



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 4 – Oct/Nov 2020

Hon. President: Diana Hill diana.adelaide@bigpond.com Mobile: 0421-799-149

Hon Secretary: Jean Gill Tel (08) 8272-6435 Email: jeangill2@bigpond.com

PO Box 3008 Unley SA 5061

website: <https://navyleague.org.au/>

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020



The Naval Ode

They have no grave but the cruel sea
No flowers lay at their head
A rusting hulk is their tombstone
A'fast on the ocean bed.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We WILL remember them.

LEST WE FORGET



On 12 May 1943 the 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur* sailed unescorted from Sydney at 0945 hours carrying her crew and normal staff, as well as stores and equipment of the 2/12th Field Ambulance but no patients.

It was sunk without warning by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine on 14 May 1943 at approximately 0400 hours, its position being approximately 27°17' S, 153°58' E about 50 miles east north-east of Brisbane.

Of the 332 persons on board, only 64 survived. These survivors spent 35 hours on rafts before being rescued. Sister Ellen Savage, the only one of twelve nursing sisters on board to survive, though injured herself, gave great help to the other survivors and was awarded the George Medal for this work.

NOTE: The *Centaur* Hospital Ship, was a motor passenger ship converted in early 1943 for use as a hospital ship. In November 1941 it had rescued survivors of the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* after it had sunk and been sunk by HMAS *Sydney*.

BRAVO ZULU ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY & ADF PERSONNEL FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT AGAINST COVID-19



Fighting the spread together

LSIS Craig Walton (author), PTE Dustin Anderson (photographer)

Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to Victoria in support of the Victorian Government's push to stop the spread of COVID-19 are working collaboratively with many other health agencies.



Back to where it all began

FLTLT Courtney Jay (author), PTE Olivia Cameron (photographer)

Midshipman Madeline Moroney is a Maritime Logistics Officer Trainee, who, with just two weeks left of her initial employment training at HMAS *Cerberus*, finds herself supporting Operation COVID-19 ASSIST in her hometown region of Goulburn Valley in Victoria.



Quarantine seen from both sides

LCDR John Thompson (author), LSIS Jarrod Mulvihill (photographer)

Petty Officer Maritime Logistics - Supply Chain Peter Bellas knows more than most about mandatory quarantine - in April he undertook 14 days of mandatory quarantine in a Sydney hotel after returning from Operation MANITOU.



Inland Submariner supporting COVID in Shepparton

FLGOFF Jessica Winnall (author), PTE Dustin Anderson (photographer)

Royal Australian Navy Submariner Petty Officer Marine Technician Gareth James is an instructor at HMAS *Cerberus*, and as a trained Ship's Medical Emergency Team member he immediately volunteered for Operation COVID-19 ASSIST.



Pandemic keeps nursing officer on his toes

CAPT Zoe Griffyn (author), LAC John Solomon (photographer)

Nursing Officer Lieutenant Commander Lee McMahon has had a busy year on the frontline of the COVID-19 response, supporting the Victorian Government and its agencies in the town of Colac as part of his second deployment to Operation COVID-19 ASIST.

LIFE AT SEA EXPERIENCE FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Published on 08 October 2020 LEUT Steph Sackley (author), LEUT Phillip Qin (photographer)



Commanding Officer HMAS Adelaide, Captain Jonathan Ley; Commanding Officer Royal Australia Navy College, Commander David Shirvington; and staff and trainees of New Entry Officers' Course 63 form up in observance of social distancing protocols on the bow of HMAS Adelaide in Jervis Bay, NSW.

Sailing out of Sydney Harbour for the first time, aboard HMAS *Adelaide* with five ships trailing in company, is an experience never to be forgotten. For the 167 trainees currently completing the New Entry Officers' Course 63, it was an opportunity almost missed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, with careful planning between the *Adelaide* Command Team and the Royal Australian Naval College, the Sea Training Deployment was made possible - a dream come true for the Navy's newest officers.

Officer trainees and support staff boarded *Adelaide* and sailed to Eden to undertake ammunitioning in Twofold Bay, before sailing into the East Australian Exercise Areas to assist in HMAS *Sydney*'s Unit Readiness Evaluation. During their nine-day deployment, trainees were exposed to a number of departments on board, including logistics, engineering, aviation, amphibious and executive. It was a chance for trainees to learn about the ship's departments, while garnering knowledge about their primary qualifications and an appreciation for life at sea.

Midshipman Nick Thompson, a future Aviation Warfare Officer, said the flight deck was his favourite area on board. "Watching the embarked aircraft land on the flight deck was a very special moment for me," Midshipman Thompson said. "Being up close and personal with the aircraft during such a dynamic evolution was incredible."

An aspiring Maritime Warfare Officer, Midshipman Nick Nuchanaton had a similarly positive experience. "No matter how busy the ship's company was, the Officers and Sailors did not hesitate to answer all our questions in great detail", Midshipman Nuchanaton said. "They were friendly, very committed to their roles and we all learnt a lot about how a warship functions at sea."

The engineering department was also a popular unit, with many trainees enjoying their experience. Midshipman Jessica Latimer, who is an aspirant Marine Engineering Officer, said it was her favourite tour. "It was interesting to find out how the mechanics of the ship interact to provide capability."

The Sea Training Deployment module consolidates a string of theory components taught at the Royal Australian Naval College in the first eight weeks of New Entry Officer training. Trainees will conduct further training relevant to their Primary Qualifications at the completion of their current training later this year.

For information on careers as an Officer in the Royal Australian Navy go to <https://navy.defencejobs.gov.au>.

NAVY CHANGES OF DIRECTION FROM MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT TO SE ASIA & PACIFIC

Source; foreign affairs reporter Stephen Dziedzic and defence correspondent Andrew Greene Posted 23 Oct 2020

“Three-decades-long Australian naval presence in the Middle East will come to an abrupt end this year as the Federal Government grapples with an increasingly uncertain strategic environment closer to home.

Key points:

- Defence Strategic Update
- It declared the military would focus more on the Indo-Pacific and Australia's immediate region
- China has engaged in a massive naval build-up and is asserting its control over the South China Sea

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds has announced Australia will no longer send a Royal Australian Navy ship to the Middle East every year. The last Australian Navy ship deployed to the region, HMAS Toowoomba, returned to Australia in June this year. Australia will also withdraw from the United States-led naval coalition patrolling the Strait of Hormuz at the end of 2020.

30 years of Australian maritime operations in the Middle East, largely focussed on counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations, will soon come to an end” During this time there have been 68 middle-east deployments commencing with HMAS Adelaide II in 1990 & ending with in 2020 HMAS Toowoomba II.

Operations DAMASK, CATALYST, SLIPPER and MANITOU also included Her Majesty’s Australian Ships Darwin, Success II, Brisbane II, Sydney IV, Westralia II, Melbourne III, ANZAC III, Kanimbla II, Newcastle, Manoora II, Arunta II, Stuart II, Parramatta IV, Ballarat II, Warramunga II, Tobruk II and Perth III.

BRAVO ZULU TO ALL THOSE WHO SAILED

At the Navy League Conference of Australia annual conference in October 2019, CDRE MP Buckley, CSC, RAN – Director General Maritime Operations gave a comprehensive presentation on the Royal Australian Navy’s shift from the Middle East to Operations on the Australian Station and RAN Regional/Extra Regional Commitments, entitled:

‘To provide the right forces at the right time, capable fighting and winning at sea’.

Operation RESOLUTE is the continuing ADF's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. It is the only ADF operation that currently defends the Australian homeland and its assets. The Operation RESOLUTE Area of Operations covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface and includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200nm around the mainland. Christmas, Cocos, Keeling, Norfolk, Heard, Macquarie and Lord Howe Islands also fall within the Operation RESOLUTE boundaries.

Exercise Ocean Explorer held the largest multi-purpose training at sea in 2018, over 3 weeks and working as a cohesive unit with the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Navy and Royal New Zealand Navy off the coast of Eastern Australia.

Exercise La Perouse commenced in the Bay of Bengal for RAN and joined by US Navv, French Navy Carrier Strike Group and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) for an opportunity to develop strong links, work habits and mutual knowledge essential navies operating in the same regions.

There were many more operations and exercises to come during 2019 with RAN, in which the navies of India, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Sri-Lanka, US, New Zealand, United Kingdom & Canada had the opportunity to exercise together. The RAN sailed between Japan to Antarctica, SW Pacific, South China Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian, Southern and Pacific Oceans – and where the new security commitment is now focussed.

NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 23 OCTOBER 2020

Normally in October, Navy League representatives from South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria/Tasmania, New South Wales/ACT and Queensland, together with our New Zealand counterpart, would be meeting in Canberra for their AGM and annual conference. Due to covid-19 restrictions, ZOOM meeting was the order of the day! Our discussions ranged from RAN, ANC, Divisional Reports, Nuclear Propulsion, "The Navy" magazine to the League's future direction and engaging the youth of today.

'The award of the Navy League Perpetual Shield is in recognition of assistance given to the civil community. All Naval ships, establishments and units are eligible. Events deemed 'worthy of recognition' can include anything from a single major rescue/relief operation to a series of contributions such as sustained support by a ship's company for a blood bank or other worthwhile community award' as advised by JD Mead AO, RADM, RAN COMAUSFLT.

Of the three finalists, it was really difficult to separate them. However Navy League of Australia was delighted to accept the recommendation that:

Winner -

HMAS CHOULES be awarded our Perpetual Trophy Community Award 2019/2020.

Amongst the 13 hosted/participated community events, SW Pacific deployment, Noumea, Fiji & Samoa visits and engagement with local communities, Vanuatu for delivery of Cyclone Harold Relief. Then came Operation Bushfire and the entire ship's company of HMAS Choules, under the command of CMDR Ben Reilly RAN, is to be congratulated. The amazing rescue of residents from Mallacoota beach by HMAS Choules was an event we never expected to see. BZ



HMAS Choules (L100) is a **Bay-class landing ship** that served with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) from 2006 to 2011, before being transferred to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). The vessel was built as RFA Largs Bay by Swan Hunter in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. She was named after Largs Bay in Ayrshire, Scotland, and entered service in November 2006.

Builder: Swan Hunter, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear

Name: RFA Largs Bay

Namesake: Largs Bay **Ordered:** 18 December 2000



Runner Up -

808 SQUADRON of 175 personnel for their superb Rescue Relief Assistance during the horror 2019/2020 Australian bushfire operations, supporting HMAS Choules & HMAS Albatross. We congratulate the Squadron for their service, including Charitable support of 'LIFELINE' and many community events.

The MRH-90 helicopter is operated by 808 Squadron



Second Runner Up –

HMAS ALBATROSS for their extensive support and assistance to local emergency services and South Coast community during OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19/20. They looked after civilian firefighters and trucks, firefighters transiting or staying aboard, the staff of the Junior Sailors' mess who worked through Christmas holidays to keep everyone fed. Additionally, 80 Army infantry personnel & engineering plant equipment operators staffing from Albatross as well as firefighters and their aircraft from New Zealand and Canada. Bravo Zulu to many sections of HMAS Albatross who returned from leave to work tirelessly through the crisis.

NAVY LEAGUE - SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION'S PRESENTATION TO PLYMPTON VETERANS



Dean Watson, Immediate Past President and Trustee of the Navy League of Australia (SA Division) handing over a \$10,000 cheque as a donation to Bill Hignett for the Plympton Veterans Centre and Wendy Hill, accompanied by President & Trustee Diana Hill and Vice-President/Treasurer, John Evans. Bill Hignett thanked Dean for “this very generous and unexpected donation which will help the continuation of the vital services provided to ADF veterans and their families in South Australia. Thank you to Deane & Diana & members of the Navy League of Australia (SA Division) for your support.”

Plympton Veterans Centre is located at the rear of Plympton RSL. The ATDP accredited volunteer Compensation and Welfare Advocates are prepared to assist veterans and their families with DVA compensation claims and advising on available welfare agencies, including 48 former Royal Australian Navy personnel.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY 2020 – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Navy League – SA Division were honoured to lay a wreath at the MNA Navigator memorial, being the 80th year WWII was declared and the 75th anniversary of the final Surrender. The memorial is a permanent reminder for all seafarers who sacrificed their lives, so we who are left, can enjoy freedom and peace.

The SA MNA President, Phil Mason conducted the ceremony, with CMDR Alastair Cooper ADC RAN, Commanding Officer NHQ-SA, giving the address. There was an excellent representation, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, no morning tea to mingle afterwards.



Lest We Forget

Make your next career move to SA

RICHARD PRICE



South Australia is bringing together the brightest minds to work on the most technologically advanced Defence projects in our nation's history.

Osborne Naval Shipyard is considered the most advanced naval shipyard in the world, encompassing digital techniques to accommodate \$90bn worth of projects, including the Attack class submarine and Hunter class frigate programs, and the Offshore Patrol Vessel program which is already well under way.

A career in SA's naval shipbuilding industry can span decades, with projects representing 30-plus years of work. There are jobs to design, code and manufacture, and install the combat, radar and other software-intensive systems on these vessels. Our major maritime defence companies are currently looking for skilled specialists, particularly in careers such as engineering (combat systems, systems and structural), design (drafters) and integrated logistics support (ILS).

Beyond naval shipbuilding, SA is fast establishing itself as the nation's hub of information warfare capabilities, bringing other opportunities for highly skilled workers. Work is continuing on the P-8A aircraft, JORN Phase 6 and the Australian Defence Force's surveillance and targeting capabilities, which are supported by unmanned aerial systems, with Edinburgh the ground control station for Triton and Sky Guardian. Demand in this sector for information, surveillance and

reconnaissance (ISR), software, hardware and electronics engineering skill sets is increasing. The emerging cyber security and space industries are also high growth areas for SA. Any doubt about the longevity and national importance of the industry is quashed by the recent Federal Budget, 2020 Defence Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan, which includes \$575bn of Defence funding over the next 10 years, including a \$270bn investment in Defence capability.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has also taught us that the defence industry is highly resilient with the capability to drive the nation's economic recovery. Investment at a Federal level will further strengthen our sovereign capability and support supply chain maturity and growth.

The latest Defence Industry Insights report from Kinexus reveals that defence industry salaries are comparable or in some cases higher in SA when compared with Victoria, NSW and Western Australia; the salary for a combat systems engineer in SA ranges from \$100k up to \$195k (depending on years of experience), compared with \$90k for the other states, with only NSW having a higher top-range of \$200k.

But it's more than just a good career move. Adelaide is 16 per cent more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney, with commuters also spending 20 minutes less time in traffic. Adelaide also has the lowest residential property prices of all Australian mainland capital cities and is consistently ranked in the top 10 most liveable cities in the world. There has never been a better time to consider a defence industry career in SA. Visit findyourplaceSA.com to make your move.

Richard Price is chief executive of Defence SA.

AUSTRALIAN NAVY LEAGUE CADETS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GOOD NEWS - Australian Navy Cadets are back on deck again, following COVID-19 stand down since March.

In South Australia, the Canberra trip for cadets (twice cancelled) now looks possible for April 2020. 24 cadets will be going to Canberra for a week visiting ADFA and the Australian War Memorial.

This month, the SA Navy Cadets will be participating in the ADF Cadet Ball.

South Australia Division looks forward to presenting the NLA-SA Torrens Flotilla Efficiency Shield, at a suitable time, to the most efficient SA Unit. The 2018 winner was TS Adelaide.

Congratulations to Commodore Mark Hill RAN – DGANCR

for his role with the COVID-19 JointTask Force personnel in Victoria, to provide advice on command and coordination arrangements to boost the capacity of Department of Health and Human Services in Victoria. BZ

LEGACY CHARITY WALK ADELAIDE 6 NOV 2020

At 0730, the ribbon was cut by The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC together with Premier, the Honourable Stephen Marshall to commence the 2020 Legacy 1.5km Walk from Torrens Parade Ground, rounding Government House, passing the State War Memorial. Stopping for a wreath laying ceremony at the Dardanelles memorial and finishing back at the parade ground. A small crowd of 200 this year, but well represented by ADF, SA Ambulance, Navy League and thanks to the Babcock team, for providing the welcome sausage sizzle and coffee after the walk.



ADF from Edinburgh SA



Legacy Bears “Adelaide Advertiser”

PO Nicola Welsh and LS Alexandra Forman



To join Navy League of Australia – South Australia Division,
Please go to our website: <https://navyleague.org.au/>
We would be delighted to hear from you.

Diana and the SA Team

