



Newsletter

Navy Victoria Network

May 2012

Volume 2 Edition 5

Editorial

Welcome to the Navy Victoria Network newsletter for May 2012.

At social gatherings, functions and ceremonies where we commemorate past events or celebrate an anniversary, an unmistakable sense of pride at having served in the Navy becomes very evident. It reminds us all of the highs and lows of our service careers, re-kindles old friendships and reminds us of the camaraderie and bonds formed through the sharing of good times and bad. It is uplifting to the spirit and helps to generate that sense of common unity/community which is so vital to our enjoyment of life.

The aftermath of WW2 saw the establishment of a large number of ex-Service ship and unit associations who enjoyed getting together and perpetuating the camaraderie of Navy life. Inevitably this number has dwindled over the years. Many thrived for over half a century and some have survived to the present day, held together by stalwart men and women mostly now well over the age of 80. Some, sadly have slipped beneath the waves and disappeared virtually without trace: others, such as *The Scrap Iron Flotilla* and the *HMAS Westralia Association*, are battling to remain afloat.

It would be to the mutual benefit of all of us in the Navy family in Victoria if we could develop a more cohesive and co-operative network. Doing so could provide the facility

Calendar Events



31st May – Indigenous Service at the Shrine – remembering our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Veterans.

01st June – Cerberus divisions

03rd June – 43rd anniversary of Melbourne/Evans collision. 74 lives lost – Lest We Forget

06th June – Normandy Veterans Association wreath laying.

17th June – 'N' Class destroyers association wreath laying.

25th June – Naval History Society meeting/presentation – all welcome.

01st July – Reserve Forces Day – March and Wreath laying.

Latest News



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](#)

Future Submarine Industry Skills Plan
Minister for Defence Stephen Smith and Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare today announced more details on the Future Submarine Industry Skills Plan. [More....](#)

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

to keep struggling associations going for as long as possible and explore ways to make future generations of Australians aware of the deeds, achievements and contribution those ships and units have made to the Australia we cherish today.

To this end the Naval Commemoration Committee Victoria (NCCV), the Melbourne Naval Centre (MNC) and the Navy Victoria Network (NVN) are now working together to better provide for the needs of the entire Navy family in Victoria – those who have served in the past, those currently serving, and the families of both.

Since WW2 the **NCCV**, on behalf of ship and unit associations, has done a superb job in directing its efforts to commemoration activities, memorial structures and services; it has striven to ensure these are supported, appropriately hallowed, preserved and respected. It has now expanded its activities to try to build a data base of the ex-Navy community in this state and an up-to-date list of key personnel in each existing organisation. More detail about its activities can be found in its bulletin *The Rogue's Yarn*. The **MNC** is an umbrella body established after WW2 to see that monies raised for the benefit of ex-Navy personnel in Victoria are used for the purposes laid down in its by-laws: in essence this means that they must be used for the welfare of Navy personnel in this State. Through careful investment it has now established a situation where it has income which enables it to assist Navy organisations in financing equipment required and administrative costs for the mounting of functions and activities benefitting Navy and ex-Navy personnel IN VICTORIA. It meets quarterly in February, May, August and November and applications for assistance must be submitted by the middle of the preceding month. The **NVN** was established in 2011 and its mission, in broad terms, is to inform. Its website (www.navyvic.net) now has nearly 700 registered members and it contains information about forthcoming events such as ship visits, commemoration services, scheduled reunions and so on. It

ADSO - Budget Comment - Some Good Outcomes But Much More Needed

Australian Ex Service men and women in receipt of military superannuation pensions could not have been more impressed with... [More.....](#)

VETERAN SERVICE GOES ONLINE

A new website, offering veterans a more immediate way of conducting business with the Department of Veterans' Affairs was launched today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon. [More.....](#)

CN BUDGET MESSAGE

It has come, as you would be aware, following several days of media coverage relating to the amount of savings to be delivered by Defence as part of the Government's fiscal strategy to return a small budget surplus. [More.....](#)

Death of the Angel of The Gap

ex- Cruiser HMAS Hobart sailor Don Ritchie - affectionately referred to as the "Angel of the Gap" for preventing approximately 160 attempted suicides - has passed away aged 85. [More.....](#)

WO Marty Grogan in New Zealand for Presentation

It is my great honour to be here today to present a very significant item to the Chief of the NZ Navy for the NZN Heritage Collection. [More.....](#)

Australian Navy visits Victoria, Canada

HMAS Perth has reaffirmed close Australian Defence ties to Canada with a visit to the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt in Victoria, Canada. The visit by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ANZAC Class frigate coincided with Canada's Victoria Day. [More.....](#)

Sharing The Sea With The PLA(N)

Fostering a better understanding of how we operate in the maritime

draws attention to Naval matters of general interest such as RAN policy changes announced by Chief of Navy; the scope of its coverage is expected to increase as it evolves. In its first year it has attracted considerable interest and it is now providing facility for individual ex-Navy associations in Victoria to have their own page on the web-site. It would welcome input from the Returned and Services League, the Naval Association, the Navy League and the Naval Officers Club in their endeavours to disseminate information to a wide audience.

Through the combined, co-ordinated efforts of the organisations described above it is confidently expected that the Navy family in Victoria will enjoy improved capability to keep abreast of matters of interest. Readers are encouraged to 'spread the word' about what is going on in this regard and to encourage contact and communication with the NCC, NVN and MNC if assistance is required to pursue worthwhile goals for the Navy family in Victoria.

NVN Team.

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.

environment was the aim of the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) conducted between HMAS Ballarat (Commander Jonathan Earley) and the People's Revolutionary Army – Navy frigate Anqing (LCDR Hu Jinchun) at the mouth of the Yangtze River on 21 May 12. [More....](#)

Australian Navy Joins the Republic of Korea for Inaugural Maritime Exercise

The ANZAC-class Guided Missile Frigate, HMAS Ballarat, continues its North East Asian deployment after completing a successful exercise with the Chinese Navy it will conduct a port visit and exercise with the Republic of Korea. [More....](#)

Defence Force Welfare Association Monthly [Update #271.](#)

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

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