



BROADSIDE

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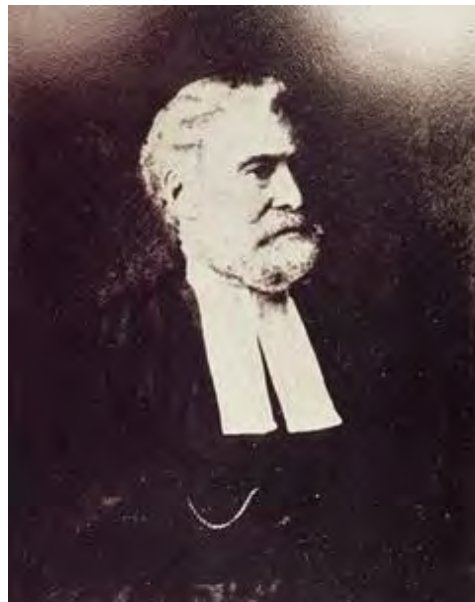
Editorial

NVN current membership: 1156

Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne

The origin of the Mission to Seafarers internationally rests with one man who saw a need and responded to it.

In 1835, whilst on holiday at Clevedon, Somerset, the Rev Dr John Ashley had occasion to visit the island of Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel during which time he became aware of the plight of seafarers. He was so moved by their harsh and dangerous conditions and lonely lives that he dedicated the next 15 years to their welfare until forced to give up his chaplaincy as a result of ill health. In 1857 the Victorian Seaman's Mission was founded in Melbourne. In 1906/07 it merged with the organisation that is now known worldwide as the Mission to Seafarers.



Portrait of Reverend John Ashley, D.D.

VICTORIAN HISTORY

The Victorian Mission was established on July 1, 1857 and began its work on an ex water police hulk called the Emily anchored in Hobsons Bay near Williamstown. The hulk was painted with the title "The Bethel Sailors' Church". It was known as the Bethel Floating Church.

The Reverend Kerr Johnston was appointed chaplain and conducted

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](#).

27 Jul – Korean Veterans service.

07 Aug – On this day in 1942 - Operation WATCHTOWER, HMA Ships Australia, Canberra & Hobart involved in the invasion of Guadalcanal.

09 Aug – On this day in 1942 HMAS Canberra lost.

09 Aug – HMAS Canberra service

15 Aug – Victory in the Pacific service

16 Aug – OP Pedestal service

18 Aug – Vietnam Veterans march and service

20 Aug – 72nd anniversary of the establishment of the Fleet Air Arm

29 Aug-05 Sep – Legacy Badge Week collections

01 Sep – 100th anniversary of the commissioning of Flinders Naval Depot as a training establishment for the RAN

01 Sep – Legacy Day

02 Sep – Battle for Australia memorial service

03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day service

11 Sep – Battle of Bita Paka service

two services each Sunday until 1859 when a boathouse was acquired at Port Melbourne that was in use until 1878. At this time a new building was erected and became known as “Bethel of the Victorian Seamen’s Union.”

As shipping became more prominent in the upper reaches of the Yarra, closer to the city, there was a definite need to establish a new branch of the Mission in the central Melbourne area. Captain’s petitioned and the Reverend Gurney Goldsmith spent from mid-1890’s to 1907 convincing the City elders that this was required as most ships at this stage were berthing along the Yarra River rather than at Port Melbourne.

A site was leased from the Melbourne Harbour Trust fronting Australia Wharf in Siddeley Street, near to an existing Sailor’s Rest (sailor’s home which provided accommodation). During 1905 the Victorian Mission to Seamen was created from the amalgamation of the London Seamen’s Mission and the Victorian Seamen’s Mission. The Ladies Harbour Lights Guild was also formed in 1905 to assist the resident Chaplain in raising awareness and funds for the Mission and providing social activities for seafarers.

The Guild was well patronised by prominent members of Melbourne society and grew to be a substantial organisation.

In 1917, during WW1, the Mission moved to its current location a short distance away, as the Melbourne Harbour Trust required the use of the Siddeley Street site. The Ladies were instrumental in raising funds for the new Mission which incorporated the main building and the Memorial Chapel of St Peter the Mariner and the domed Norla gymnasium.

As the shipping industry has moved from sail to steam to containerisation, in the late 60’s to 70’s, the needs of seafarer’s has changed. Voyages which took 100 days now often take less than 30 days. Time in port has reduced from days, to at times, hours. No longer do seafarers have the luxury of time on the Australian coast. They are in and out of port as quickly as possible.

So the services of the Mission have adjusted and the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild was incorporated into the Flying Angel Club in the 1960’s.

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.....

- *Independent Recognition of Navy Engineering Certification and Qualifications*
- *Go inside charred interior of USS Bonhomme Richard that burned for four days*
- *USS Bonhomme Richard on fire*
- *Defence Strategic Update*
- *Trained ADF medical personnel support Victorian Government with COVID-19 testing*
- *HMAS Toowoomba returns home from on deployment*
- *HMAS Sydney V - Happy Birthday Mrs Seymour*

PODCAST.....

- *In this interview, ASPI’s executive director Peter Jennings talks to The Strategist’s Brendan Nicholson about Australia’s 2020 defence strategic update and new force structure plan.*

NEWS.....

Royal Australian Navy nursing officer Lieutenant Commander Steven Grosser has paused the posting of a lifetime to return to Australia and help with Operation COVID-19 ASSIST. At the start of the year, he was posted to the Naval Medical Centre San Diego with the US Navy to understand how they conduct their simulation training. Now he is the ADF officer in charge of the military element supporting the Victorian state government at one of the community testing centres in Melbourne.

Hundreds of Navy people can attest to the gratitude they felt to be sent a handcrafted, volunteer-made quilt while deployed on operations. Now, after eight stalwart years of supporting Navy people deployed or facing personal hardships, Mrs Jan-Maree Ball, the leader of Aussie Hero Quilts, has been presented with a quilt of her own.

The Mission to Seafarers has provided pastoral and other care from 717 Flinders St for over 100 years and it is one of the few buildings in Melbourne which continues to serve its original purpose. It is listed on the Victorian Heritage Registry for its outstanding architectural, aesthetic, social and historic significance to the State of Victoria.

In 2018 the Mission was awarded a grant The Victoria Remembers Major Grant Program supported by the Victorian Government and the Victorian Veterans Council. A film was produced by Wind and Sky Productions which tells the story of the Merchant Navy and the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild of Melbourne in WW1.

The film was launched in 2020 and outlines the value of the Merchant Mariners and the women that supported their contribution at a peak period of conflict for the emerging nation. As an island nation, the shipping industry is just as important today as it was in the early 1900's.

If you would like to view the 17 minute film please go to:

<https://missiontoseafarers.com.au/history/>

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). 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.

- † CPOMECH J.B. Brooks, R44818, 21 July 2020. Aged 89.
- † LSCD I.J. Barkla, R55510, 17 July 2020. Aged 78.
- † WOSAWSM D.J. Luck, R42026, 16 July 2020. Aged 80.
- † LAM(E) K.R. Adams, R51718, 14 July 2020. Aged 85.
- † ABCK D. DEJANOVIC, R67001, 13 July 2020. Aged 69.
- † LCDR S.B.E. Courtier, O247, 10 July 2020. Aged 84.
- † RADM A.J. Robertson AO DSC, 10 July 2020. Aged 95.
- † PORP R.J. Batchler, R56907, 09 July 2020. Aged 83.
- † LSSV J.H. Milenz, R65011, 02 July 2020. Aged 71.
- † VADM I.D.G. MacDougall AC AFSM RAN, 01 July 2020. Aged 82.
- † LCDR T.J. Brooker, O124, 29 Jun 2020. Aged 91.
- 3 † EM R.H. Channell, R104031, 05 Jun 2020. Aged 68.

Welcome to 'China military watch', a new monthly feature in The Strategist from ASPI's defence analysts examining developments in Chinese military affairs. China has announced the beginning of mass production of the J-20B 'Mighty Dragon' fifth-generation fighter.

The Morrison Government's National Shipbuilding Program has reached another milestone with the laying of the keel on the first of six new Cape Class Patrol Boats for the Royal Australian Navy

Navantia Australia has successfully completed a major design update for the Royal Australian Navy's Canberra Class LHDs, installing an Advanced Stabilised Glide Slope Indicator (ASGSI).

China appears to be accelerating its campaign to control the South China Sea and the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

Australia, Japan and the US are currently conducting a trilateral passage in the Philippine Sea on the way to participate in Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) in Hawaii.

The U.S. warship Porter entered the Black Sea on Sunday to take part in an annual NATO exercise, days after Russia placed its Black Sea forces on alert.

The U.S. Navy has taken delivery of the first AN/SPY-6 radar array for the Flight III Arleigh Burke-class destroyer Jack Lucas, which was designed and built specifically to accommodate the upgraded air and missile defense radar.

Over 60 years have passed since one of the Navy's most iconic buildings was erected. On 30 April 1960, the foundation stone for the HMAS Watson Chapel was laid.

The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group participated in cooperative exercises with the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean commencing July 20.

Maritime Warfare Officers recently

- † LMUSN P.I.F. Buckmaster, R52741, 29 May 2020. Aged 78.
- † WOCD R. Rasmussen, R55554, 24 April 2020. Aged 78.
- † LSCD L. Hearn, 8118866, 14 November 2019. Aged 38.
- † ABCD S.C. Beckingham, R93131, 01 September 2019. Aged 74.
- † ABCD R.D. Ashton, R58945, 14 July 2019. Aged 74.
- † POCD J.W. Thompson, R51305, 06 February 2019. Aged 87.

Lest We Forget

Our July Navy hero is Rear Admiral Andrew Robertson AO DSC

Andrew John Robertson was born at Kings Norton, near Birmingham,



England on 11 April 1925, his family later migrating to Perth, Western Australia. He joined the Royal Australian Naval College in early 1939 as a Cadet Midshipman, was made a Cadet Captain and awarded his colours for rugby. Upon graduating, in 1942, he was awarded 'maximum time' (three months early promotion to Lieutenant), the grand aggregate, history and mathematics prizes as well as the Otto Albert Memorial Prize for seamanship. Robertson was also awarded the prestigious King's Medal as the Cadet

Midshipmen for displaying the most exemplary conduct, performance of duty and good influence amongst his peers.

He first went to sea as a Cadet Midshipman in September 1942 when he joined the heavy cruiser HMAS Australia. During his time onboard the cruiser operated in the Coral Sea and off the east coast of Australia on patrol and convoy distant escort duties. He was promoted Midshipman in January 1943. Robertson spent four months in the destroyer HMAS Warramunga, during June-October 1943, conducting convoy escort duties to New Guinea before rejoining Australia. In March 1944 he travelled to England for his Sub Lieutenant's courses for which he was awarded a £10 prize for gaining seven first class certificates in seamanship, navigation, gunnery, torpedoes, signals, air operations and anti-submarine warfare. Robertson was promoted Sub Lieutenant in May 1944 and in November of that year went to the Mediterranean theatre where he served in the destroyer HMS Kimberley in the Aegean Sea, the waters off Greece and the Dodecanese Islands.

RADM Robertson passed away on 10 July 2020, age 95. His full story can be found at: <https://navyvic.net/heroes/robertson.html> (also included is a video interview with John Anderson in 2019. John and Andrew discuss military and naval history, defence strategy and the state of Australia's current defence policy.)

completed their first at sea training program in the Royal Australian Navy's Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour.

Sailors in Navy's Cape Class Patrol Boats are buoyed by the recent approval by Chief of Navy to replace their 'Royal Australian Navy', 'HMA Patrol Boat' and 'Patrol Boat Group' tally bands with their own ship's name. "It lets me show pride in all the work my shipmates and I do for the Navy by representing a ship that is very dear to all of us as a small boat community," Able Seaman Boatswain Mate Emma Harper from ADV Cape Inscription said.

The government's continuous shipbuilding program has provided a fillip for defence industry in South Australia and Western Australia, but benefits are also set to flow to other parts of the country.

Two of Navy's newest cutting-edge capabilities have combined, with the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS Ballarat embarking an S-100 Camcopter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for flight trials off the Eastern coast of Australia.

Despite the ominous signs of a second wave of COVID-19, activity within the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) continues apace as we bring together our diverse maritime stakeholders - heritage, industry, educators, and 'sailors' of all types.

80th anniversary of famous convoy duel with Luftwaffe off Dover

Mid-afternoon on Sunday July 13 1940. On Dover's White Cliffs, journalist Charles Gardner was transfixed by the dogfight playing out before his eyes. His impressions were recorded by BBC engineers. The next day the nation would hear them and, before the week was out, the rest of the free world. "Well now the Germans are bombing a convoy out at sea. There are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 German dive-bombers, Junkers 87s. There's one going down on his target now. Bomb. No. He missed the ship – he hasn't hit a single ship.

Medallion and certificate recognise Second World War veterans



On 15 August we will pause to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Victory in Pacific Day, ending a war that cost millions of lives across the world.

More than one million Australian men and women fought to protect our country and our allies, fighting in theatres of war from Europe to North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, to Asia and the Pacific, with the conflict also reaching Australian shores.

As we approach this anniversary, we recognise that it will be one of the last opportunities we have as a nation to publicly acknowledge the remaining veterans of the Second World War, of which there are around 12,000 still with us.

Australia can never fully repay the debt we owe these amazing men and women but, to mark their service, the Department of Veterans' Affairs is producing a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration for the remaining living veterans of the Second World War.

The Australian made medallion will be presented in a display case and is a small memento for our veterans. This is but a small gesture of appreciation from a grateful nation that we extend to those veterans who fought to protect our way of life in the terrible conflict that ended 75 years ago. I invite eligible veterans to apply, or their families on their behalf, either online at www.dva.gov.au/medallion or, for those without internet access, by phone on 02 61918217 during business hours. Medallions will be distributed during August.

Thank you for your service.

Lest we forget.

Darren Chester
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Amid a surging interest in shipbuilding careers, the first intake of apprentices from South Australia has started work on the Morrison Government's Hunter Class Frigate Program.

Lasers could replace sailors in peeling old paint off ships. Who among the Navy's best and brightest hasn't at some point earlier in their enlisted career been forced to scrape rusting, dilapidated paint from the various corners of the service's ageing fleet of vessels?

To some, the relationship between a farm-boy from the outskirts of Melbourne and a gun-slinging US marshal of Dodge City and Tombstone may seem uncanny. Faced with a scarcity of jobs, former water-tank builder Norman Tame followed his mates and joined the Royal Australian Navy almost 80 years ago.

The Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet can now deploy its submarines to the Mediterranean.

The Nimitz and Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Force are conducting dual carrier operations in the South China Sea, July 6.

A World War 1 admiral is the unlikely subject for a big-screen biopic by a British filmmaker. Sea Lord intends to tell the story of Admiral Sir John 'Jacky' Fisher who was architect – and leader, briefly – of the Royal Navy in WW1.

Advocacy services for veterans today received a boost with more than 160 ex-service organisations (ESOs) across Australia sharing in \$4.2 million of funding under the Australian Government's Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants program.

Support for veteran health and wellbeing has been strengthened with the introduction of a free online suicide prevention training program, delivered in partnership with Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling and the Returned and Services League of Australia.

ON THE RECORD

Statement - Australian Joint Task Group transit in South China Sea

An Australian Defence Force Joint Task Group (HMA Ships Canberra, Hobart, Stuart, Arunta and Sirius) transited the South China Sea independently from 14-18 July, including near the Spratly Islands, en route to Hawaii for Exercise RIMPAC.

There was no confrontation. All interactions with foreign warships throughout the deployment were conducted in a safe and professional manner, as we would expect in response to vessels operating in international waters in accordance with international law. There was routine and professional naval communications.

The Joint Task Group's transit in the South China Sea occurred in international waters in accordance with freedom of navigation rights under international law.

Media contacts

Issued by Ministerial and Executive Coordination and Communication,
Department of Defence,
Canberra, ACT

VALE

Vice Admiral Ian MacDougall - Australia's most senior submariner



Commander Submarine Force Captain Doug Theobald said that Vice Admiral MacDougall's contribution to the development of Navy's submarine capability could not be overstated.

"Vice Admiral MacDougall will be greatly missed by the Navy community, especially by submariners past and present."

"We will never forget the essential role he played in the development of our submarine fleet and Australia's reputation for having one of the world's most formidable underwater naval capabilities," Captain Theobald said.

Chief of Navy Australia Vice Admiral Michael Noonan also paid tribute to Vice Admiral MacDougall.

"He was a modern naval officer, with the imagination to see things afresh and the courage to make changes. Australia's Navy and its people are better and stronger for his service," Vice Admiral Noonan said.

Australia's defence strategic update is not recommended reading for the faint-hearted. It depicts a starkly divided world in which the prospects of conflict are growing.

Regional flashpoints are heating up, as we've seen with the fatal clash in Ladakh on the India-China border, the protests in Hong Kong and provocative sorties in the airspace over Taiwan and Japan. But the South China Sea may be the most dangerous of all.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) today begins a regional deployment to conduct exercises within Southeast Asia and Hawaii over the coming months.

The builder of the Royal Australian Navy's new Hunter-class frigates has told Defense News that the ship's design remains "within agreed weight and space envelopes," despite a recent report in Australian media claiming recent changes have caused concern.

Australia's most senior submariner and former Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ian MacDougall, has died at age 82 in Tasmania.

VETERANS and their families are being asked to provide their views on how the ex-service community is consulted and engaged, and how this can be improved.

The UK National Audit Office has revealed that the Royal Navy may not be able to form carrier groups with its two new aircraft carriers.

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

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

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