



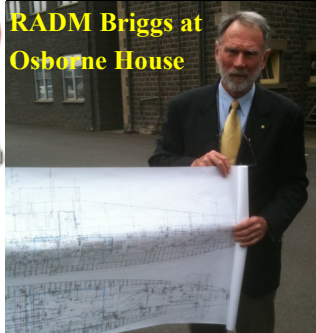
# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### The Silent ANZAC

**RADM Briggs at Osborne House**



← RADM Peter Briggs AO CSC RAN Rtd, AE2 Commemorative Foundation Ltd Chair holding the once 'secret' plan of the AE2. Peter was explaining how the Foundation had organised a mock up of the conning tower and part of the hull structure beneath. The mock up enabled a camera system, with specially designed lighting

and a remote operated vehicle to be tested. This test was to prove that the camera could be manoeuvred into the hull through the partially opened conning tower hatch. → The DSTO scientist with the camera assembly he developed. All of the apparatus, camera and hull came together at St Helens, Geelong during the week 9 - 13 December when the mocked up hull structure was lowered into Corio Bay.



#### DIARY NOTES

**Next NCCV meeting**  
**1030 11th February at**  
**Melb Naval Centre.**  
All Associations are  
encourage to be  
represented!

**Services at the Shrine**  
**of Remembrance**  
*[Everyone is most*  
*welcome to attend any*  
*service at the Shrine]*

**Monthly**  
**Remembrance**  
**Service**  
**19JAN14@1100**  
**Sanctuary**

**Australia Day**  
**Council 26JAN14**  
**@1400 in the**  
**Western Gallery**



← Left are the three hull modules built to assist prove the method of entry. These fit end to end to form a single 9 metre long section. Below the conning tower ↓ module, which was lowered onto the hull to complete the structure. RAN Diving Team 6 proved the entry method. They assembled a working platform on the hull, around the conning

tower structure. The divers then lowered the camera into the hull via the partially opened hatch. Proving the procedure was imperative in preparation of the actual dive on the AE2 mid 2014. That will be 100 years since the AE2 was scuttled after disrupting the Turkish Navy during the early landing at Gallipoli. The purpose of the project is to gather vision of the original AE2, laying in 11 metres of water in the Dardanelles. An ANZAC Centenary project, seeking archaeological data to emphasise the role of the Silent ANZAC to all generations, now and in the future. An important aspect of the project is protecting the AE2 with



cathodic protection and placing a navigation buoy to mark the site. ← Captain Roger Turner RN Rtd explains to the assembled folk the various aspects of the mock up. Attending were descendants; John Thomson relative of Leading Signaller Albert Thomson and Mrs Lowe granddaughter of CERA Gibson, both crew members were Geelong boys.



# President's Report



## Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Author's thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available.

## Melbourne Naval Centre

MNC is an organization that has provided much needed funds to Ship Associations over many decades. In need of financial or administrative support, contact the MNC.

## Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Navy Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. An opportunity not to be missed - Log on!



As year 2013 draws to a close we have much to be thankful for. We may be critical of some things, but now is the time to take stock of what has occurred and score our success. The primary objectives have been to increase the interest in the flagship activities and to increase membership of our Ship/Unit/Branch Associations. Whilst we may have increased attendance at flagship activities a little, membership remains static. No doubt as we set course in 2014 we need to continue our pursuit of new members. As this will be the first year of our ANZAC Centenary it may be a catalyst for creating some interest across our Navy family. There is limited interest in joining institutions and this is difficult to overcome, the formula for success has eluded us, but we will not give up! Initially, everyone should show their support by joining the Navy Victoria Network website.

We acknowledge the great support we received from Captain Kath Richards RAN, CO HMAS CERBERUS. Kath has been posted to the top staff course in Canberra and takes up this posting early in the new year. Our Annual General Meeting was conducted on Tuesday, 10DEC. I thank members who attended the AGM for their confidence as we continue into 2014. May I also thank my fellow office bearers for their support during 2013. Chris Le Marshall has stood down as V/Pres due to work commitments and I thank him for his great support. I appreciate the ongoing support of Marty, Chris and Jan. We also welcome Pete Johnston, HMAS PERTH Assoc to the committee as Jnr V/Pres. On behalf of the Executive Committee, have a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

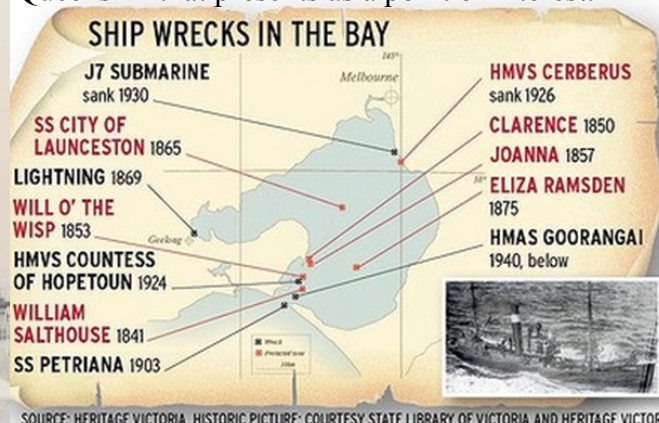
## HMAS VOYAGER

10 February 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS VOYAGER. This will be a solemn occasion as we reflect on this tragic loss where 82 of the Ship's Company lost their lives. The introduction of Rogers Division at the RAN Recruit School is a fitting reminder of the acts of courage that occurred at the time of this loss. ↓ VOYAGER was a Daring Class Destroyer. British design and a classy warship admired by all.



## Wrecks in the Bay

There are plenty of reasons to consider what has happened to those vessels that have sunk in Port Phillip Bay. The loss of HMAS GOORANGAI takes us to the map below indicating the several ship wrecks dotted around the Bay. Like many of the artifacts located in Victoria, these are not well known by our Navy Family, nor are they marked by interpretive signs near their resting place. At least GOORANGAI has a memorial cairn at Queensliff that presents as a point of interest.



## Shades of Grey

If you didn't think the Navy is different these days then wait until you see a Warship in Melbourne. Whilst they don't often berth in Melbourne, if and when they do arrive you may notice they are a different shade of grey! Since the fleet arrival on the 4th October 1913 the ships side have been painted 'Storm Grey'. When the opportunity arises our Warships will be painted 'Haze Grey'. After a century of being painted 'Storm Grey', our Warships may well look like the US Navy. Most things are that way inclined, so why not change the ships side grey. Interesting to read the many reasons for the change. We might be forgiven for thinking this change is a consequence of a Chief of Navy who is forward thinking and gets things done for the betterment of the Royal Australian Navy and the Country. No doubt we will all look forward to seeing the new grey in the not too distant future in Melbourne.

## Yarra Citation

A reminder that HMAS YARRA (IV) is to be awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry on 4MAR14. The crew of HMAS YARRA (II) showed *extraordinary gallantry in action off Singapore on the 5th of February 1942 and in the Indian Ocean on the 4th of March 1942*. When confronted by a greatly superior Japanese force, HMAS YARRA (II) turned towards the enemy and was sunk in action, trying to protect the convoy she was escorting. Register your interest at [Navy.Events@defence.gov.au](mailto:Navy.Events@defence.gov.au).



## Hail - Farewell

We in the Navy fraternity welcome Captain Stephen Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Naval Officer Victoria. Captain Bowater took command on Wednesday, 11DEC13. Commander Bowater is one of the Royal Australian Navy's pre-eminent exponents of Anti-Submarine Warfare. He single-handedly assured the validity of Australia's Anti-Submarine Warfare tactics by completely revising doctrine and training. Displaying outstanding leadership, commitment, dedication and passion for Anti-Submarine Warfare, he has personally trained and inspired a generation of Anti-Submarine Warfare officers and sailors. He has directly contributed to the Royal Australian Navy's combat efficiency and its international reputation for excellence.

Captain Bowater joined the Navy at 15 years of age in 1976 as a Junior Recruit. He was commissioned in 1993 after achieving the rank of CPO. He soon had his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate and then graduated as a Principal Warfare Officer. After several successful years he was promoted again and posted as Fleet ASW and EW Officer. In this role he was awarded a CDF Commendation. In 2004 he was posted to ADELAIDE as the Executive Officer. He was soon promoted to CMDR and posted to the Australian Command and Staff Course. In late 2007 Captain Bowater joined Navy Headquarters as the Director of Naval Warfare Professional Requirements. In January 2008 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for outstanding service in the Field of Operations. His successful career then

resulted in taking command of HMAS ARUNTA. We will now have the privilege of working with Captain Bowater in Victoria as he shifts here after a stint as the Junior Officers Poster and then as Director of Maritime Operations with Navy Strategic Command. During his career Captain Bowater has worked to achieve a Bachelor Degree and two Masters Degrees. Not bad for a JR trying to make a dollar, the down side is he barracks for Richmond! Welcome aboard.

The sad aspect of change of command is that we lose a friend and close ally in Captain Kath Richards. It has been a privilege to have Captain Richards deliver the address at our flagship commemorative services. Her delivery is unique and very personal with an ability to move and uplift those present. We in the Navy fraternity wish Kath all the very best as she undertakes the Senior Officers Staff Course. We will all watch with great anticipation as Kath enjoys an active and fulsome career over the years to come. Will most probably the first woman Engineer Admiral and justifiably so!



We have enjoyed a fantastic two years with Captain Richards at the helm and we look forward to the next two years with Captain Bowater. We acknowledge the positive effort and support from the Executive Officer Commander Michael Oborn also, thank you!

## ANZAC Centenary

The list of ANZAC Centenary projects continues to grow as information comes to hand about intentions during 2014 through to 2018. Navy's immediate challenge is to make something significant out of those events that occurred in 1914, such as Bitu Paka. We have virtually lost sight of this important occasion, the first expeditionary force when Navy worked alongside Army. This force was sent to secure the radio station at Bitu Baka near Rabaul, German New Guinea. This became the Battle of Bitu Paka and resulted in New Guinea becoming an Australian protectorate. It also left the German Fleet operating in the Pacific without their primary communications network at hand. It was during this battle that the first casualty of the war occurred, that was Able Seaman Billy Williams, from Northcote, Melbourne. Billy was also an ex-City of Melbourne employee. Do you know of any descendants who were part of the Bitu Paka expeditionary force? If yes, please email NCCV. Set aside 11SEP14 for the service at the Shrine of Remembrance.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



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## *Items of special interest*

**Moran Division is no more.** The graduation parade of the final Moran Division occurred on Thursday, 28NOV13. This was a poignant moment for those that had joined a Moran Division in years gone by. At the parade was a group of past Moran graduates celebrating their 50th anniversary of joining the RAN. They were fortunate to have their Divisional Officer also attend, RADM R.A.K Walls OA RAN Rtd. Amongst this group was WO Marty Grogan OAM, who organised the occasion.

**HMAS WESTRALIA Service.** A commemorative service for HMAS WESTRALIA was held on Sunday, 15DEC13. This is likely to be the final service arranged by the association as they intend to disband on ANZAC Day next year. A sad occasion and a clear example of how we have failed to bring new players forward to support the legacy of WWII, later conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

**Battle of Cape Gloucester.** The US Ambassador, John Berry made a special visit to Melbourne to meet and chat to four of our WWII Veterans. The purpose was to learn more about the Australian experience by those associated with the Battle of Cape Gloucester. The Ambassador, accompanied by the

US Consul General Mary Warlick spoke to Norm Tame (with Julie), Roy Stephens (with Lorna), Norrie McKelvie (son Warren) and Alan Hooley. The Ambassador made a presentation to each of our veterans, in the War Room, Victoria Barracks.

**WRANS and Communicators Ball.** We have our fingers crossed for the ex-WRANS and Communicators as they discuss the prospect of holding a ball next year. Keep your eye open for news!

**Annual General Meeting.** The NCCV AGM was held on Tuesday, 10DEC13 and all office bearers were elected. The list above notes those that have shown a strong interest in keeping the committee on track. The only way we can add value is for individual Associations to be members and have a voice on how we might be sustainable.

**First Shot.** There is some interest in discovering if the first shot fired at the commencement of WWI can be found. Whilst this may be more of a PR exercise, it has certainly generated some interest in Melbourne, as the first shot was fired on 5AUG14 from Point Nepean across the bow of German freighter SS Pfalz as it attempted to escape from Port Phillip Bay.