



# Newsletter

Navy Victoria Network

November 2012

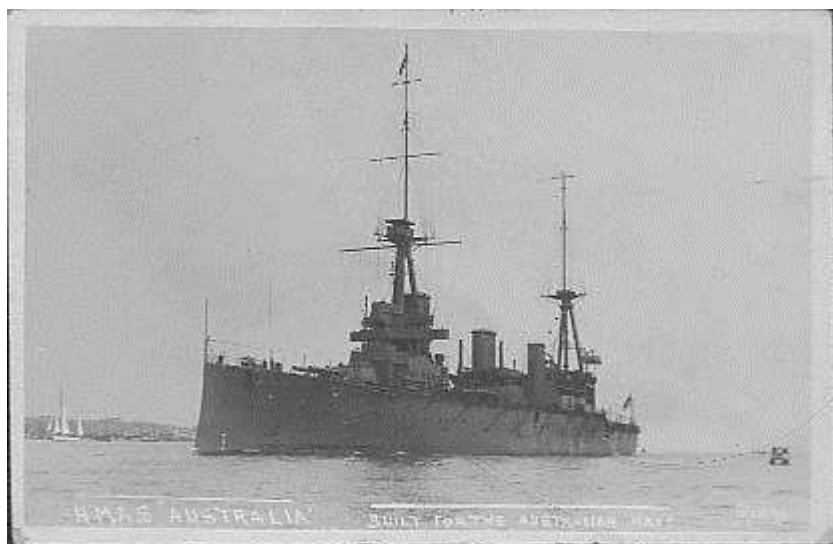
Volume 2 Edition 11

## Editorial

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

### THE YEAR AHEAD

All members of the Naval Family should be aware that plans are in hand to mark the centenary of two particularly significant milestones in the history of the Royal Australian Navy in 2013 – the commencement of officer training at Osborne House, Geelong, on 11 February 1913 and the establishment of the Australian Fleet on arrival of the first HMAS Australia in Sydney on 4 October of the same year.



The battlecruiser HMAS Australia, following her completion in 1913

In the grand strategic plan for the development of Australia in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Jervis Bay was to become the port for the national capital, Canberra. That is why it was

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

• • •

**01<sup>st</sup> Dec** – HMAS Armidale sunk on this day in 1942. A memorial service will be held at the Shrine at 1000.

**08<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance service at the Shrine at 1100.

**08<sup>th</sup> Dec** – RAN Concert Band are performing at the Carols by Candlelight at the Somerville Fruit Growers Reserve commencing 1830.

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – On this day in 1910, Commonwealth ships Parramatta and Yarra, torpedo boat destroyers, first warships built for the RAN, arrived in Port Phillip.

**14<sup>th</sup> Dec** – HMAS Cerberus Reduced Activity Period (RAP). Concludes 14 January 2013.

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – HMAS Westralia wreath laying service in the Sanctuary of the Shrine at 1100.

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – RAN Band (Brass quintet only) will be performing at the Carols by Candlelight at New Peninsula Church.

## Latest News

• • •

**Statement from General David Hurley, Chief of the Defence Force**  
Today the Minister for Defence has announced details of the Governments response to the DLA Piper Review of Allegations of Sexual and other Forms of Abuse in Defence. [More.....](#)

designated Australian Capital Territory and why it was chosen as the site for the Royal Australian Naval College. (Duntroon, the Army equivalent, had already been established on ACT in Canberra). The RANC buildings at HMAS Creswell were under construction at the time the 22 selected 13-year-olds were due to start their training in February 1913. That first entry included names which were to become famous in WW2 – Collins, Farncomb, Showers, Getting, Burnett – men who had a huge impact on the development and reputation of the RAN through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the time of Federation in January 1901 the Naval assets of the individual States were brought together as the Commonwealth Naval Forces. They were a motley collection including the monitor HMAS Cerberus, torpedo boats, gun boats and smaller craft, all in somewhat dilapidated condition. There was initially little support for the development of a force which could assume responsibility for the nation's maritime defence but after 1905, when Captain Creswell was appointed Director of Naval Forces, things changed. A persistent, determined and far-sighted man, Creswell had been invalided out of the Royal Navy before coming to Australia in the 1880's. From the time of his appointment in 1905 he relentlessly pursued his vision of creating a Navy for the fledgling Commonwealth and making the nation responsible for its own maritime defence rather than relying on Great Britain. Backed by some supportive politicians, most notably the visionary Prime Ministers Deakin and Fisher, and with the enormously influential help of the famous First Sea Lord, Jackie Fisher, he won approval for the construction (in Britain) of an Australian Fleet based on a battle cruiser HMAS Australia supported by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

King George V gave approval to the use of the prefix 'Royal' by the Australian and Canadian Navies in July 1911 and the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board was officially created shortly thereafter. On 4 October 1913 the recently commissioned HMAS Australia led a 'long grey line' including HMA Ships Sydney, Melbourne and Encounter (light cruisers), Warrego, Yarra and Parramatta (destroyers) into Sydney Harbour where the last C-in-C of the British Australian Squadron hauled down his flag and His Majesty's Australian Fleet was born.

### **Implementation of Defence cultural reform – Pathway to Change**

Minister for Defence Stephen Smith today provided an update on implementation of the Defence cultural reform program, Pathway to Change: Evolving Defence Culture and announced that implementation would be subject to enhanced Parliamentary oversight, including through an Annual Report to the Parliament by the Minister. [More.....](#)

### **Treatment of women in the ADF**

Minister for Defence Stephen Smith today gave an update on the Defence response to Phase 2 of the review into the treatment of women in the Australian Defence Force [More.....](#)

### **HMAS Choules – Update**

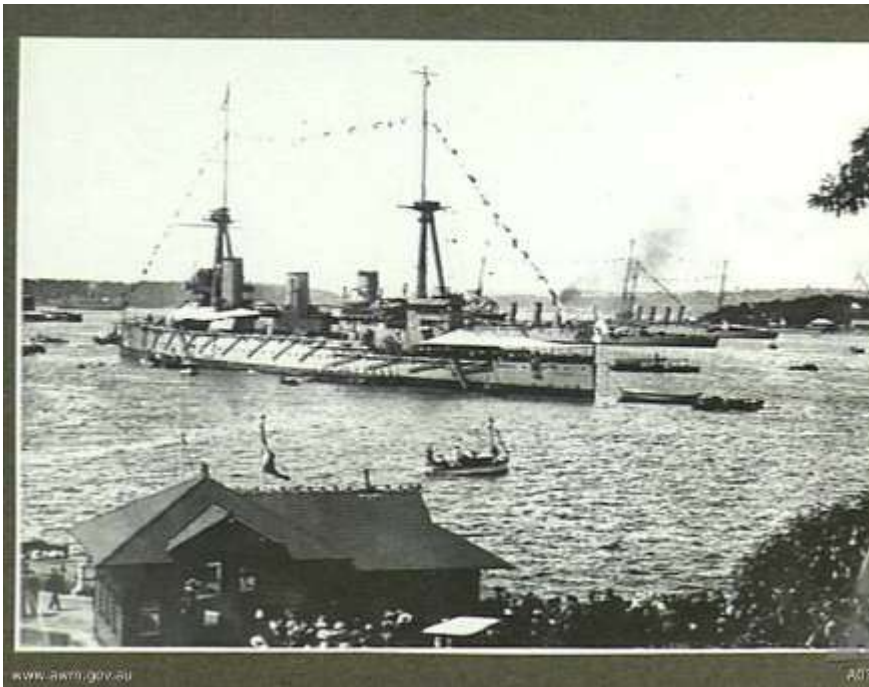
In September 2012 Defence provided an update on the circumstances surrounding the defect which occurred on one of the propulsion transformers in HMAS Choules in June 2012. This updates that advice. [More.....](#)

### **BRINGING AWARENESS TO INVISIBLE WOUNDS**

A new series of online videos aims to bring more awareness of the mental health issues faced by some of our current and ex-serving members of the Defence Force, following active service. [More.....](#)

### **Chief of Navy honoured by Indonesia**

Australia's ties with Indonesia have been further strengthened with the Australian Chief of Navy receiving one of Indonesia's highest military honours. Vice Admiral Ray Griggs travelled to Jakarta for the ceremony where he was presented with the Indonesian Navy Meritorious Service Star. [More.....](#)



The official welcome to the new units of the Royal Australian Navy

Less than a year later the country was at war.

As the dates of these two significant anniversaries described above draw closer, more information concerning the nature of the ceremonies to mark the occasions will be published. They should be worth attending by those who have the opportunity to do so.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

#### VALE

† RADM W.J. Rourke, AO, RAN (RETD) passed away 15 November 2012 at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.

† CDRE H.P. (Paul) Berger LVO RAN Rtd., passed away 14th November 2012.

† CMDR Rosalind Rose RAN Rtd., (nee Keysell), passed away on 5th Nov 2012.

† Ex POME Reg COLDWELL R94902, found deceased at his residence on 30th Oct 2012. Age 63.

*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:

763

#### **Spanish Armada Ship Cantabria to deploy to Australia in 2013**

Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN, has signed the project arrangement between the Australian and Spanish Navies for the deployment to Australia of the Spanish Armada Ship, SPS Cantabria from mid-February until November 2013. The Cantabria deployment is a unique opportunity for both Navies and will strengthen the bilateral relationship between Spain and Australia. [More....](#)

#### **Chief of Navy – LHD Piracy story**

On Tuesday 6 November 2012, The Australian newspaper published an article (Warship's 12,000 mile detour gives high-seas pirates a wide berth). The article claimed that the Australian Navy had declined to provide a security escort for the Heavy Lift ship Blue Marlin transporting the RAN's new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ship through the Gulf of Aden. This is incorrect. [More....](#)

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

**NCCV November Newsletter 'Rogue's Yarn'**

**Navy League of Australia - Victorian Chapter - [November 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.**