



BROADSIDE

February 2020

Volume 10 Edition 2

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1134

What's going on you ask? Plenty was the stern reply!

In early 2011, the Navy Victoria Network was formed and our website [http://navyvic.net/](http://navyvic.net) was launched soon after to help keep the ex-Navy community informed about what was happening in naval circles across Victoria. In May 2011 we produced our first newsletter and in 2018, to keep up with the changing world, a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/navyvictoria/> was added as a way to spread the message.

This newsletter is now sent to over 1100 subscribers and some of our articles on Facebook have been read (and liked) by hundreds more individuals than that. The small group of volunteers who try to produce an interesting 'read' for our subscribers each month sometimes wonder whether it's worth it, particularly when inspiration proves hard to find. However, there's always a month like the next 30 days to keep the enthusiasm bubbling. In other words, there's plenty happening!

Most importantly, the Navy is coming to Victoria over the weekend of 28th February – 1st March with three ships and a submarine conducting a port visit to Melbourne and another ship visiting



Portland. One of our most capable major fleet units, HMAS Hobart, will be open to the public on Sunday at South Wharf (Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne).

HMAS Hobart (III) is the first of three ships of the

Events Calendar

(see [Diary of Events](#) for full details)

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21-23 Feb – ADF Careers Expo, Exhibition Centre

23 Feb – Geelong Grammar Concert, combined band

27 Feb-02 Mar – HMAS Collins visits Melbourne

28 Feb-02 Mar – HMAS Hobart, Canberra & Sirius visits Melbourne

28 Feb-02 Mar – HMAS Arunta visits Portland

29 Feb – HMAS Perth & USS Houston service, Shrine

07 Mar – Wooden Boats Festival, Geelong

08 Mar – HMAS Yarra service, Newport

09 Mar – Inverloch Jazz Festival, RAN Jazz band.

17 Mar – Creswell Oration

18 Mar – Soundwaves concert, Cerberus

27 Mar – Recruit School graduation

29 Mar – RAN Band concert, Mooroolbark

07 Apr – HMAS Vampire Service

Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

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VIDEOS.....

- Defence Force Recruiting National Submarine Tour

Hobart Class guided missile destroyers commissioned on 23 September 2017. *Hobart* provides air defence for accompanying ships in addition to land forces and infrastructure in coastal areas, and for self-protection against missiles and aircraft. *Hobart* is conducting its maiden visit to Melbourne and is well worth a look.

On request, organised tours on Sunday morning for ex-Navy Associations can be arranged (Point of contact is naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com) and the ship will be open to the public in the afternoon. As this is likely to be a very popular attraction, you won't be able to just turn up on Sunday and expect to walk up the gangway. Tickets (free of charge) can be arranged via Navy's Facebook page. Just keep an eye out for details at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/RoyalAustralianNavy/events/>.

While not open to the public, you will still be able to view the impressive sights of HMA ships *Canberra* and *Sirius* and submarine *Collins* at their berths in



Port Melbourne. For those of you who haven't seen a Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) up close, at 231 metres long and 27,000 tonnes, *Canberra* is an impressive sight. She and her sister ship HMAS *Adelaide* provide the Australian Defence Force with one of the most capable and sophisticated air-land-sea amphibious deployment systems in the world, not to mention their capability during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief missions.



And for those of you who are in the south west of the State that weekend, HMAS *Arunta* is visiting Portland. HMAS *Arunta* (II) is the second of eight Anzac class frigates capable of air defence, surface and undersea warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance

and interdiction.

- *ADF bonds with Mallacoota community forged by fire*
- *Policy, Guns and Money: The role of gender advisers in the ADF*
- *ADF Continued Support under Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST*
- *Salute to Australia 2020 - HMAS Canberra*

NEWS.....

In a demonstration of maritime combat power, four Royal Australian Navy warships formed off Australia's East Coast to conduct a tactical transit in the opening stages of Fleet Certification Period 2020 (FCP20).

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds has used the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Hanoi to expand on Australia's vision for 2020 defence engagement.

Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Chris Stanford has called for greater public debate about the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy, citing the tactical and strategic advantages for the Navy as well as highlighting the opportunity for greater allied interoperability.

Assistant Defence Minister, the Hon Alex Hawke MP today announced in Sydney the combined Australian Defence Force, Returned Services League and Veteran Sport Australia team that will represent Australia at the 2020 Invictus Games.

With continued concerns regarding the multibillion-dollar Attack Class submarine program raising further questions about the program, could buying a foreign-built, modified "off-the-shelf" design enable Australia to build the fleet it needs to ensure national security while supporting the naval shipbuilding plan?

USS Arizona survivor Donald Stratton, a sailor who survived the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor with serious burns but returned to the war and later devoted his years to honoring the terrible sacrifice of his shipmates, died in his sleep on Saturday, he was 97.

On the commemorative front, there is also a lot to talk about. On Monday 10th February, a ceremony was held at the Shrine of Remembrance to remember the tragic loss of HMAS *Voyager* in 1964. The event was arranged by the

Scrap Iron Flotilla Association in conjunction with the Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria (NCCV). The address was delivered by the Senior Naval Officer – Victoria, CDRE Greg Yorke CSC RAN. It was wonderful that four HMAS *Voyager* survivors were able to attend the service this year.



(L to R) POME Don BARKER, WO Peter DUSTING, AB Terry HARPER and WO Raymond "Pedro" RICH, OAM BEM.



Looking ahead, the NCCV encourages as many readers as possible to attend a service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 29th February to commemorate the Battle of the Sunda Strait. On the night of 28 February – 1 March 1942, the

Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth* and the American heavy cruiser USS *Houston* faced a major Imperial Japanese Navy task force. After a fierce battle of several hours duration, both Allied ships were sunk. Five Japanese ships were also sunk.

Other important naval events on the horizon include:

- 08 Mar 20 Loss of HMAS *Yarra* service - The Strand, Newport
- 17 Mar 20 Creswell Oration (CDRE Chris Smith CSM, Director General Littoral) at William Angliss TAFE Institute Restaurant (flyer on the NVN website)
- 27 Mar 20 Scrap Iron Flotilla Lunch (book at scrapironflotilla@gmail.com)

Four warships left Sydney today to begin the sea phase of the Royal Australian Navy's first major exercise for the year, Fleet Certification Period 2020 (FCP20).

Major redevelopment works are about to commence at HMAS Watson, Navy's principal warfare and navigation training establishment.

The US Navy has taken delivery of the future Independence-class littoral combat ship USS Kansas City (LCS 22) at the Austal USA's shipyard in Mobile, Alabama.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will be able to locate and help more veterans under a plan to include a new question in the 2021 Census.

More than \$825,000 in community grants for grass-roots programs to improve the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families around Australia were today announced.

Sovereign control over the Attack Class Submarine fleet and maximising Australian industry involvement throughout all phases of the Attack Class Submarine Program are contracted objectives in the Strategic Partnering Agreement between Defence and Naval Group.

Director General of Major Surface Ships Commodore Rob Elliott recently paid a visit to HMAS Anzac to check on the progress of the latest Anzac Class frigate to undergo its Anzac Midlife Capability Assurance Program (AMCAP) at Henderson Shipyard, Western Australia.

Shaping strategic policy in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting and related navigational safety is the focus of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting, held in Wollongong from 12-14 February 2020.

The stunning growth of the Chinese fleet over the past decade has prompted the U.S. Navy to plan a full-on buying spree of ship-killing missiles over the next five years, according to projections in the sea

Naval Heroes:

With the Battle of the Sunda Strait the key commemorative event in coming days, it is only fitting that we add Captain 'Hec' Waller to our library of Naval Heroes. Hec Waller was the Commanding Officer when HMAS *Perth* was sunk in the early hours of 1 March 1942. He received his third mention in despatches posthumously for his performance as *Perth's* captain during the engagement.



Waller on the bridge of HMAS *Stuart* in 1940

Hector Macdonald Laws (Hec) Waller, DSO & Bar (4 April 1900 – 1 March 1942). His career spanned almost thirty years, including service in both world wars. At the helm of the flotilla leader HMAS *Stuart* in the Mediterranean from 1939 to 1941, he won recognition as a skilful ship's captain and flotilla commander. He then transferred to the South West Pacific as captain of the light cruiser HMAS *Perth*, and went down with his ship against heavy odds during the Battle of Sunda Strait in early 1942. Born in Benalla, Victoria, Waller entered the Royal Australian Naval College at the age of thirteen. After graduating, he served with the Royal Navy in the closing stages of World War I. Between the wars, he specialised in communications and was

posted as signals officer to several British and Australian warships. Waller was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, and twice mentioned in despatches, for his achievements in the Mediterranean. He assumed command of HMAS *Perth* in October 1941, taking part in the Battle of the Java Sea shortly before his final action in Sunda Strait. The submarine HMAS *Waller* is named in his honour. His full story can be found at <http://navyvic.net/heroes/waller.html>

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.



- † CPOWTR G. Jackson, 08 February 2020.
- † B.B. Batchelor, 03 February 2020. Aged 75.
- † POMTH3 B. Donnelly, 27 January 2020.
- † LSMTP3 L.G. Hope, 25 January 2020.
- † CPOCOX P. Salmon, 24 January 2020.
- † R.J. Owens, R54803, 21 January 2020. Aged 79.
- † POQMG K. Gilham, 16 January 2020.

Lest We Forget

service's Fiscal Year 2021 budget documents.

The unveiling of a plaque in the heart of Mallacoota will become a strong symbol of the close bond between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and local community forged during the devastating 2019-2020 bushfires.

HMAS Toowoomba and her ship's company of around 190 personnel have arrived in Bahrain and commenced operations in the Middle East under Operation MANITOU on 31 January.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday hosted Chief of Royal Australian Navy Vice Adm. Michael Noonan for a formal counterpart visit, Feb. 6-7. During the two-day visit that included a full honors ceremony and discussions between the Australian delegation and senior U.S. Navy leadership, the two leaders focused on expanding and strengthening maritime security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Friends and family of more than 200 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel about to deploy to the Middle East said their goodbyes during a parade at Robertson Barracks in Darwin.

Programs supporting younger at-risk veterans and veterans transitioning to civilian employment are set to expand to hundreds more people as part of a significant funding boost from the Morrison Government.

A powerful, new independent body will be created to investigate all suspected veteran and Australian Defence Force (ADF) suicides and causes to help save lives.

A group of young Australians were given the VIP treatment recently when they participated in the National Submarine Competition Tour and Immersion Experience at Fleet Base West. The competition, which was open to people aged between the ages of

Note: VALE Notices

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 would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.



RSL Foundation Bushfire Relief Grant Application

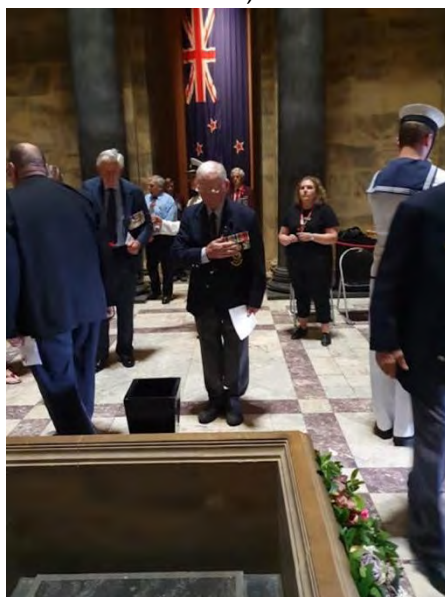
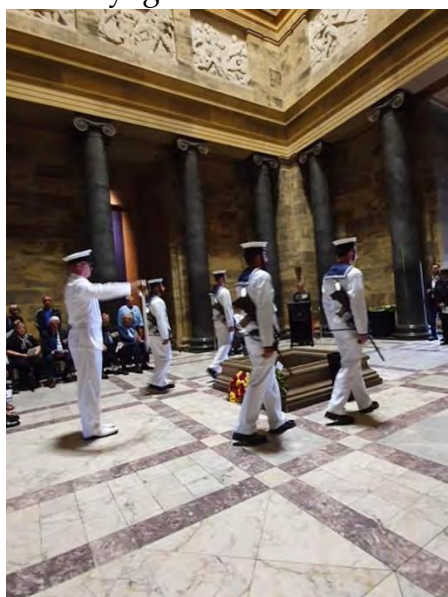
Were you affected by the recent bushfires in eastern Australia?

Veterans impacted by the recent catastrophic bushfires may be eligible for relief funding of up to \$10,000 from the RSL Foundation to go

towards rebuilding or replacing their possessions. Full details at

<https://rslqld.org/rsl-bushfire-relief>

The Voyager Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.



The U.S. Navy destroyer Fitzgerald, which was badly damaged in a 2017 collision off Japan that claimed the lives of seven sailors, is underway for its first significant at-sea time since arriving at Ingalls Shipbuilding two years ago.

Austal's shipyards and service centers in Australia have been approved to bid for and provide support services, including ship repairs, maintenance and sustainment activity for US Navy and Military Sealift Command (MSC) ships.

The Australian Government is deeply grateful to Indonesia for their commitment to send over 30 military engineers to support Australia's bushfire response.

The Royal Australian Navy Anzac-Class frigate HMAS Parramatta today departed Fleet Base East in Sydney for a four-month deployment to South East Asia.

En route to Operation MANITOU in the Middle East region, HMAS Toowoomba took advantage of a logistics stop in Mumbai to play a cricket match against the Cricket Club of India (CCI) on Australia Day.

The U.S. Navy is desperately trying to get away from shooting down anti-ship missiles with other missiles, and the carrier Gerald R. Ford could prove useful in the pursuit of alternatives.

Royal Marines raided the Arctic coastline and secured a vital landing point for supply lines working alongside a Norwegian stealth missile ship.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's National Press Club address on Wednesday foreshadowed a major role for the Australian Defence Force in responding to natural disasters.

The 14,000th young Australian to embark in Sailing Training Ship Young Endeavour has completed his 11-day voyage aboard the square-rigged tall ship.

The POW Service held at the Australian ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat.



Medals that have been lost or damaged in the fires across Australia may be replaced under the Defence Honours and Awards Replacement Medal Policy. Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel, Darren Chester said while there was a long road ahead for communities recovering from the bushfires, replacing lost medals was a small step towards recovery.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is continuing support to State and Territory agencies and local communities under Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20.

When the U.S. Navy's littoral combat ship Montgomery on Saturday skirted a disputed island in the South China Sea, Beijing scrambled two armed fighter-bomber jets and "expelled it" from the area, the state-run media reported.

British F-35B Lightning jets have flown from the decks of HMS Queen Elizabeth in UK waters, the first time fighter jets have operated from a British carrier in home waters in a decade.

Defence can confirm that the fire currently burning in the Orroral Valley in the Namadgi National Park was likely caused by a landing light from an Army MRH-90 helicopter, while the aircraft was on the ground.

The Australian Government is deeply grateful for the ongoing support of the United States to Australia's bushfire response.

Naval Historical Society [President's Musings February.....](#)

Navy League (Vic/Tas) [February Newsletter.....](#)

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

Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for more news articles not included in this newsletter.