



# BROADSIDE

January 2021

Volume 11 Edition 1

## Editorial

As we farewell a COVID disrupted 2020, our New Year's resolution is to reinforce the theme initiated in the previous edition – the need for the Navy “community” in Victoria to work together to reinvigorate the team spirit, sense of purpose, mutual support and ‘fun’ that we gain through service to our nation in the permanent and/or reserve Naval forces. This is particularly important in the wake of the COVID-induced isolation that disrupted our ability to catch-up with (and provide support to) colleagues and other Navy friends throughout the majority of 2020.

Previously the NVN team, the Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria (NCCV), the Melbourne Naval Committee (MNC), the Victorian Branch of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA-V) and representatives from most of the RAN Ship and Branch associations based in Victoria came together to develop strategies to “Reinvigorate the ex-Navy Community in Victoria”.

**Note:** The six key strategies were explained in the January 2020 edition of BROADSIDE. A copy of which can be downloaded [here](#).

Whilst we believe that all of these strategies remain essential foundations for a more cohesive, supportive, active and better-informed Navy community, we have also noticed that:

- a. the membership of Associations has continued to decline (thus sadly causing more Associations to fold);
- b. attendance at important Naval commemorative events held at the Shrine (and elsewhere) has not grown appreciably;
- c. the ‘readership’ of the NVN website and monthly Newsletters has stagnated at around the 1200-member mark

## 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](#).**

**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.....

- Operation Fiji Assist
- NUSHIP Supply arrives in home port for first time
- Anniversary of Mallacoota evacuation
- 2020: A Navy Year in Review

### NEWS.....

Running 500 laps of an Armidale-class patrol boat might seem crazy to most, but for HMAS Glenelg's Commanding Officer it was the perfect opportunity to

(which is far less than the known number of currently serving and retired Navy personnel in Victoria);

- d. the utilization of the free central meeting place (at the Mission to Seafarers since 2016) by Navy Associations or individuals for any commemorative, business and social activities is far less than capacity; and
- e. the number of requests by Navy Associations for financial support from the MNC to subsidise their operations and to enhance the welfare of their members is steadily declining.

Although the situation described above is probably no better for the retired Navy communities in other Australian States and Territories, the question that the NVN team would like to put to all our loyal readers is:

***Do you have any suggestions as to how the NVN, NCCV, MNC, NAA-V, other Navy-orientated organisations or any other entities or individuals could improve or hasten the “reinvigoration” of the Navy community in Victoria?***

If “Yes”:

- a. Please email your suggestions to [david.garnock@icloud.com](mailto:david.garnock@icloud.com) ; and/or
- b. Advise whether you’d be interested in attending a workshop later this year (date & location yet to be confirmed) to discuss your suggestions with other participants. This will guarantee that you will be sent an invitation to the workshop.

If “No”:

- a. No need to respond but you are most welcome to provide any useful feedback if you wish.

All inputs (both positive and negative) will be tabled for discussion at the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop will be highlighted in an article later in the year.

To get underway, let’s all “do our bit” to re-establish the socially beneficial networking within the Navy community by contacting five Navy colleagues to check if they’re OK. Pick up the phone, shoot off a text message or email or even pick up a pen and write –

*make a difference for the Running for Premature Babies charity.*

*The latest recruits in the Navy Indigenous Development Program (NIDP) graduated at HMAS Cairns late last year. The graduation ceremony for Course 14 ended five months of training that tested the recruits’ physical fitness and provided education opportunities through TAFE courses.*

*Chinese government ships have been carrying out a systematic survey in the eastern Indian ocean. Data gathered may be particularly relevant to submarine warfare.*

*A major weakness “the largest navy in the world” has yet to solve is where Beijing will find skilled shipyard workers and modern facilities to maintain its fleet’s combat readiness far from its shores, the co-author of a major study examining Chinese vulnerabilities said Thursday.*

*The crystal ball is a little clearer for Defence’s logistics elements and those involved in robotics and autonomous systems with the release of two new concepts by the Vice Chief of the Defence Force Executive.*

*HMAS Adelaide showcased its sophisticated amphibious deployment system during Operation Fiji Assist. The ship transported more than 400 tonnes of disaster relief supplies to cyclone-affected areas.*

*Does Soviet naval strategy provide a template for China’s maritime ambitions?*

*THE Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will consider recognition for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of their service, and their families.*

*While the Chinese Navy is building up its fleet, it isn’t operating more aggressively toward U.S. ships in the region, according to the commander of a carrier strike group currently deployed to the Indo-Pacific.*

you have nothing to lose and may even make a difference to someone's day.

The [Calendar of Events for 2021](#) is still being developed with more events added all the time. Please have a look at the schedule of commemorative events and make a plan to attend at least one of these during the year. Maybe even with one of the colleagues you reached out to in the actions above.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team.



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](mailto: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.

- † LCDR R. Kime, R66150, 20 January 2021. Aged 81.
- † LSCK A.C. Brennan, R96130, 20 January 2021. Aged 69.
- † POWTR B.J. McGrade, R58400, 20 January 2020. Aged 80.
- † SBLT R.D. Brown, S6683, 16 January 2021. Aged 96.
- † ABCK N.S. Clarke, R62620, 13 January 2021. Aged 75.
- † SAP R.W. Roach, R42565, 11 January 2021. Aged 75.
- † LEMWR N.J. Brown, R55752, 09 January 2021. Aged 84.
- † PORP C.W. Hough, R49401, 07 January 2021. Aged 85.
- † STO MECH G.D. Patman, R38528, 05 January 2021. Aged 88.
- † ERA R.K. Gregson, R42755, 04 January 2021. Aged 73.
- † NA A.J.R. Curran, R39867, 02 January 2021. Aged 87.
- † AB G.E. Douglass, R51270, 01 January 2021. Aged 83.
- † CAPT H. Stevenson, 31 December 2020. Aged 86.
- † LS(Radar) K.R. Crawford, S7414, 27 December 2020. Aged 96.
- † AB H.R. Lampkin, H2803, December 2020. Aged 93.
- † WO R.J. McKewin, R54793, 23 December 2020. Aged 80.
- † SAAC2 J.P. Woodyard, R59846, 22 December 2020. Aged 82.
- † CMDR C.H. Spurgeon, 22 December 2020. Aged 90.
- † EMC J.T.W. Sheehan, R59941, 22 December 2020. Aged 73.
- † LSCK D.J. Hayes, R51463, 19 December 2020. Aged 90.
- † POSTD L. Clinton, R109181, 18 December 2020. Aged 65.
- † WO D.G. Sutherland, R55567, 01 November 2020. Aged 82.

Lest We Forget

*U.S. combat jets and a destroyer are to join the British Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier on its maiden operational deployment to the Asia-Pacific region later in 2021, after officials formally approved the deployment Tuesday.*

*Assistant Minister for Defence Andrew Hastie has urged parents to be vigilant while shopping online for school essentials this month, with back-to-school shopping opening up opportunities for cyber criminals to strike.*

*HMAS Adelaide and her crew will begin their return to Australia tomorrow marking the completion of a three-week recovery operation in Fiji following Tropical Cyclone Yasa.*

*A Ghost Fleet Overlord unmanned surface vessel, part of a partnership between the Defense Department's Strategic Capabilities Office and the US Navy, recently travelled a distance of more than 4,700 nautical miles, almost entirely autonomously.*

*An 18-year-old U.S. Navy sailor from Arizona who died at Pearl Harbor was buried with full military honors on Friday after his remains were identified last year, about 80 years after the Japanese attack.*

*A Chinese government survey ship was intercepted "running dark" without broadcasting its position via AIS (Automated Information System by Indonesian officials. The incident is latest twist in an ongoing maritime saga which has also seen Chinese uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs) found in Indonesia's territorial waters.*

*Last year was difficult and disruptive for our nation and was a defining year for Defence. At the beginning of 2020, as Australia burned, Defence swung into action with the largest-ever mobilisation of the ADF in response to a domestic disaster. More than 8200 personnel supported authorities in six states and territories as part of Operation Bushfire Assist. As this crisis abated another arrived in the form of a global pandemic.*

## Our January 2021 Navy Hero

Although many of our readers will already be aware of the amazing courage and leadership of CPO Jonathon (Buck) Rogers on the night of the fateful collision between HMA Ships Melbourne and Voyager, the NVN Team felt that choosing 'Buck' as our January "Hero" would serve as a timely reminder that 10 February 2021 marks the 57th anniversary of the RAN's most devastating peacetime accident.

A video of this year's commemorative service starting at 1100 in the Sanctuary at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance will be available to view on the [Shrine's Website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Please feel free to log-in and join the Senior Naval Officer in Victoria (CDRE Greg Yorke) in his reflections on this event that affected the lives of so many and changed the course of carrier operations in our Navy from that point onwards.



### **Chief Petty Officer Coxswain Jonathan Rogers GC DSM.**

Jonathan Rogers (1920-1964), sailor, was born on 16 September 1920 at Vroncysylite, near Llangollen, Denbighshire, Wales, fifth of seven children of Jonathan Rogers, labourer, and his wife Sarah Ellen, née Probyn. Leaving Acrefair Central School at the age of 14, he worked at the Ruabon brickyard, boxed and played soccer.

On 22 November 1938 Rogers enlisted in the Royal Navy. Five ft 8 ins (173 cm) tall and heavily built, he had brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He spent most of World War II at sea in three coastal vessels: Motor Anti-Submarine Boat No.62 (1940-41), Motor Launch No.204 (1942-43) and Motor Torpedo Boat No.698 (1943-45). Promoted petty officer in 1943, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his 'coolness and leadership' under enemy fire during an action off Dunkirk, France, on the night of 23/24 May 1944. He was discharged from the R.N. on 23 January 1946.

His full story can be found at:

<https://navyvic.net/heroes/rogers.html>

*It may be a new year, but 2021 has kicked off right where 2020 left off, with Beijing redoubling its efforts to establish a truly global blue water navy capable of competing with the US Navy and its allies around the world with focus on power projection, strategic deterrence and control of maritime lines of communication.*

*Australia's contract with Spain's Navantia S.A. has reached a major milestone with Ship Acceptance of the Royal Australian Navy's First Supply-class vessel, NUSHIP Supply.*

*Prototyping is underway at the Osborne shipyard in Adelaide in preparation for work to start on Navy's Hunter-class frigates. Defence's Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group's first assistant secretary ships Sheryl Lutz said five prototype blocks would be built in the prototyping phase to test the shipyard's production systems, develop the facilities and ensure the workforce was trained and ready to build the Hunter-class frigates.*

*The U.K. Royal Navy's first carrier strike group in 38 years has reached Initial Operating Capability (IOC) ahead of its first operational deployment later this year, the U.K. government announced today.*

*War strategies honed in board game. Intelligence indicates enemy are attempting to posture in north-east Africa, threatening free passage through the Gulf of Aden. In a situation room, friendly force officers face dilemmas: do they divert resources and increase the forces' readiness to respond? Do they continue modernising the existing forces? Or do they commit resources to research and develop new forces?*

*Navy's Collins Class submarines will undergo significant upgrades to its sonar systems here in Australia through a multi-million dollar contract with Thales Australia.*

*The US Navy in FY2021 and beyond wants to develop and procure three types of large unmanned vehicles (UVs).*

## Medal recognises bushfire service



Many people who took part in the firefighting effort during last summer's bushfire emergency will be awarded the National Emergency Medal with clasp.

The National Emergency Medal can be awarded by the Governor-General to any person who has given sustained service during a nationally significant emergency.

The award will recognise those who protected lives and property on the frontline during the bushfires and also those who served in support of those efforts.

The qualifying period of service for the award is between September 2019 and February 2020, but dates vary according to affected local government areas in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.

But responders must have served a minimum of five days, whether consecutive or not, and meet other eligibility criteria.

Members of the ADF, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and Queensland Police Service do not need to nominate for the award as a consolidated list will be prepared by each organisation.

But individuals are responsible for ensuring their deployment or support during the emergency, particularly locations and dates, is accurately recorded by the organisation they served.

Specific geographical areas and qualifying dates and further information is available at <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsnational-emergency-medal/apply-national-emergency-medal>

Information regarding local government areas can be located at <https://alga.asn.au/resources/council-maps-boundaries/>

*These large UVs are called Large Unmanned Surface Vehicles (LUSVs), Medium Unmanned Surface Vehicles (MUSVs), and Extra-Large Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (XLUUVs).*

*Officer selection boards, which are a key element of growing the Navy, are zooming along during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to technology and teamwork.*

*The Chiefs of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have issued a major warning for the Indo-Pacific region, with a specific warning for key US allies like Australia as Beijing steps up its regional presence and power projection ambitions in the region.*

*After Seaman Shanen Pulkkinen's participation in the ADF Gap Year program ended in 2017, she intended to come back to Navy eventually – she just didn't know it would be so soon.*

*The US Navy announced Friday that Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) marking the first time a female commanding officer will lead the crew of one of the Navy's 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.*

*The JFD-designed rescue system has been tested during the annual Black Carillon submarine rescue certification exercise.*

*Defence Industry Minister, Melissa Price has confirmed the Naval Shipbuilding College has reached a new milestone, having prepared more than 1000 Australians for a career in naval shipbuilding.*

**Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network**  
– [January update.....](#)

**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.