



Newsletter

Navy Victoria Network

December 2012

Volume 2 Edition 12

Editorial

Welcome to the [Navy Victoria Network newsletter for December 2012](#).

The NVN Team takes this opportunity to wish all of our 760+ registered members, plus the hundreds of other casual readers of our website, a very merry and relaxing Christmas. And we hope that all your New Year's resolutions, wishes and plans for 2013 come true!

Looking back, although 2012 was not a particularly important year as far as major commemorative events in the history of the RAN (as compared with 2011 in which we celebrated the 110th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth Naval Forces and the Centenary of the naming of the RAN), there were, nevertheless, 88 separate events of significance advertised over the full 12 month period. This averaged out to be over 7 events per month or almost 2 events per week! These events included reunions, commemorative services, meetings, dinners, Navy band recitals, ship visits, parades and other social or official activities with a 'Navy' flavour. We are pleased to report that, according to the organisers of many of those events that were open to all members of the ex-Navy community in Victoria, there was a noticeable improvement in attendance this year. Whilst the NVN team cannot claim full credit for the apparent improvement in participation rates, we would like to think that our advertising of events to a wide (and growing) audience within the ex-Navy community has helped. But this can only be sustained (or improved) if the organisers of all Association meetings and other 'naval' activities in Victoria send details of

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)



25 Dec - Santa Claus is coming to town.

01st Jan – Happy New Year.

05th Jan – From the 5-9 January 1945 HMAS AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE & ARUNTA engaged in Battle of Lingayen Gulf..

20th Jan – On this day in 1942 HMAS DELORAINE, KATOOMBA & LITHGOW sink Japanese submarine I-124 off Darwin.

22nd Jan – On this day in 1943 HMAS PATRICIA CAM sunk by Japanese aircraft.

26th Jan – Australia Day – Flag raising ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall – Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus in attendance.

10th Feb – This day is the anniversary of the collision between HMAS VOYAGER AND HMAS MELBOURNE and the subsequent sinking of HMAS VOYAGER, with the loss of 82 crew.

Latest News



SIXTH ANNUAL MARITIME AFFAIRS - ESSAY COMPETITION 2013

The Navy League of Australia is holding a fifth maritime essay competition and invites entries on either of the following topics: [More.....](#)

their planned events to our Webmaster (preferably by email to webmaster@navyvic.net) well in advance.

Another successful initiative in 2012 was the inauguration of discussions between interested ex-Navy Ship and Branch Associations regarding the development of strategies to reinvigorate the ex-Navy community in Victoria. Thanks to the vision and efforts of Terry Makings, President of the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria (NCCV), a 'workshop' involving 21 Victorian-based Associations was convened at the English Speaking Union (ESU) on 26 February. Having agreed that a number of Associations were already in strife (or soon would be), the Workshop participants agreed that a Sub-Committee of the NCCV should be formed (with representatives from a number of Associations) to identify the seriousness of Association concerns and then to develop options to reverse or stabilise the decline in membership and participation levels.

The Sub-Committee is now keen to convene another Workshop of interested Associations in the new year in order to report the findings of a survey of Associations (which identified multiple root-causes for the declining viability of many of them) and to seek support for the introduction of a number of strategies which have the potential to reinvigorate Association membership and further improve the participation rates for ex-Navy personnel in commemorative events. It is expected that a call for Associations to send representatives to the next Workshop will be promulgated in the NVN's January Newsletter.

Looking forward to 2013, there are two major events that should capture our attention. They include the celebrations on the weekend of 2/3 March which mark the centenary of the foundation of the RAN Training College at Osborne House in North Geelong. This was the temporary home for officer training pending the construction of the Naval College at Jervis Bay. Details of the celebrations (which include a festival, ship visits, a parade and a public address by the Chief of Navy) will be advertised in the NVN website early in the New Year. Hope to see lots of ex-Navy people there!

The second event is the big "International Fleet Review" in Sydney from 3 to 11 October. Basic details of this event (which include fleet entries into Sydney Harbour by tall ships, RAN and

Chinese Navy and Royal Australian Navy share counter-piracy lessons

Chinese and Australian naval officers shared their experiences in the conduct of counter-piracy operations in the Middle East Area of Operations at a roundtable meeting today.

[More.....](#)

Tribunal report advises against changes to medals for Gulf War medics

An independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has recommended against changing medallic recognition for Task Group Medical Support Element One during the 1990-91 Gulf War. The Government has accepted the findings. [More.....](#)

A new study shows the Collins class submarines could remain in service until 2038.

View the video of Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs interview with Sky News Political Editor David Speers.

725 SQUADRON RE-COMMISSIONING

In 2013 the RAN will begin taking delivery of 24 Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk 'Romeo' naval combat helicopters. The Romeos will be operated by 725 Squadron, which is due to re-commission in early 2015.

[More.....](#)

ADF Pay & Allowances as of 8th November 2012. [Click here.....](#)

Federal Government Apologises to Captain John Stevenson

The Federal Government has apologised to the captain of HMAS Melbourne for being made the scapegoat for one of Australia's most devastating naval disasters.

[More.....](#)

[Read the letter.....](#)

foreign warships, a Fleet Review, street parades, ship open days, a Sea Power Conference, fireworks and a memorial service) are already summarised in the NVN's Calendar. This would be a great time for readers of the NVN to plan holidays in Sydney!

But there's a lot more! Please take the time (before the kids all descend upon you for Christmas!) to read the summary of forthcoming events (in the margins of this Newsletter) and then, as a bare minimum, quickly scan through the Calendar to see whether there are any other events coming up which you ought to note in your 2013 diaries.

Best wishes till next year!

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

† RADM Treloar AO RAN Rtd., passed away 14 December 2012.

† CAPT John Lancaster AM RAN Rtd., passed away 23 November 2012.

Interests. *If you have a specific interest you think would be of appeal to the wider navy community, we would be pleased to hear about it. Obviously, we are focused on our listed objectives at this time.*

NVN current membership:

764



Navy personnel and dignitaries today gathered at HMAS Cairns to farewell an old friend, Balikpapan Class Landing Craft Heavy (LCH), HMAS Wewak. The ship is being decommissioned after almost 40 years of service moving large amounts of cargo, personnel and equipment from larger ships to shore.

Defence's identification, search and seizure measures

Defence has today introduced new security arrangements at Defence bases. The new arrangements involve random searches of vehicles and persons visiting Defence bases.

[More.....](#)

International efforts keep piracy down but trade routes still at risk

The Director of Combined Maritime Forces in the Gulf region says international efforts have led to a fall in piracy attacks against merchant shipping and local fishing dhows but the risk to trade remains high.

[More.....](#)

Minister for Defence visits LHD

The Minister for defence Stephen Smith, CDF General David Hurley and our Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs visited LHD01 at BAE's Williamstown dockyard in Melbourne today. The Bridge Block is now up and all agreed Navy's largest ever ship is looking more impressive by the day.

[View the video.....](#)

The above news items are just a few of the many items on the "News" page of our website.

NCCV December Newsletter ['Rogue's Yarn'](#)

Navy League of Australia - Victorian Chapter - [December Newsletter](#)

NAVY NEWS can now be accessed electronically via the internet. [Click for the latest edition.](#)

A Fair Go Campaign – [Click here to view the latest updates](#)

Don't forget to visit the website, there's a lot more news and information that you may have missed.