



Newsletter

Navy Victoria Network

October 2012

Volume 2 Edition 10

Editorial

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

What a time for Navy! New ships on the horizon, Chief of Navy visits Melbourne and an abundance of opportunities for the Navy Community in Victoria to get involved. We all like the home life and in some instance we may feel that there is no time for other stuff. Think again, we all have a keen interest in things Navy and there will always be an event or opportunity to demonstrate that our contribution was also worthwhile. Of particular importance is the need for us to support those Aussies who are in the Navy today.

This month we had the chance to attend the Seafarers Church Service, not everyone's cup of tea, but nonetheless one of those activities that brings together current serving sailors, ex-service men and women, current and passed Merchant Navy sailors, Australian Naval Cadets and a host of Melburnians who also hold a strong interest in maritime activities. The Seafarers Church Service was attended by The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC Governor of Victoria, Chief of Navy – Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN and the Commanding Officer, HMAS CERBERUS - Captain Katherine Richards. Along with trooping the White Ensign, there were a dozen National Flags representing the Head of Consulates present.

Following the Seafarers Church Service was the Navy Week Wreath Laying Service in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Chief of Navy and the Commanding Officer, HMAS CERBERUS attended. They were accompanied by Getting Division, RAN Recruit School and 20 plus Australian

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)



02-06th Nov – HMAS Parramatta (IV) and HMAS Warramunga (II) will be visiting Melbourne. Both ships will be open to visitors on Saturday 3rd between 1000 and 1600. The Navy Band rock and jazz groups will be playing throughout the day to keep you entertained.

11th Nov – Remembrance Day.

14th Nov – RAN Concert Band Soundwaves at HMAS Cerberus.

18th Nov – HMAS GOORANGAI Memorial Service at the Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff.

19th Nov – HMAS Sydney II wreath laying service in the Sanctuary of the Shrine.

22nd Nov – Recruit School Graduation Parade.

23rd Nov – HMAS Castlemaine wreath laying service in the Sanctuary of the Shrine.

24th Nov – TINGIRA Australia Association luncheon on the SS South Steyne, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW.

26th Nov – Naval Historical Society end of year get together – Waverley RSL.

27th Nov – On this day in 1941 - HMAS PARRAMATTA sunk in the Mediterranean by U559.

30th Nov – Cerberus divisions.

01st Dec – On this day in 1942 - HMAS ARMIDALE sunk by Japanese forces.

Naval Cadets. There were six WWII Veterans representing those who attended the first service in 1963.

It seems the current Chief of Navy has visited Victoria more times than all of his predecessors over the past decade or more. This should be an incentive for us to persuade our friends to also engage. How about trying to recruit one person to register with NavyVIC and we will help to convince them to participation in some small way over the ensuring year.

Looking forward to November, there are activities of some significance that might heighten our interest, such as Remembrance Day on Sunday, 11th November. The Governor of Victoria will be attending a service at the Shrine of Remembrance and all serving or ex-servicemen and women, their descendants or friends are welcome to attend.

The HMAS SYDNEY Association will also conduct a wreath laying service on Monday, 19th November at 1100 and I am sure they would welcome others to their service as well.

The HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service will be conducted at Queenscliff on Sunday, 18th November. A short march will commence at around 1115 from the RSL Hall to the Ocean View Reserve where the service will commence at 1130. The purpose of this service is to commemorate the loss of GOORANGAI on 20th November 1940, the first surface warship lost by the RAN. All hands were lost. The Queenscliff Port Lonsdale RSL are of great assistance by providing a lunch afterwards at the moderate cost of \$20 per person. This is a very important occasion and a social activity afterwards that brings old and young together in a manner we can all enjoy.

Another event of note for the upper deck and Warrant Officers is the Mess dinner planned for Friday, 16th November at Melbourne University. Contact eric.mushins@defence.gov.au asap.

Arrival of the CANBERRA hull in Port Phillip Bay recently was a marvel. The vessel carrying the hull, Blue Marlin is currently anchored just off the main shipping channel into Geelong. Securing arrangements are being removed to enable the hull to be floated off the Blue Marlin before being towed to Dog Town for completion. Williamstown will be abuzz again, building

Latest News



Royal Australian Navy celebrates with International Fleet Review

The 2013 International Fleet Review was launched today in Sydney by Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC. From 3–11 October 2013 the International Fleet Review will offer a spectacular program of naval events to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet arrival in Sydney Harbour on 4 October 1913.

[More.....](#)

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

Gender equality in Defence takes another step forward

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, and Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, have released Defence's implementation plan for the removal of gender restrictions from Australian Defence Force (ADF) combat roles.

[More.....](#)

VETERANS HELPING EACH OTHER LEADS TO BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

Australia's veterans are a diverse group of men and women, linked by their service to this country. Similarly their health needs, particularly as they age, are also diverse. One thing we do know is that by reducing social isolation – spending time with mates or making some new ones – can do wonders for anyone's mental and physical health. [More.....](#)

NCCV Newsletter 'Roque's Yarn'

Sydney (IV) Shines in Fleet Review

HMAS Sydney (IV) has proudly represented Australia at one of the most significant ceremonial events in Japan's calendar, the triennial Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) International Fleet Review (IFR), on October 14. [More.....](#)

and creating new ships is just the best work and an inspiration to those that take part in such a venture.

We should also be reminded that next year is the centennial of the first Naval College starting at Osborne House, Geelong. There is a small team of dedicated people working out of Osborne House who are working frantically to organise a series of events to highlight the occasion. We need to put aside some time to join in the fun – keep a look out for the dates in March as they will be published soon.

If you are involved in a Ship, Category, or Unit Association, how about considering adding a page into the NavyVIC website. We have 9 participants at the moment and there are many more who could take advantage of this incredible offer. The page can list your office bearers and any contact numbers or better still email addresses so others can make contact. If you happen to have your own page, then let's see a link from the NavyVIC website to your website. Next and vital is for critical dates to be added to our calendar. This is critical as it can be used to guide all Associations as they plan their special event. It is hard enough to get people along to activities requiring Champions to work tirelessly to pull them together, let's avoid clashes where people have to choose.

We also wish the HMAS WARRAMUNGA Association well as they prepare for their Melbourne Cup weekend of activities whilst the Warship WARRAMUNGA is in Melbourne town. No doubt everyone is aware that you can nominate to tour the ship whilst it is in town, this was promulgated earlier on the website and through distribution by the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria. Again, see the website, but be quick as the cut-off date is Friday, 26th October – unless you sweet talk the Co-ordinator Captain David Garnock CSC RAN Rtd (ddgarnock@bigpond.com).

In conclusion, you may not appreciate that there are three separate entities at work trying to make a difference and build up the Navy Community in Victoria, these are: 1 Communications – Navy Victoria Network Website, 2 Funding & Administrative Support – Melbourne Naval Centre, and 3 the assembly of Representatives of Associations – Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria. These three entities are working together to cover all bases with the enterprise on

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

On The Record: Chief of Navy – Reporting on HMAS Tobruk and Choules

On 14 October 2012 there were articles in News Limited newspapers and online with headlines such as “Any Port in a Storm, repairs keep Navy workhorses tied up” (Sunday Mail) and “Broken down HMAS Tobruk, HMAS Choules limit navy’s emergency response” (Herald Sun online). Some of the information contained in these articles was inaccurate and misleading. [More.....](#)

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN’S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Approximately 120 Naval National Servicemen attended the Annual Service at HMAS CERBERUS along with friends and relatives. [More.....](#)

HMA SHIPS BALIKPAPAN, BETANO AND WEWAK DECOMMISSIONING MEMORABILIA

In December this year will mark the departure of three of the grandest ladies in the Fleet. HMAS WEWAK will decommission on Tue 11 Dec at HMAS CAIRNS after 39 years of dedicated service. On the following day HMA Ships BALIKPAPAN and BETANO will decommission at HMAS COONAWARRA after 38 years of loyal service to the RAN and 41 years service to the ADF. [More.....](#)

LIFTING OF GENDER RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICER AND SAILOR EMPLOYMENT IN NAVY DIVING ROLES

Today the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Force, signed the implementation plan for the removal of all gender restrictions within Defence. [More.....](#)

consolidating the drive and incentive across the wider Navy Community. As you know, this will only work if we all take a hand in developing our future. *8 Bells, a change of watch is upon us – time to muster!!*

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

Offloading of LHD01 [CANBERRA]



Blue Marlin is presently anchored about 2 miles off Port Arlington and they intend to off load Canberra not far from there, but more in the middle of the bay in 23 meters of water which will leave about 1.5 meters below Blue Marlin's hull during the off loading. The operation of submerging the Blue Marlin and off load will take about 8-12 hours, weather dependant. This should happen this Friday 26th or Saturday 27th all being well. The Canberra will then be towed to Williamstown and will pass Frankston in the normal shipping channel. If we hear any more we will advise.

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: 753

You and Your Prostate

has been produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to assist members of the veteran community to gain a better understanding of the complex issues and management options relating to prostate disease. [View Booklet.....](#)

What's in a NAME?

Thirty-five officers and sailors from HMAS Ballarat (II) (CMDR Jonathan Earley) recently made the 12 hour bus trip to the City of Ballarat to reinvigorate ties with the City and support the ship's charity, United Way. [More.....](#)

DARWIN

The war had been over for a year. Service men and women were still being repatriated. Those who had served in the north of Australia had, for the most part, returned to the eastern and southern states..... Eric Dancey arrived in Darwin in 1950 with the Navy. He has written a story about the Darwin episode and created a painting from impressions he gained of Darwin and its community and hearing the stories of locals and how they felt about the war. The painting now hangs in the Box Hill RSL.

[Read the story & view the painting.....](#)

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.