF) on 4 March 1911, aged 18. The ANF was a section of the Royal Navy which recruited young Australians and New Zealanders to man the ships of the RN Squadron based in Sydney.

After serving in the cruisers HM Ships Psyche (4 March 1911 – 21 June 1912) and Challenger (22 June – 31 October 1912) he was posted to HMS Victory (Portsmouth) for transfer to the newly created RAN. On 1 January 1913 Ordinary Seaman Boyd joined the RAN and a few weeks later he was part of the commissioning crew of the new cruiser HMAS Melbourne which had been built in England. He was promoted to Able Seaman in April 1913.

When World War I broke out in August 1914 he was serving in the destroyer HMAS Warrego and took part in the capture of German New Guinea in September of that year. Several men from Warrego, and the destroyer HMAS Yarra, were landed on 11 September 1914 to help with the capture of the German wireless station at Bita Paka and Boyd was later to claim that he was one of the men who landed, with cutlass in hand, to fight the Germans. His full story can be found on our website: <https://navyvic.net/heroes/boyd.html>



Doing Military Research?

Did you know that the best military reference library in Victoria is the Library of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria? Over 30,000 well catalogued items, visible on the web. Open to the public by appointment. Expert help is available.

Phone: 03 9282 5918

email: secretary@ruusivic.org.au

Catalog: www.thecollectingbug.com/rusivictoria/

Internet live stream?

A South Australian veteran is the first to receive an assistance dog from one of two new providers under the Australian Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program.

The Royal Australian Navy and the Indonesian Armed Forces have completed a coordinated maritime patrol to improve security along our shared maritime border.

The force that Australia's defence organisation is building will be the most powerful and capable that the nation has ever fielded. The Australian Defence Force's massive build-up will include the acquisition of a host of new state-of-the-art platforms and weapons.

HMAS Arunta has returned to Fleet Base West in Western Australia after 164 days at sea, strengthening relations in the Indo-Pacific.

In the first part of this series, I looked at what we've learned recently about Defence's naval shipbuilding enterprise. In this instalment and the next one, I'll focus on what we've learned about individual projects, starting with the Hunter-class and Anzac-class frigates.

Naval Historical Society (Vic) President's Musings for December is now available to [download.....](#)

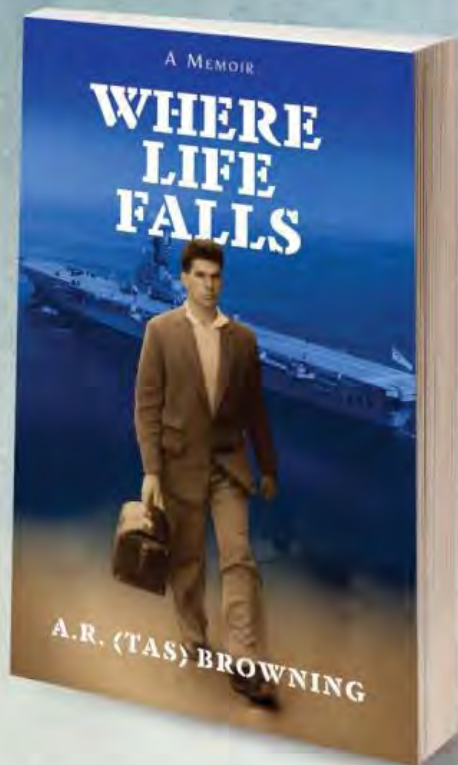
FlyBy – A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [December issue.....](#)

Victorian Maritime Centre's Spring edition of their newsletter is now available to [download.....](#)

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

WHERE LIFE FALLS

An engaging account of an Australian flight deck crewman's life, of lifelong friendships and dangers shared, and adventures on the high seas, in the skies and in foreign ports.



A Memoir



Published by Sid Harta Publishers

Available on Booktopia.

RRP: \$29.95

Author: tasarb10@bigpond.com

"I love reading autobiographies and this one *Where Life Falls* by Tas Browning does not disappoint on any level. I usually feel like an interloper into someone else's life. The style of this memoir made me feel as a comfortable family member. Congratulations on the impressive research into your family history Tas.

The bulk of the book reveals Tas' life in the navy in particular on board the well known *HMAS Melbourne*, where he built up a navy family who have kept in touch over the years. A report on conditions later in the book reveals that personnel on board the *Melbourne* should only have two years' service on her for the best health outcomes.

When Post Traumatic Stress rears its ugly head in Tas' life. It was disappointing to read of his struggles to get help, and recognition of service from the Department of Veteran's Affairs – that they lacked "the fortitude to look after veterans" when the going gets tough. A book that shares a life of challenges and insights into your years of work, family and even heart break at times."

— Judith Flitcroft, author of *Walk Back in Time*

"History is usually written by and about the movers and shakers of events. It is refreshing to journey through the past 70 odd years with a very savvy observer and where the heroes of history are just by-lines. Tas' account of his life, from humble beginnings in the 1940s through an event filled stint in the Royal Australian Navy to civilian employment, gives an authentic and singular account of being engaged in the very making of history and a sociological account of the times."

— Fay Forbes, co_ordinator of the Devonport Writers group

"As we tread the journey of life, each of us makes our individual footprint, a contribution to life which is all too often forgotten. For that reason it is encouraging to see people who are prepared to tell their story and to share it with others.

Where Life Falls is such a story. It is a brutally honest and frank account of one man's life, from humble beginnings in Tasmania's Derwent Valley up to the present day. Tas Browning has penned a fast moving, easy to read Memoir, which is both interesting and informative. It highlights the difficulties experienced in the immediate post World War 2 period, and the challenges, dangers and mateship of Naval Service during the troubled period of the Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam War. It also highlights the difficulty of one's transition from military service to civilian life, the harsh reality of the effects of war service on the individual, and the ongoing struggle to seek assistance and compensation for the physical and mental harm caused.

The Veteran community owe Tas Browning a debt of gratitude. Through his dedicated commitment to ensure truth and justice prevail, and his relentless research pursuits, I am certain he has helped make life a little easier for Veterans in the future."

— Gerald O'Dea, Secretary/ Treasurer of the Mersey Leven Vietnam Veterans sub-branch

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