



BROADSIDE

January 2020

Volume 10 Edition 1

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1131

This month's NVN Broadside article will provide a frank assessment of the effectiveness to date of the 6 Key Strategies to "Reinvigorate the ex-Navy Community in Victoria" that were agreed by the representatives from many of the Victorian-based Ship, Branch and other 'affiliated' Naval Associations at a workshop in March 2017. Readers will also be given an opportunity to provide feedback either via email to one of the organisers of the 2017 workshop or by attending another workshop at the Mission to Seafarers (717 Flinders St, Docklands) from 1100 to 1300 on Saturday 2 May 2020.

1. Encourage all members of the ex-Navy community in Victoria (who aren't already signed-up) to register with the NVN in order to stay abreast of all commemorative, representational and recreational events held in Victoria and to keep them informed about the RAN's activities and other newsworthy 'nautical' matters.

Assessment: As a result of the requirement for the Presidents of all VIC-based Associations to sell this 'strategy' to their members, it was pleasing to see a big "spike" in the number of new registrations requested through the NVN webmaster soon after the Workshop in March 2017. However, the number of registered recipients of the NVN's monthly newsletters has stagnated at just over 1100 since then.

Questions: How do we reinvigorate this initiative? Are there other reasons why the numerous other retired Navy personnel in Victoria haven't signed-up to the NVN yet?

2. Encourage all ex-Navy Associations in Victoria to use the NVN website and/or Facebook page as the central electronic communications medium for staying in touch with their members. (For instance, by creating a 'link' on the NVN 'Home Page' to their own website or, alternatively, creating their own 'Association Page' on the NVN website in order to: promulgate Newsletters to their members; provide details about their Association to interested parties; and advertise key events in their Association's calendar.)

Assessment: Whilst the majority of Vic-based Associations have now

Events Calendar

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



09 Feb – Commemoration service for ex-POW's, Ballarat

10 Feb – HMAS Voyager service, Shrine

15 Feb – Prisoners of War service, Shrine

19 Feb – Darwin Defenders service, Shrine

21-23 Feb – ADF Careers Expo, Melbourne Exhibition Centre

23 Feb – Geelong Grammar Concert, combined RAN & Geelong Grammar band.

29 Feb – HMAS Perth & USS Houston service, Shrine

07 Mar – Wooden Boats Festival, Geelong

08 Mar – HMAS Yarra service, Newport

09 Mar – Inverloch Jazz Festival, RAN Jazz band.

17 Mar – Creswell Oration

18 Mar – Soundwaves concert, Cerberus

Latest Videos and News Headlines

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

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



VIDEOS.....

- Chief of Navy message for Navy personnel during Operation Bushfire Assist
- New Zealand Air Force NH-90 and HMAS Adelaide support to Op BUSHFIRE ASSIST

established a 'link' to their website and/or an 'Association Page' on the NVN website, there are still a number that haven't done either yet. Very few Associations tell the NVN webmaster what key events they are scheduling for the year (for inclusion in the NVN Calendar); or submit a report on events they've staged (or other matters of interest) that could be promulgated to a wider audience via the NVN monthly 'Broadside' newsletters.

Question: Notwithstanding some earlier feedback that some Associations are reluctant to utilise electronic media for communicating with their members (some of whom aren't computer-literate), as most of the ageing members of Associations have younger NOK who are IT-savvy, would it be feasible for Association Presidents to enlist the support of family members to keep their ex-Navy forebears apprised of the wealth of information available on the NVN website (particularly information directly related to their Association's activities)?

3. Reinstate the previous arrangement that the NVN had with HMAS Cerberus (which allowed the details of some PNF activities drawn from the 'Cerberus Activity Schedule' to be advertised in the NVN Calendar) to apprise the ex-Navy community of what the PNF (Permanent Naval Force) is doing in Victoria.

Assessment: This initiative was reinstated in June 2019. A list of all the key activities involving the PNF in Victoria (that might be of interest to the wider ex-Navy 'community') is now interwoven with the complete listing of all commemorative, representational and recreational events being staged in Victoria on the NVN "Calendar". Clicking on the "Diary of Navy Events" heading on the Calendar page can also access a shorter 'list' version of all upcoming events.

Question: Is this more complete listing of all Navy-related activity in Victoria useful or of interest to readers of the NVN?

4. As a means of strengthening the bonds of camaraderie, spirit of commemoration and sense of pride in the ex-Navy community, encourage all ex-Navy personnel to attend at least one commemorative event in Victoria per year.

Assessment: Although the belated implementation of 'Key Strategy' number 3 will probably take time to influence the realization of this objective, some progress has been achieved by the NCCV's initiative to issue invitations to the Presidents and Members of Associations to attend major commemorative events being held at the Shrine. However, the number of ex-Navy personnel attending most commemorative events continues to be 'meager' to date.

Questions: Will an improved awareness of the time, place and nature of commemorative events (as now listed in the NVN Calendar) help to encourage all ex-Navy readers of the NVN to attend at least one commemorative event in Victoria per year? Are there better ways to

- *Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST - Heavy Vehicle loading onto HMAS Adelaide, Jervis Bay*
- *Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST - HMAS Adelaide delivering aid to the NSW South Coast*
- *HMAS Toowoomba departs Fleet Base West for Middle East region deployment*
- *Royal Navy exchange officer - Pilot Nick Grimmer - Op Bushfire Assist*
- *HMAS Adelaide sails for Op Bushfire Assist 2019/20*
- *Navy One enters the Derwent River - 2019 Sydney to Hobart yacht race*
- *808 Squadron support to New South Wales Rural Fire Service*
- *Royal Navy pilot saves lives from fires in Australia*
- *Aggressive Approach by a Russian Navy ship on USS Farragut*
- *MV Sycamore joins the bushfire support teams*

NEWS.....

Five crew members were saved and are in stable condition after their MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter went down in the Philippine Sea on Saturday evening, officials said.

HMAS Canberra played a starring role in Sydney's Australia Day celebrations as the centrepiece of the traditional Salute to Australia on Sydney Harbour.

The Royal Australian Navy would like to congratulate our officers and sailors who have been named as recipients in today's Australia Day Honours List.

After years of stability questions about the hull design for the U.S. Navy's new three-ship class of stealth destroyers, the commanding officer of the lead ship, USS Zumwalt, is satisfied: It handles the seas as well, if not better, than previous classes of surface combatants.

The civilian crew of the Navy-contracted MV Sycamore have relished an expanded role during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20.

The Indonesian Navy's 1st locally built

achieve the objectives of this 'Key Strategy'?

5. Encourage smaller and/or declining Associations to consider amalgamating or affiliating with other 'related' Associations as a means to consolidate scarce resources and members, and to reduce duplication of such things as Newsletters. (For instance, by creating a combined "Destroyers Association" to replace the rapidly declining number of individual ship associations.)

Assessment: Since the first "Reinvigoration Workshop" on 26 February 2012, the number of "active" VIC-based Associations has dropped from 45 (then) to 27 (now).

Questions: Are we happy to just let this happen? Other than "encouraging" the Presidents of declining Associations to take steps to keep their name, history and membership alive by amalgamating or affiliating with other 'related' Associations, what else can anybody do to arrest the decline?

6. Support the NAA (V)'s efforts to develop a strategy to become the 'champion' for support to all ex-Navy personnel in Victoria including providing a 'one-stop-shop' for advice on communications, networking, event coordination and welfare funding (similar to the way the VIC Branch of the RSL supports ex-Army personnel and Associations in Victoria).

Assessment: Whilst it was assumed that the simplest pathway to achieve this objective would be for all ex-Navy people living in Victoria to join their local Branch of the NAA, efforts to promote this concept (through a number of Rogues Yarn and NVN articles) has met with limited success to date.

Questions: Is this objective too ambitious? What are the alternatives?

Notwithstanding the fact that the Presidents of most of the 27 'active' ex-Navy Associations in Victoria have previously agreed to support these 6 'Key Strategies' to reinvigorate the ex-Navy community in this State (and they have presumably provided details of these strategies to the members of their Associations), it is recognized that those readers of the NVN who are not members of any ex-Navy Associations probably aren't aware of the agreed "Reinvigoration Strategy". Should anybody in this situation have any constructive inputs to make on the 6 'Key Strategies' (or would like to recommend any alternative strategies), they can forward them by email to one of the Workshop Coordinators (david.garnock@icloud.com).

Alternatively, interested participants can send an email to this same address to register their contact details for an invitation to attend the next Workshop on Saturday 2 May 2020.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.

submarine and third Nagapasa-class submarine KRI Alugoro (405) has completed the nominal diving depth (NDD) phase of the sea trials.

The Government will request the Governor-General revoke the current compulsory Call Out of the Australian Defence Force Reserves with effect from 7 February 2020.

Navantia Australia employees sailed with the Royal Australian Navy's newest destroyer, HMAS Brisbane, as part of risk mitigation support to the ship's company during her US combat system ship qualification trials (CSSQTs). Navantia Australia's Adrian Orellana and Jose Luis Bouza Fernandez joined HMAS Brisbane at San Diego Naval Base in California, US.

Merle Hare has marked her 100th birthday by attending a Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial held in honour of her twin brother, presumed killed in action, 75 years ago.

The US Department of State and Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has approved a potential US\$1.5 billion (\$2.1 billion) contract to modernise the Hobart Class destroyers and for the first three Hunter Class frigates.

The Royal Australian Navy has opened a centralised warfighting agency, designed to enhance Navy's lethality in times of conflict.

The proliferation of A2AD threats from state and non-state actors enabled by advances in anti-ship technology have prompted NATO navies and their allies and partners to take action, leading to doctrinal and force structure changes.

Major General Susan Coyle has assumed command of Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East, taking over from Rear Admiral Mark Hill during a ceremony held at the Australian main operating base.

It has been painfully obvious for years

- † VADM D.W. Leach AC CBE LVO, O68, 19 January 2020. Aged 91.
- † LAMET G.N. Lewis OAM, R93535, 14 January 2020. Aged 73.
- † ME D.M. Powell, 05 January 2020. Aged 74.
- † WRANWTR L.L. Edward, WR4111, 29 December 2019. Aged 94.
- † CPOQMG T. Meehan AM, 23 December 2019.
- † M. Marshall, R107605, 23 December 2019.
- † CPONS G.R. Wilkin, R42729, 19 December 2019. Aged 72.
- † ABQMG B.L.J. Paton, R53826, 16 December 2019. Aged 81.
- † CMDR SDEN ME J.L. McCorriston, 14 December 2019. Aged 89.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

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 would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.



Navy Heroes

Each month the Navy Victoria Network team has decided to salute a Australian Navy hero. Our first hero saluted in December 2019 is Lieutenant William Evan Crawford (Darby) ALLAN.

William Evan Crawford Allan, 'Darby' to his shipmates, was born on 24 July 1899 in the then British colony of New South Wales, eighteen months before the Commonwealth of Australia came into being. His grandfather was one of the original settlers in the Bega region and as a child; Evan was brought up on a family property in nearby Upper Brogo.

Interviewed in 2000, Evan highlighted the 1908 visit of the American Great White Fleet as influencing his desire to join the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). This ambition was realised on 13 March 1914 when Evan enlisted as a 14-year old Boy Second Class and began his naval career in the boys' training ship HMAS Tingira.

Darby's full story can be found at <http://navyvic.net/heroes/darbyallan.html>

that our major ally, the US, major regional partner, Japan, and major market, China, all see more strategic value in northern Australia than successive federal governments and much of our defence establishment.

The crew of NUSHIP Supply has donned ship's caps and badges for the first time as they gathered to hear their Commanding Officer's vision for the ship and its tasks ahead.

For those on duty at HMAS Albatross on NYE, the irony of launching helicopters to assist the bushfire fight elsewhere while the base came under serious fire threat wasn't lost.

Days after China's navy commissioned its biggest and most advanced surface warship yet, on a path to an estimated 420 ships by 2035, key experts told Congress the U.S. must form a new and creative strategy to deter China, beyond nuclear weapons.

Following the pick of Dutch shipbuilder Damen this week to build at least four new frigates for the German Navy, officials in Germany are finalizing a new policy meant to steer similar contracts to local shipyards in the future.

Greg Moriarty, Secretary of the Department of Defence; Chief of Defence, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC; Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan, AO; and Tony Dalton, Deputy Secretary National Naval Shipbuilding have responded to the latest ANAO report into the SEA 1000 program.

Taking a ship at '72 hours notice for sea' and preparing her to sail in less than 48 hours is no small feat - even more so when you're talking about the biggest ship in the Navy's Fleet.

The U.S. Marine Corps could soon get the Navy's new Naval Strike Missile for use as a shore battery, according to the Navy's acquisitions chief.

The U.S. Navy is preparing to give its Flight IIA Arleigh Burke-class destroyers



January's Hero is Stoker 2nd Class Charles Alexander Pethebridge.

Charles Alexander Pethebridge, the son of John Anthony and Sarah Anne Pethebridge, was born on 6 March 1923 at Northcote, Victoria. He joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR) on 30 June 1941 as a Stoker 2nd Class and undertook his initial training at HMAS Lonsdale and HMAS Cerberus. He was posted to the light cruiser HMAS Perth, on 2 January 1942.

Perth sailed for the Java theatre on 14 February arriving at Batavia ten days later. Almost immediately the cruiser came under Japanese air attack, fortunately sustaining no damage. During the night of 27-28 February, en route from Surabaya to Madura Island, a fourteen ship ABDA (American, British, Dutch and Australian) force engaged Japanese naval forces in the disastrous Battle of the Java Sea.

Charles' full story can be found at:

<http://navyvic.net/heroes/pethebridge.html>

Upcoming Reunions (Full details on our [website](#))

Fremantle Class Patrol Boats 40th Anniversary Reunion
13-17 March 2020, Gladstone, Qld

Navy Health Service Reunion
26-27 March 2020, Canberra, ACT

JR Reunion Tingira Reunion
6-9 July 2020, Fremantle, WA

HMAS Hobart Reunion
15-18 October 2020, Mornington Peninsula

HMAS Sydney IV 30 year Tri-Deployment Reunion
23/24 October 2020, Sydney, NSW

MOBIs 12th Intake Reunion - Expression of Interest
26-30 October 2020, Fremantle, WA

80th Anniversary of the SYDNEY II loss
15-19 Nov 2021, Port Kennedy / Geraldton WA

Remembering HMAS Armidale Association
Invites you to the HMAS Armidale 80th Memorial Service
01 December 2022, Armidale, NSW

a major radar upgrade, trading in the AN/SPY-1D for a scaled-down version of the SPY-6 radar destined for the Flight III destroyers.

Staff from the Amphibious Task Group embarked in HMAS Adelaide have been forging close ties and collaborative relationships with regional authorities supporting efforts ashore during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20.

Australia gratefully accepts Japan's offer to support Australia's bushfire response, by providing two C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

The next generation of young Australians are building their leadership, teamwork and resilience skills on board the Royal Australian Navy ship Young Endeavour.

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has released a scathing review into the nation's largest defence program – the \$80 billion Attack Class submarine program – revealing myriad challenges to delivering the program, with serious concerns about the viability of the contract and Australia's future submarine capability.

Almost 200 Australian sailors are bracing for confrontation with Iranian vessels as their warship sets sail today for a maritime security mission in one of the world's most treacherous waterways.

Today marks the completion of the \$24 million extension of the Navy Training Systems Centre at Randwick Barracks by St Hilliers, in time for the first Navy training course commencing this week.

Australia's navy tasked with rescuing bushfire-trapped residents on the southeast coast received a new mission Friday -- delivering beer to a country pub on the verge of running dry.

Japan revealed plans to send a warship and patrol planes to the Middle East in order to ensure the safety of Japan-affiliated vessels in the region.



Entertainment



Michael Waugh



Cairo Club Jazz Orchestra



Debra Byrne

Dress

Black Tie - Red Sea Rig
Limited Tickets

For Further Information Contact David D'Meara General Manager O:-
Ian Travers Club President



St Kilda Army & Navy Club RSL Inc. celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a Gala Evening

Date: Saturday February 22nd

Cost: \$125 per person. RSL Service Members will be given a discount.

Dress: Black Tie - Red Sea Rig

Tickets: Limited

Proceeds: All proceeds going to Operation Veteran Assist,

an RSL Initiative to provide volunteers to help veterans impacted by the recent bushfires.

The evening will start at 1830 with a Champagne Reception followed by a 3 course dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks.

Entertainment will be provided by Mark Waugh, Debra Byrne and the Cairo Club Orchestra.

Please disseminate this information to the wider naval community.

For further information contact:

President: 0450 642 835 or email: president@skanc.com.au or,

The General Manager: david@skanc.com.au



For the nearly 1500 guests who have been evacuated from the Victorian town of Mallacoota to Western Port on board HMAS Choules, the journey was made easier by the presence of people from other agencies who helped the ship's company look after them.

The New Year is bringing a revamped effort by Big Navy to transform the delayed and over-budget aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford from albatross to operational.

The U.S. Navy's surface fleet is completely misaligned to meet the threats the military says it must counter in the 21st century, and it's not correctly constructed to pursue its own strategy of "distributed maritime operations," according to new study.

With the national bushfire emergency still ongoing, the Royal Australian Navy amphibious ship HMAS Choules has conducted a second evacuation from Mallacoota in Victoria's East Gippsland region.

For many years the Royal Australian Navy Test and Evaluation Authority and the Australian Maritime Warfare Centre have served to ensure the Navy can fight and win at sea.

The RAN's Fleet Air Arm (FAA) has capped off a high tempo year by supporting firefighting efforts on the east coast of Australia, during one of the most dangerous bushfire periods the nation has ever seen.

A new intercontinental weapon that can fly 27 times the speed of sound became operational Friday, Russia's defense minister reported to President Vladimir Putin, bolstering the country's nuclear strike capability.

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

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

BS7975545

Sir/Madam

**NOTIFICATION OF POSTPONEMENT - CENTENARY OF COMMISSIONING OF
HMAS *CERBERUS* OFFICIAL RECEPTION**

It is with much regret that the Official Reception and Open Day to celebrate the Centenary of Commissioning of HMAS *Cerberus* on Saturday 29th February and Sunday 1st March 2020 respectively have been postponed.

Unfortunately, due to the Bushfires and the continued support that the Australian Defence Force is providing through Operation Bushfire Assist, Navy has deemed it inappropriate to conduct an Official Reception at this time.

The reception was to be held prior to the Centenary Open Day, however it is my intent to delay the reception and the Open Day until the second half of 2020, and hold them as distinct and separate events.

Accordingly, the Official Reception will be held on Friday 4th September 2020, which will more closely align with the commissioning centenary of 1st September 2020. HMAS *Cerberus* Centenary Open Day will now be held on Saturday 31st October 2020.

If you require any additional information in relation to either event please contact my Executive Assistant via email: cerberus.co@defence.gov.au.

Apologies for any inconvenience the delayed events may have caused, but I look forward to hosting you for either the Reception and/or the Open Day later this year.



MS Oborn, CSM
Captain, RAN
Commanding Officer
HMAS *Cerberus*

Tel: 03 5931 5183

Email: cerberus.co@defence.gov.au

17 January 2020