



The Navy League of Australia

South Australia Division

A.C.N. 008 451 063

PATRON: His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION NEWSLETTER - Issue 3 - Sep 2019

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HMAS Melbourne III Farewell Tour Prior to De-Commissioning October 2019



*HMAS Melbourne fires a Standard Missile 2 from its Guided Missile Launching System during RIMPAC 2018.
(ref RAN)*

HMAS Melbourne was commissioned in 1992 and has sailed more than 780,000 nautical miles throughout her service life. The 138-metre-long Adelaide Class frigate deployed on operations to the Middle East eight times and earned Battle Honours for service in Timor-Leste, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. Most recently *Melbourne* completed a four-month deployment through north Asia, including conducting international maritime surveillance operations to enforce sanctions against North Korea.

Following farewell visits in August to **Hobart & Devonport, Tasmania, PORT LINCOLN (South Australia)** was the next port-of-call on HMAS Melbourne III's final itinerary. The last of the six Adelaide Class frigates *Melbourne* berthed in Port Lincoln from 30 Aug for a 3-day weekend visit, en route to Adelaide. This was HMAS Melbourne's first & last visit to Port Lincoln and certainly a great success. LCDR Nancy Le Grand represented the CO Navy HQ-SA (CMDR Andrew Burnett) in Port Lincoln to welcome HMAS Melbourne.

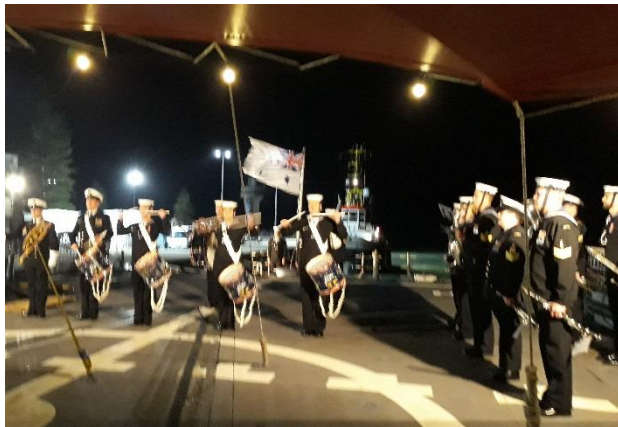
Commanding Officer Commander Marcus Buttler said the visit to Port Lincoln would be bittersweet as it marked another step towards Melbourne's decommissioning. The Navy shares a common thread with Port Lincoln through the local Australian Navy Cadet Unit **TS FLINDERS** and gave the Cadets an opportunity to explore the last of the Adelaide Class frigates. The Navy is also linked with South Australia, through decades of shipbuilding. Commander Buttler said "This includes constructing and maintaining our current submarine fleet, building three new Air Warfare Destroyers and producing Australia's first Hunter Class frigates and Offshore Patrol Vessels in the near future".

ARRIVAL INTO PORT OF ADELAIDE (Outer Harbour) 05 Sep to Tue 10 Sep 2019

A warm welcome with blue skies and sunshine awaited the arrival of HMAS Melbourne III into the Port of Adelaide (Outer Harbour) where CMDR Mark Buttler met with His Excellency the Honourable Hue Van Le, AC, Governor of South Australia & CMDR Andrew Burnett ADC, RAN – Commanding Officer Navy HQ SA.

Naval Association of South Australia hosted a lively reception on the Ship's first evening in port, at the historic Port Adelaide Naval Association of SA Club rooms.

The following day of the Cocktail Party & Sunset Ceremony aboard HMAS Melbourne, brought a massive change in weather conditions as we all braved strong wind gusts and rain on deck!!! Ship's Company prepared a magnificent cocktail party and even raced out and hired outdoor heaters for everyone. As usual, the Beat To Quarters & Sunset Ceremony was an absolute treat – despite the weather & no sunset!



Brrr....Beating Retreat/Sunset Ceremony Adelaide



Commanding Officer CMDR Marcus Buttler

Whilst there was no “Freedom of Entry” in Adelaide, nor an open day for visitors, HMAS Melbourne invited so many private tour groups – including HMAS Adelaide Association & Navy League of Australia – South Australia Division – and were fantastic company. We missed them when HMAS Melbourne sailed!

HMAS Melbourne III then headed to Melbourne for her very special “Freedom of Entry” and farewell to her namesake city. Then for the last time, HMAS Melbourne sailed into her home port, flying her decommissioning pennant after 27 years of service to the Royal Australian Navy.



Ref: Photo 1 - LEUT Ryan Zerbe (author), LSIS Kieran Dempsey (photographer)

Ref: Photo 2 - LEUT Ryan Zerbe (author), LSIS Tom Gibson (photographer), LSIS Kieran Dempsey (photographer), LCPL Brodie Cross (photographer), LACW Jacqueline Forrester (photographer) 27 Sep 2019

Sad to see that last of the *ADELAIDE* class frigates. BZ to all who have sailed aboard these ships.

ADELAIDE CLASS FRIGATES 1980 - 2019

Pennant	Ship	Builder	Commissioned	Decommissioned	Status/Fate
FFG 01	HMAS ADELAIDE	Todd Pacific Shipyards Seattle, USA	15 NOV 1980	19 JAN 2008	13 APR 2011 Scuttled as Dive wreck, North Avoca Beach NSW <i>MAST STILL WAITING TO BE ERECTED TERRIGAL NSW (refer Diana Hill)</i>
FFG 02	HMAS CANBERRA		21 MAR 1981	12 NOV 2005	04 OCT 2009 Scuttled as Dive Site at Ocean Grove, Victoria
FFG 03	HMAS SYDNEY		29 JAN 1983	07 NOV 2015	Broken up at Henderson WA
FFG 04	HMAS DARWIN		21 JUL 1984	09 DEC 2017	Possible dive site NE Tasmania
FFG 05	HMAS MELBOURNE	AMECON Williamstown, Victoria	15 FEB 1992	26 OCT 2019	Possible sale to Chilean Navy
FFG 06	HMAS NEWCASTLE		11 DEC 1993	30 JUN 2019	Possible sale to Chilean Navy

The Royal Australian Navy's war fighting capability will be enhanced when all 3 Air Warfare Destroyers, equipped with the Aegis combat system, are in service. Based on the Spanish Navantia F100 frigate, they have been constructed at Osborne Naval Shipyard, South Australia.

HMAS HOBART III - commissioned on 23 SEP 2017 aka *"The Green Ghost"*



HMAS *Hobart* (III) has become the first Hobart class Guided Missile Destroyer to fire a missile in Australian waters, firing an SM-2 Standard Missile in the East Australian Exercise Area against an unmanned target during trials off the coast of New South Wales, achieving excellent results.

(ref: Published on August 20, 2019 by LEUT Ryan Zerbe (author), LSIS Christopher Szumlanski (photographer))

HMAS BRISBANE III – commissioned on 15 DEC 2016 aka “Steel Cat”

After farewelling family and friends in Sydney, HMAS Brisbane commenced a long Pacific Ocean transit to the United States.



FNS Vendemiaire's Boarding Team and HMAS Brisbane's Boarding Team on completion of a boarding exercise.
Ref: LEUT Ryan Zerbe (author), ABML-S Sittichai Sakonpoonpol (photographer), ABEW Cameron Paniagua (photographer), FNS Photographer (photographer)

HMAS *Brisbane* (III) has used the Pacific Ocean transit to rendezvous with the French Marine Nationale warship FNS *Vendemiaire*, for joint training. The Australian Guided Missile Destroyer and French Light Patrol Frigate met in the waters of Noumea, New Caledonia where *Vendemiaire* is based.

The crews practised “Officer of the Watch” manoeuvres, flying serials with *Vendemiaire*’s Alouette helicopter and boarding party training, with a number of French personnel also stepping aboard Navy’s newest warship for a tour. While in Noumea, *Brisbane* also hosted Brigadier General Frank Barrera, Commander of the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia and other senior military personnel on board.

Brisbane’s Commanding Officer, Commander Josh Wilson, found the opportunity to work with the French very rewarding: “It was a great experience to be able to work with such a professional and motivated ship. This inter-action is important in strengthening the relationship between our two nations and ensuring our regional stability. The long-standing presence of the Marine Nationale in New Caledonia makes France an important Pacific neighbour and ally in the region,” Commander Wilson said.

Leading Seaman Communication Information Systems Brad Harricks said it was great to be able to see how another navy operates: “I really enjoyed being able to cross deck on to a French warship and the hospitality they showed us” Leading Seaman Harricks said. “Working with the Marine Nationale and experiencing a different culture is important in building our inter-operability with other Navies.”

HMAS *Brisbane* commissioned in late 2018 and will spend the rest of this year in the United States proving her weapons systems with a series of live firings. On arrival in San Diego *Brisbane* received a warm welcome – including being invited to meet the SAN DIEGO POLICE – the welcome was friendly!!!

NUSHIP SYDNEY (HMAS SYDNEY V) SEA TRIALS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

September 2019



Alliance General Manager, Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance, Paul Evans (third from left); Director General Naval Construction Branch, CDRE Steve Tiffen (centre); Captain Nick Woods MN (fifth from left); Commanding Officer NUSHIP Sydney, CMDR Edward Seymour (sixth from left); with NUSHIP Sydney crew and AWD Warrant Officer's team on board NUSHIP Sydney before she enters Sea Acceptance Trials, Osborne, SA.

As NUSHIP Sydney cast off for her final period of Builders Sea Trials this week, it marked the first time that all three Hobart Class Destroyers have been at sea or deployed at the same time.

This is a significant milestone for the Royal Australian Navy and the Air Warfare Destroyer program.

Spread across two weeks in the St Vincent Gulf, South Australia, Sydney's trials involved a comprehensive suite of tests designed to push the limit of the newly built platform.

Ref: SBLT Justin Csucsy (author), Simon Casson (photographer)

NAVY HERO AWARDED FOR BRAVERY IN 1969



Commanding Officer Navy Headquarters - South Australia, Commander Andrew Burnett ADC RAN, presents Mr Lew Farkas, former RAN Sailor, the US Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. August 2019.

A former Royal Australian Navy sailor, who has been awarded for his bravery in the aftermath of a tragic accident 50 years ago, will never forget the fear he experienced that fateful morning.

Able Seaman Radar Plotter Lew Farkas was on board HMAS Melbourne (II) in the early hours of 3 June 1969 when the USS Frank E Evans collided with the Royal Australian Navy aircraft carrier, after crossing her bow in the South China Sea. The US destroyer was cut in half and sank, resulting in the loss of 74 US sailors.

"I don't remember how I even got on to the *Evans* as it all happened very quickly, but I do remember being scared witless going below decks in the dark looking for survivors," Mr Farkas said. "The forward half of *Evans* had already sunk and the after half was slowly starting to sink, but was still afloat, so we only had minutes to try and help the sailors left on board, who were either injured or in shock.

"I went below looking for anyone left behind - the lower deck was already under water. I couldn't see a thing, so as I was wading through the water I didn't know if things floating into me were bodies or what.

"I went as far as I could go and called out for anyone, but no-one answered so I got out of there as quickly as I could. After the search the *Evans* was allowed to sink."

In recognition of his quick and courageous actions, Mr Farkas, of Mannum, east of Adelaide, was last month awarded a US Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal at Navy Headquarters - South Australia.

Commanding Officer of Navy Headquarters - South Australia, Commander Andrew Burnett said he was thrilled to be part of the special occasion. "It was an honour to present the award to Mr Farkas, which he earned half a century ago. "His incredible story of bravery was in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy," Commander Burnett said. Mr Farkas was among 18 former Royal Australian Navy officers and sailors to be awarded US medals for their actions following the collision. **LEST WE FORGET**

NAVAL ASSOCIATION SA - BITA PAKA WWI COMMEMORATION

To commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the victory at Bitu Paka in WW1 over German-held territory, a commemoration reception was held in the Combined Services Mess, ANZAC House, Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide on Wednesday 11 September 2019. Representatives from RAN, RAAF & RAR attended, along with SA Police, Navy League of Australia – *South Australia* Division, HMAS Adelaide Association, WRANS and other service representatives. **LEST WE FORGET**

COMING UP.....

- **NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – *South Australia* Division** – AGM 14 October 2019

- **EPIC FLIGHT CENTENARY 1919 – 2019**

Walk inside the Vimy hangar, Adelaide Airport from 11am – 2pm Sunday 20 October 2019

visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/vickers-vimy-centenary-event-tickets-70240991697?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

- **RAAF EDINBURGH AIR SHOW- "VIMY TO FIFTH GENERATION IN 100 YEARS"**

9 & 10 November, 2019 <https://southaustralia.com/products/Adelaide/event/Edinburgh-air-show-2019>

- **NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CANBERRA** 25 - 26 October 2019

- **LEGACY REMEMBRANCE WALK – ADELAIDE** Friday 08 November 2019. 7:30 AM START
Show support for our Veterans & Their families;

Join His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le, AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of Legacy SA & Broken Hill, as he officially starts the 1.5 km walk from the Torrens Parade Ground around the Anzac Memorial Walk, finishing with a light BBQ breakfast & an exhibition showcasing Legacy's history through our Legacy families. **Start and finish at the Torrens Parade Ground, Victoria Drive Adelaide.**

Contact Phone: (08) 8231 9812 Email: events@legacyadelaide.org.au Website: LegacyAdelaide.com.au

- **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE - 16 NOV 2019**
11:00am Christ Church, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, followed by light luncheon. (Please see attached flyer)

Kind regards from the South Australian Navy League Team,

Diana

To join Navy League of Australia – *South Australia please email The Secretary or President for a membership application. Annual fee \$35.00 per person.



Christ Church, North Adelaide

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY TRADITIONAL ANNUAL COMMEMMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2019 at 11:00 am

CHRIST CHURCH,
Jeffcott Street, North, Adelaide

The Commanding Officer (CMDR Andrew Burnett ADC RAN) Navy Headquarters South Australia has advised Navy League of Australia – South Australia of the above commemorative service. Each year the Navy recognises the ongoing commitment of sailors and officers of the Royal Australian Navy.

Navy-HQ SA will be incorporating an Honours List in the Orders of Service. The Honours List is a dedication to all South Australian Navy and ex-Naval personnel who have passed away since our last Commemorative Church Service.

If you have anyone from South Australia to add to the Honours List, who has passed away since 6th Oct 2018, please advise me (diana.adelaide@bigpond.com) by 30th October to pass to Navy HQ-SA. This is a very special naval service including some of our South Australian Navy Cadets who do us proud. Please join us.

