



Newsletter

Navy Victoria Network

November 2011

Volume 1 Edition 7

Editorial

Welcome to the Navy Victoria Network newsletter for November 2011.

The end of 2011 marks the end not only of the Royal Australian Navy's centenary year but also the end of the initial year of operation of the NVN website. The NVN Team which initiated and established this 'information highway' is pleased to note that already we have nearly 650 registered readers and the feedback we are getting indicates that interest is continuing to grow.

Many readers joined and served in the days when Navy was the 'Silent Service'. It was almost a matter of pride that this was the case. The Service kept to itself, dealt with all manner of matters affecting its operations and administration without fanfare or publicity, and pursued its professional tasks and responsibilities quietly, effectively and often with a minimum of communication. But those days are long since gone and the communications explosion of the second half of the 20th century has comprehensively changed the nature of Navy life. Among the many benefits which have flowed from this change is the capacity now available to us to be kept well informed about what is going on in the Service. Being able to keep aware of developments, administrative changes, and general news of what is happening in the Navy today is something most ex-Navy men, women and families can enjoy today much more easily than they could in the past.

NVN's aim is to facilitate this capacity to keep interested people better informed. We encourage current users and visitors to the web-site to make it known to others and also to give us feedback if they feel they can offer constructive criticism or suggestions.

Calendar Events

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14&15th December – PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE VICTORIA CROSS INQUIRY

The Hearings will be run by the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal and held at The Mercure, 13 Spring St Melbourne on 14 & 15 December. See News below for full details.

Latest News

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

Senate Passes Bill To Ensure Rightful Compensation For British Nuclear Testing Participants

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, welcomed the passage of legislation overnight that improves access for Australian veterans to compensation and health care for exposure to radiation during the British nuclear tests of the 1950s and 1960s. [More.....](#)

Scuttlebutt 2011-1.
[Open the video.....](#)

These are early days: we hope in the coming years to expand the site to provide a service which will be enjoyed and appreciated by the whole 'Navy family' in Victoria.

There has been some publicity of late regarding hearings to investigate whether certain personnel who served the nation in uniform in past conflicts should be considered for the award of the Victoria Cross. Among these are several RAN officers and sailors. Hearings are scheduled to be held in Melbourne on 14 and 15 December. Full details are on the website.

A Happy Christmas to all from the NVN Team.



A magnificent model (*built from scratch*) of HMAS Vendetta by renowned model maker Max Montague.

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.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE VICTORIA CROSS INQUIRY

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, today announced that public hearings will be held around Australia as part of the Victoria Cross Inquiry.

Following the nationwide call for submissions in April this year, the hearings will be another opportunity for the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to receive evidence... [More.....](#)

AUSTRALIA'S greatest Naval disaster

— the sinking of the HMAS Sydney — was remembered at Ballarat's Urquhart Park Primary school yesterday. Grade 6 pupil and school captain Laura Benney was researching the November 1941 sinking as part of a class assignment, when she wrote to the HMAS Sydney Veteran's Association for more information.

[More.....](#)

[See the WINTV News Video.](#)

HMAS LEEUWIN: The Story of the RAN's Junior Recruits.

By Rear Admiral Brian Adams AO, RAN (rtd)

Over nearly 25 years, between January 1960 and December 1984, approximately 13,000 15 and 16 year old boys joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) as junior recruits — a group the size of our current Navy workforce. [Read the full story.....](#)

Navy response to media reporting on patrol boat capability

The Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AM, CSC, RAN says reports on the state of morale among Navy's patrol boat crews on border protection operations are incorrect.

[More.....](#)

There is a lot more news on the website.