Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division
October 2018
NEWSLETTER

“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”
Editors: Lynda Gilbert & Ken Crook

Contents

YOUR COMMITTEE .........................................................................................................................2
NAVY WEEK ......................................................................................................................................2
HMAS CHOULES SHIP VISIT .......................................................................................................3
WHAT HAPPENED TO AE1? .......................................................................................................6
NUSHIP BRISBANE .....................................................................................................................8
HMAS WATERHEN .....................................................................................................................9
RAN FACEBOOK PAGE .............................................................................................................10
SHRINE REPORT .......................................................................................................................12
DISCOVER THE SHRINE ..........................................................................................................16
YOUR COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting was held on 9 September 2018. The following were re-elected to the Executive Committee. Congratulations to all those for their commitment to the organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>LCDR Roger Blythman RFD</td>
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<td>Hon Vice Presidents</td>
<td>LCDR John Bird RNR LM</td>
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<td>CDRE Malcolm Baird RAN</td>
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<td>Senior Vice President</td>
<td>CMDR Graeme Furlonger RANR</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mr Ray Gill JP</td>
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<td>Hon Secretary</td>
<td>Ms Lynda Gilbert</td>
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<td>Hon Treasurer</td>
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<td>Naval Historian</td>
<td>CMDR John Wilkins OAM</td>
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<td>Ships Visits/YC Events</td>
<td>CMDR Graeme Furlonger RANR</td>
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<td>Web, Facebook, Newsletter</td>
<td>Lynda Gilbert &amp; Ken Crook</td>
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<td>Events Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Ms Jane Teasdale</td>
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<td>Graphics Design Consultant</td>
<td>Allan Paull OAM</td>
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<td>Executive Member</td>
<td>LCDR Jeff Paull</td>
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<td>Shrine Liaison</td>
<td>Mr Ken Crook</td>
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<td>Ex-Naval Orgs Liaison</td>
<td>Mr Ray Gill JP</td>
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NAVY WEEK

Please note the following dates in your diary:

- **Friday 19th October**: Arrival of the HMAS Warramunga
- **Friday 19th October**: Dedication of the Creswell plaque 1100, Brighton Cemetery
- **Saturday 20th October**: Seminar ANZAC House
- **Saturday 20th October**: Royal Yacht Club of Victoria; Geoffrey Evans Yacht Race, Presentation at 1600
- **Sunday 21st October**: Seafarers Church Service, St Paul’s Cathedral at 1030 111th Service, commemorating the end of WWI
- **Friday 26th October**: Golf Tournament, Mornington
- **Friday 1 March 2019**: Creswell Oration
- **Saturday 2 March 2019**: Lonsdale Cup Yacht Race
HMAS CHOULES SHIP VISIT

Photo LEUT Ryan Zerbe

HMAS CHOULES came to Melbourne on Friday 28 September. Choules’ crew of more than 150 sailors and soldiers spent the weekend in Melbourne for some leave and hosted the public open day on Sunday 30th September. Ticket sales were fully subscribed on Eventbrite and additional tours were organised for people who just turned up on the day.

Some of us were lucky enough to visit the ship on Saturday and it was a wonderful experience. It was very clean and well maintained. Everyone was proud of what they were doing. We spoke to a number of naval officers and gained a lot of insight as to what their life was like on the ship.

The ship was built for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. It is fully automated and relies on computers to find her way. Until you are on the bridge, you have no idea as to how high it is above sea level. The views it commanded were breathtaking – the city, Westgate Bridge and the open sea all within a 360-degree radius.

The photos I took below don’t really give any idea of the vast size of the ship which is built to carry army vehicles, army troops and helicopters.
Executive Committee members at the gangway to HMAS Choules, Station Pier, Port Melbourne - Left to Right – Ken Crook, CMDR Graeme Furlonger RANR, Senior Vice President; LCDR Roger Blythman President RFD RANR, Frank McCarthy Honorary Vice-President.

Five flights of stairs to the Bridge
View from the Bridge looking towards the stern of the ship, Station Pier

Member Tim Ryan and daughter on the Bridge.
WHAT HAPPENED TO AE1?

Death came in an instant for the doomed men aboard HMAS AE1.

When the hull of Australia’s first E-class submarine finally groaned and gave way, all 35 brave sons, fathers and brothers were engaged in a fight to keep the vessel from spiralling into the deep gloom of the Pacific.

Experts who have carefully examined the wreckage on the sea floor say, in the end, they would not have felt a thing.

Exactly what happened to AE1, 104 years ago today, had remained a mystery until its discovery last year off the coast of the Duke of York island group in Papua New Guinea.

It marked the most significant find in Australian maritime history and offered closure to ancestors who had longed for answers.

Now, an analysis of the site of the most significant find in Australian maritime history can now offer the crew’s descendants some long-sought answers.

A team led by Victorian Retired Rear Admiral Peter Briggs has established the crew died instantly, at an unknown depth, when the forward pressure hull imploded.

Rear Admiral Briggs said: “It was a high-energy event, like a truck bomb going off in the control room. They would have known they were in trouble, but they would not have even seen it coming.”

Investigators believe AE1 was hunting a German steamer and had both of its torpedo tubes open and ready to launch an attack. But photographs of the site have revealed that a critical ventilation valve in the hull was partially open. This opening would have allowed water to flood the engine room, which may have resulted in a loss of control.

Why it was open may never be known.

The submarine continued its fatal dive until it struck the sea bed stern first at a shallow angle, breaking off the skeg and rudder. The hull then pitched forward, breaking AE1’s back and possibly snapping off all four hydroplane guards.
“When you look at the photographs you can see it,” Peter Briggs said. “The implosion area over the forward torpedo compartment and a whole stretch back to the aft end of the fin, the controlling area, is all collapsed. “The pressure wave had blown off the engine room hatch,” he said. “Going over it with the drop camera, there was a sense that we were looking at the grave of 35 submariners.”

The most technologically advanced submarine of its time, AE1 had joined the naval forces assigned to the capture of the German Pacific colonies at the outbreak of WWI.

Chief engine room artificer Joseph Wilson was among the British members of the crew. He left six children to grapple with a lifetime of questions. Grandson Ian Wilson, an English expatriate, said his father had rarely spoken about his grandfather, but had eventually decided to shift his family to Australia.

“He was looking for answers,” Mr Wilson said. “He never knew what happened and desperately wanted to. “I often wondered, did my grandfather suffer?”

“When I found out what happened, it was a big relief. Water went in that fast they didn’t know what hit them.”

![The HMAS AE1 submarine on an ocean bed near York Island. Picture: ADF](aaron.langmaid@news.com.au Friday 14 Sept 2018)
Excitement builds for Brisbane crew

SGT Max Bree

THE crew of NUSHIP Brisbane took control of most departments during their delivery voyage from the shipyards of Adelaide to their new home port of Sydney on September 10. A composite crew of Navy, Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance and Tee Kay Shipping merchant mariners took the ship on her five-day journey.

CO Brisbane CMDR Josh Wilson said his sailors mostly crewed the ship, with civilian workers on hand to assist.

“We were basically running the ship, for all intents and purposes,” CMDR Wilson said. “Because we’re transitioning to care and custody for Navy, it was an opportunity for the ship’s company to establish their working routines ahead of commissioning.”

“It’s got incredible manoeuvrability and placement in the water; it’s a pleasure to drive. Plus it’s a comfortable ship to live in.

“The crew are really enjoying the opportunity to get to know the new systems and opportunities the latest technology brings.

“Being in a new warship is interesting and exciting; they’re all tagging each other in the media hits we’ve been getting.”

CMDR Wilson said he was most excited about Brisbane’s warfighting abilities.

“The combat system is just an incredible leap forward in capability and ability to interact across the ADF,” he said.

“Plus it handles like an absolute dream.”

Brisbane is due to commission on October 27 and will then take on more crew.

“We have enough crew to drive the ship. Once we’re commissioned we need to continue the process of training additional crew,” CMDR Wilson said.

“We’ll be working with NUSHIP Sydney’s crew when they begin their training next year. We really benefited by training on board HMAS Hobart to gain a better awareness of damage control and overall systems knowledge.

“The effort and lessons learned in Hobart have paid an increased dividend for us. We want to do that for Sydney.”

Photo courtesy of Commonwealth of Australia

Navy News 20 September 2018 P2
Three decades ago there was debate about whether or not the small establishment of HMAS Waterhen was surplus to Defence requirements.

It was decided that it would provide continued service and be a key component to Navy’s future. Today Waterhen provides support, training and a variety of services to Defence and other federal bodies. On any given day you will find a mix of assets from Mine Warfare, Clearance Diving, Hydrographic, Meteorological and Patrol Force, Surface Force or Defence Maritime Services (DMS), and maybe visiting ships involved in border protection duties.

Looking beyond tomorrow, Navy is building a highly focussed and specialised Waterhen to complement its current standing as the centre of excellence for mine warfare training.

“We are all working to provide even better support to deployable assets such as Australian Clearance Diving Team One, Australian Mine Warfare Team 16 (AUSMWT 16) and Deployable Geospatial Survey Team (DGST).

“Units supported by Shore Force from Waterhen such as AUSMWT 16 and DGST are critical to reaching the aims of Plan Pelorus,” said LCDR Hellier. “These units are introducing new exciting capabilities in Rapid Environmental Assessment and all the units in Waterhen have a big part to play in supporting these capabilities.”
He's real! 816 Squadron's final flight over Loch Ness in Scotland caught the attention of one large local...

Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Dechaineux leads HMAS Waller and HMAS Sheean Collins-class submarines in formation 🇦🇺🌊⚓️🦈
During his visit to Singapore, Chief of Navy Australia, Vice Admiral (VADM) Michael Noonan, has held talks with Singapore’s Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen. Dr Ng and VADM Noonan reaffirmed the long-standing bilateral defence relations and the good progress made in deepening the relationship between the two navies, such as through the upcoming naval exercises, Exercise KAKADU and SINGAROO. They also discussed both countries continued efforts towards enhancing bilateral cooperation in regional maritime security.

HMAS Adelaide's MRH-90 helicopters, Aircraft 029, and Aircraft 045, are secured for sea in the hangar after a successful day of operations. Image by ABET Christopher Szumlanski.
Services

Totally & Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women's Association of Victoria 2018

Wednesday 10 October 2018, 10:30am

Wreath Laying in the Visitor's Centre

Shrine Representatives:
Shrine Life Governor Colonel George Mackenzie OBE RFD
Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM

Shrine Monthly Memorial Service

Thursday 11 October, 11.30am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates:
31 October 1917 – Battle of Beersheba
1 October 1918 – Capture of Damascus
23 October 1942 – Battle of El Alamein
3-8 October 1951 – Battles of Maryang San & Kowang San

RAN Recruits October 2018

Sunday 14 October 2018, 10:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives:
Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM
Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Chris Le Marshall
HMAS Lismore

Friday 19 October, 11am
Wreath Laying at Memorial Tree F01

HMAS Lismore was a Bathurst Class minesweeper commissioned in 1941 and served during the Second World War and decommissioned in 1946. In October 2007 a plaque dedicated to HMAS Lismore was unveiled at the Shrine for the inaugural annual service held to honour those who served on her. The HMAS Lismore Association will be supported by students and staff of Berwick Primary School, as participants in the Shrine’s Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation program. This partnership fosters relationships and enables schools to carry on the legacy of their chosen Association.

Remembering the Armistice of Mudros

Wednesday 31 October, 11.45am
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

The cessation of hostilities between the Ottoman Empire and the Allied powers took place at noon on 31 October 1918. Negotiations and the signing of the armistice occurred aboard the Royal Navy warship HMS Agamemnon anchored in Mudros Bay, Lemnos. A special centenary talk will precede this service (full details below).
Talks and Events

Bomber Command to Resistance

Wednesday 10 October, midday
Auditorium

Join Melbourne author, actor and broadcaster Michael Veitch and discover the extraordinary story of young Australian airman Barney Greatrex. Shot down during his 20th mission over occupied France and rescued by the resistance, Barney seized the opportunity to continue fighting.

Sydney Welsh Choir

Friday 19 October, midday
Education Courtyard

Enjoy a lunchtime performance by the Sydney Welsh Choir. This special concert in the lead up to the centenary of the Armistice of the First World War will feature wartime favourites, Welsh classics and songs of peace.

Centenary of the Armistice of Mudros

Wednesday 31 October, 10.30am
Auditorium

Mark the centenary of the Armistice of Mudros with historian Jim Claven as he discusses the agreement which ended the fighting between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire across the eastern Mediterranean. This talk will be followed by a service in the Sanctuary.
Meet the Artists: Flowers of War

Thursday 1 November, midday
Auditorium

Meet the artists behind the special centenary of Armistice exhibition, Flowers of War. In conversation with the Shrine's Director Access and Learning, Jean McAuslan, hear how this beautiful centenary of Armistice floral wreath project, comprising of hundreds of enamelled floral emblems, developed.

Exhibitions

Flowers of War

Opening 22 October 2018
East Gallery

The appearance of cornflowers and poppies on battlefields at the end of the First World War symbolised for many the fragility of life and the hope of rebirth. This large sculptural steel wreath draws on stories of the First World War from local community archives and museums and considers the many ways people reflect upon the past.

Bookings required for talks and events. Cost $5.
Website: http://www.shrine.org.au Telephone 9661 8100.
DISCOVER THE SHRINE

Ex-servicewomen’s memorial garden and cairn

This memorial, designed by Katherine Rekaris, Landscape Architect, is dedicated to 70,000 Australian ex-servicewomen who have served from the Boer War to 1985, when the Women’s Services were amalgamated.

This Cairn was unveiled by Nancy Wake in November 1985 as part of the celebration of the State of Victoria. Nancy was awarded the George Medal, Croix de Guerre with two palms and bar; USA medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm, Medaille de la Resistance and Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

As you walk towards the memorial, a casual semicircle of South African jacarandas represents the Boer War, the first war in which Australian women served. During November, at the time of the Ex-Servicewomen’s Association’s annual service, jacaranda trees flower profusely with blossoms on bare branches – the slightest breeze causes petals to flutter down, leaving a striking mauve carpet on the ground.

Within the jacarandas’ casual circle, in a clearing where an imperceptibly graded lawn mound creates a place for the cairn at its crest, there are three free-form garden beds that swirl around the historic
cairn. These gardens of flowers hold beautiful arrangements of small, white concrete, violet-shaped pavers among the wildflowers.

The use of the violet as a flower of remembrance began in 1915 to commemorate the fallen heroes of war. The violet was a symbol of modesty, sweetness and faithfulness and was chosen by an Australian woman as a symbol to signify the sorrow of the Australian community during World War I.

This abstracted garden of perpetual concrete flowers is stronger than a garden of real flowers could ever be. The repeated use of an identical form at a large scale allows the visitor to get a real sense of how these women suffered a united fate. Here, they are symbolically buried and their united experience continues as the memorial stones weather and age. Every concrete violet represents two hundred women: 350 violets, seventy thousand women.

The white concrete flowers are shaped like violets, a symbol of remembrance.

The repetitiveness of these units on the ground gives a sobering sense of the scale of their sacrifice. These memorial flowers weather, hold water briefly after rain and are becoming more and more a part of this garden over time. Stark within their bed of Dichondra, native Viola hederacea and Dianella caerulea Cassa Blue, and laid out in grid formations, they are reminiscent, even from a great distance, of the tiny white crosses of military cemeteries all over the world.

When it is not jacaranda season, the memorial flowers are amplified by coloured drifts of bulbs and native wildflowers that spring up, organic in form, beneath the trees in this woodland setting.

The closely cropped, mown path contrasts with the rougher lawn beyond the trees and defines the walk beneath the jacarandas and the domain of the ex-servicewomen’s garden. A nearby bench allows visitors to stop and spend some time within the memorial.

Rekaris made this memorial as a mark of unity, remembrance, sorrow and honour. “I wanted it to honour the women in a very beautiful and feminine way; a way which distinguished the memorial from the other very masculine ones on the reserve.”

https://architectureau.com/articles/ex-servicewomens-memorial-garden-and-cairn/