



NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

VIC TAS DIVISION

FEBRUARY 2021

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“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”

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Below: HMAS Sheean named after Teddy Sheean – see page 13

Photo credit - [HMAS Sheean | Royal Australian Navy](#)



YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Victoria Tasmania Division Executive was re-elected uncontested. A new member, Ron Lyon has recently joined us. Ron has taken on the task of marketing and recruitment. No doubt you will be hearing from him shortly. He has lots of great ideas and will be organising future seminars and events. Welcome and thank you Ron! The Executive is as follows:

PRESIDENT

Federal Vice President & President of Vic-Tas Div
LCDR Roger Blythman LLB RFD

HON VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Frank McCarthy

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

CMDR Graeme Furlonger RAN

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Ray Gill JP LM

PAST PRESIDENTS

IPP LCDR John Redman RAN
PP CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD* LM
PP CMDR Neil Meaden RFD
PP LCDR John Bird RNR LM
PP CMDR Graham Harris LLB RFD** RAN

HON SECRETARY

Ms Lynda Gilbert
Email: nlavictasdiv@gmail.com

HON TREASURER

Mr Ray Gill JP

NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK, WEB EDITOR

Ms Lynda Gilbert & Mr Ken Crook

EVENT COORDINATOR

Ms Jane Teasdale

SHIPS' VISITS/YACHT CLUBS' COORDINATOR

CMDR Graeme Furlonger RAN

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE LIAISON

Mr Ken Crook

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mr Allan Paull OAM

MARKETING COORDINATOR

Mr Ron Lyon

WHAT HAS YOUR EXECUTIVE BEEN UP TO?

Like a lot of organisations, because of COVID lockdowns and restrictions, your Executive was unable to meet or plan anything for a whole year! We met for the first time on 22 February 2021 and there was so much to talk about!

We have commenced with renewed enthusiasm and there is a desire to do more for our members now that the COVID restrictions are lifting.

Instead of the annual Creswell Oration and Luncheon at William Angliss Restaurant, normally around 1 March 2021, we are planning to have the 2021 Creswell Oration delivered by video to our members. It was not possible to have a large gathering due to COVID restrictions. We will come back to you with more details of the video shortly.

Two ships are arriving - one in March and one in April – HMAS MELVILLE & HMAS LEEUWIN (see separate article). The public is not permitted to visit ships at this time.

The Annual Lonsdale Cup held at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club will go ahead on 7 March 2021. The HMAS MELVILLE Commanding Officer and 9 crew will participate in the NAVRALLY.

The Division is working with the Federal Council to establish a strategic vision for the use of nuclear powered submarines instead of diesel-electric as it is clearly apparent that the current French built submarines will not be sustainable in the long term.

A special commemorative luncheon will be held in July in memory of LCDR John Bird RNR who spent over 70 years of his life devoted to the mission of the Navy League at both the State and Federal levels. His passion was fixed wing aircraft. Once the date is set, we will send you all an invitation.

We are also planning a cocktail party with a guest speaker for members in the next few months so we can get to know each other better over drinks.

Currently we are organising 2 seminars for our guest speakers to talk on issues such as nuclear submarines and fixed wing aircraft.

Below: Submarines in Cockburn Sound – LSIS Richard Cordell



SHIPS' VISITS TO MELBOURNE

HMAS Melville



HMAS Leeuwin



We are pleased to announce that HMAS Melville and her sister ship HMAS Leeuwin are visiting Melbourne. HMAS Melville will be in port 5-7 March 2021 and HMAS Leeuwin is expected early April. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the ships are not open to the public for inspection, but hopefully that will change in the near future.

HMAS Melville and her sister ship HMAS Leeuwin replaced the now decommissioned vessels HMA Ships Moresby (II) and Flinders in 2000. Both ships take their names from prominent points on the Australian coast. HMAS Melville is named after Melville Island, just to the north of Darwin. Melville was launched midway through 1998. The ships were built by NQEA in Cairns, North Queensland.

HMA Ships Leeuwin and Melville enable the Australian Hydrographic Service to gather high quality hydrographic information at a much greater rate than the ships they replace. The ships are 71 metres in length, with a beam of 15 metres, and a draught of 4.3 metres. Each ship displaces 2,550 tonnes and is manned by a crew of 46 officers and sailors. A state-of-the-art Hydrographic Survey System (HSS) developed by STN Atlas will integrate accurate position information with data from a multi-beam echo sounder, towed side-scan sonar, single beam echo sounder and a forward-looking sonar. The ships carry three fully equipped 9 metre Survey Motor Boats for surveys in waters not suitable for the ships themselves. Both ships are capable of carrying a helicopter to assist in survey operations.

References and photos from [HMAS Melville | Royal Australian Navy](#) & HMAS Leeuwin | Royal Australian Navy



LONSDALE CUP



SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

The Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club (RVMYC) will hold its annual Navy League race for the Lonsdale Cup on Sunday 7 March 2021. There was some uncertainty because of the COVID restrictions but it is now going ahead with limited numbers.

The Lonsdale Cup is named after the RAN's Base HMAS LONSDALE at Port Melbourne, HQ of the WW2 Volunteer Naval Auxiliary Patrol (NAP). The Base in turn was named after Navy's torpedo boat, HMVS-HMAS Lonsdale, and Captain William Lonsdale, appointed Chief Government Agent for the new Port Philip district in 1836. The Cup is presented to the winner of the NAVRALLY each year.

The Commanding Officer and 9 crew members of *HMAS MELVILLE* have been invited along for the sea ride on motor boats attending the navigation rally and the luncheon afterwards.

Commander Michael Kumpis, RAN was raised in Werribee, Victoria and joined the Royal Australian Navy in July 2000 as a Midshipman at the Royal Australian Naval College, HMAS Creswell. He assumed Command of HMAS *Melville* in July 2019.

Graduating in December 2000 he proceeded to sea for training as a Maritime Warfare Officer in HMA Ships *Warramunga*, *Whyalla*, *Mermaid*, *Betano* & *Westralia*.



After a period of consolidation in HMAS *Westralia*, Commander Kumpis commenced specialist training in hydrographic surveying at HMAS *Penguin* in 2003. Following postings included Officer in Charge Detached Surveys HS WHITE Crew and Executive Officer of HMA Ships *Benalla* and *Mermaid*.

In 2008, he attended the Royal Navy's Advanced Hydrographic Surveying course at HMS *Drake* in the UK where he was awarded a Post Graduate Diploma in Hydrographic Surveying from Plymouth University.

On his return to Australia, he was posted to HS RED Crew as the Senior Assistant Surveyor and Operations Officer which alongside hydrographic surveying was also heavily involved in Operation RESOLUTE.

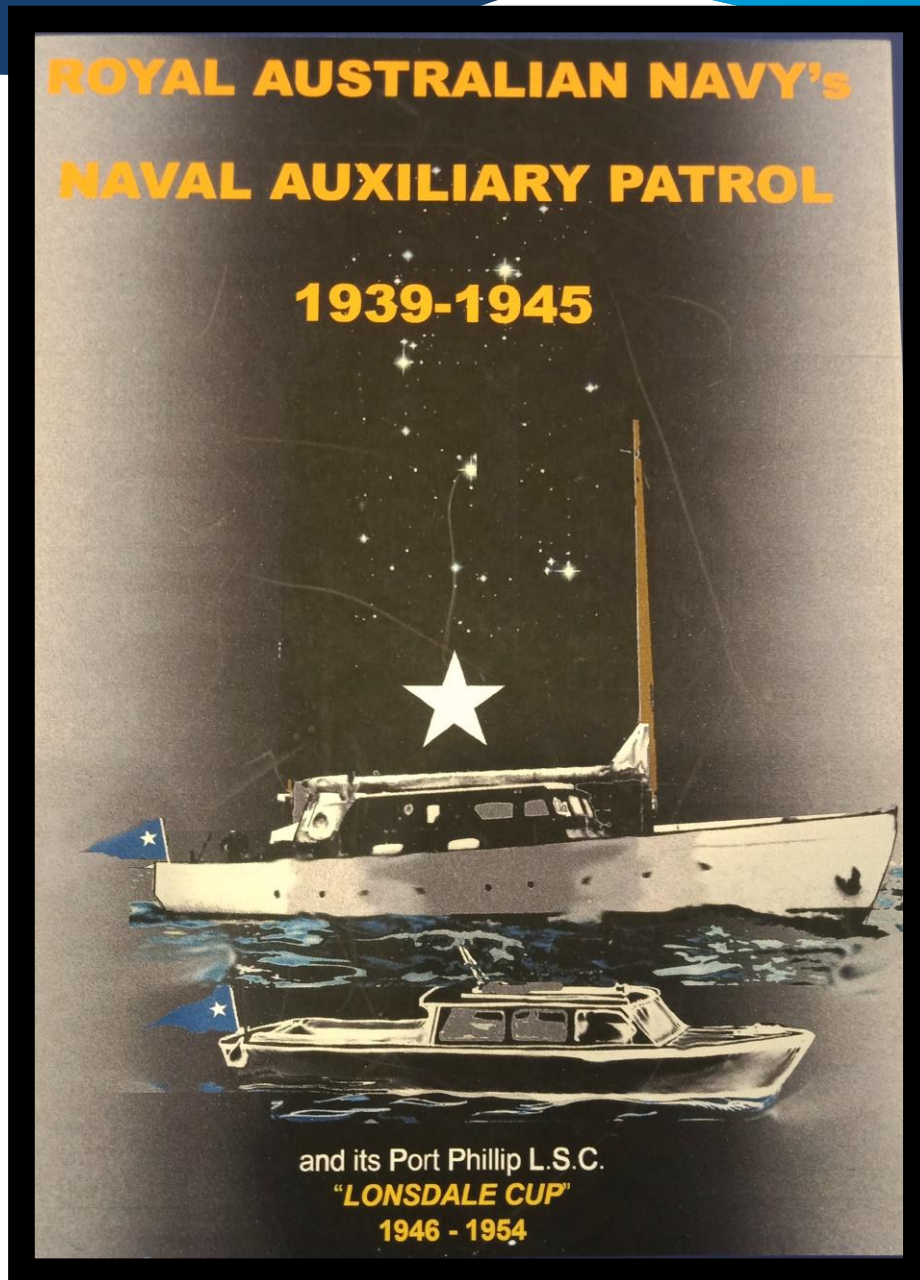
Commander Kumpis is an International Hydrographic Organisation-recognised Category A surveyor and a Certified Professional Hydrographic Surveyor Level 1 (CPHS 1) with the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel.

In December 2011 he assumed Command of HMAS *Shepparton*. He was then posted as the Manager Joint Operations Support Staff for Victoria in 2014. His next posting was in 2016 as the OIC Deployable Geospatial Support Team that included deployments as part of Operation FIJI ASSIST 16 and to Antarctica for Operation SOUTHERN DISCOVERY16/17.

During the latter part of 2017 he served as the J2 Geospatial Officer for the Amphibious Task Group. He has a Master of Military and Strategic Studies from Australian National University and a Bachelor of Training and Development from the University of New England.

Reference [Commander Michael Kumpis | Royal Australian Navy](#)

NAP PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE



CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD* LM is amazing, he is still writing books at the age of 87! He is a great role model for us all. His latest one is the RAN's Naval Auxiliary Patrol (above). It looks splendid in its beautiful, sparkling dust cover. It is a limited edition of 75 and costs \$80.

The book tells the story of Australia's Yachties who offered themselves and their vessels at no cost to serve Australia's Navy for 5 war years and in the post war era. Port Phillip yachties formed the "Little Ship Club Lonsdale Cup", organizing a huge annual "Lonsdale Cup" maritime event on Port Phillip that lasted 8 years.

Please place your orders by emailing jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au

HMAS YARRA II MEMORIAL SERVICE



HMAS Yarra II Memorial at Williamstown

During World War II, on 4th March 1942 in the Indian Ocean, south of Java, Yarra was escorting a small convoy to Australia. A Japanese flotilla of cruisers and destroyers found the convoy. With no hope of survival, Yarra put itself between the enemy and her charges. The thirty 8-inch guns of the Japanese soon destroyed Yarra and she sunk with the loss of 138 men. All officers perished including the Captain, Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin. Only 13 sailors were rescued 5 days later by chance, by a Dutch submarine.

The Collins Class Submarine HMAS Rankin is named after LCDR Rankin.

A Memorial service will not be held this year due to COVID restrictions. Hopefully, things will be back to normal next year. We will send you further updates.

Refer website | [Welcome \(hmasyarraiinternationalmemorial.com.au\)](http://Welcome(hmasyarraiinternationalmemorial.com.au)) for further information.

NHSA VICTORIAN CHAPTER - MARCH MEETING



Commander Cindy Jenkins RAN

Photo Credit [Commander Cindy Jenkins | Royal Australian Navy](#)

The Naval Historical Society of Australia Victoria Chapter is having its meeting at the Glen Waverley RSL in the Sunset Room and Commander Jenkins is the guest speaker on Monday 22nd March 2021.

If you wish to come to this wonderful night of fellowship and listen to an excellent guest speaker, please book early as places are limited. A raffle will be held with a fruit cake as the main prize.

The cost of a 2-course meal is \$30. Drinks are available at bar prices.

Payment is by direct debit or cheques made payable to the Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter.

BSB 633 000

Account 118958503

Cheques to be mailed to Marty Grogan, 549 Nepean Highway, Frankston Vic 3199. Any enquiries to Marty on 0417 377 763.

Commander Jenkins is the first female to command the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School.

Commander Cindy Jenkins joined the Royal Australian Navy in January 1998 from Derby, Western Australia. After graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy, she commenced a career as a Maritime Warfare Officer. She has served on the Fremantle Class Patrol Boats *Dubbo*, *Bendigo* and *Gladstone* before attaining her Bridge Warfare Certificate in HMAS *Warramunga*. She was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2004 and assumed the duties of Navigating Officer in HMAS *Gascoyne*. In 2009 she was awarded the Captain Darling Award. Her posting to *Melbourne* included Hawaii and the Middle East in support of Operation SLIPPER. She was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in January 2011. In 2014, she joined the Auxiliary Oiler, HMAS *Sirius*, as the Executive Officer. On promotion to Commander in August 2017, she joined the Australian Maritime Warfare Centre as SO1 Above Water Warfare and then in October 2018 posted to Deputy Director Training Authority Maritime Warfare. Commander Jenkins has a Bachelor of Arts (Economics), Master of Arts (International Relations) and a Master of Business (Human Resource Management). Commander Jenkins assumed Command of Recruit School in January 2020.

REX WILLIAMS STEPS DOWN

Rex Williams, who has enduring relationships with many of us in the NLA VIC TAS Division, has decided to step down as President of the Naval Historical Society of Australia - Victoria Chapter (NHSA) after 19 years of volunteer service. Rex was concurrently on the Navy League Victorian Executive for some 17 years. His dual roles meant that he acted as an important bridge between the two organisations.

Rex was a very popular President of the Victoria Chapter and no one wanted to see him go, but it was time for him to hand over the reins. So, on 22 February 2021 at the Annual General Meeting, Captain Andrew MacKinnon RAN agreed to take on this pivotal role. Andrew is extremely capable and a fitting replacement for Rex.

Captain MacKinnon gave a sensitive speech on Rex's retirement, indicating that he would follow in his footsteps with the capable assistance of the longstanding committee.

Knowing how fond Rex was of the HMS Victory – which he has visited at least 20 times - Andrew also recited a poem about Nelson and Hardy which was very appropriate! He also managed to obtain a wine stopper which was made from part of the original timber that has been replaced as the vessel has been repaired – an extremely special gift for someone who has a passion for the Victory!

Rex has achieved so much over the years – he has developed a special relationship with many ranking officers over the years, he loves anything naval, he has a great sense of humour and positive attitude, a welcoming approach and deep connection with the members who have become his dear friends.

We will miss him at the podium, but he will still attend meetings and be around for a long time.



*HMS Victory Wine stopper
Photo credit - Marty Grogan*



*Rex & Captain Andrew MacKinnon
Photo credit - Jane Teasdale*

Drone set to speed up incident response times

HMAS *Cerberus*' Robotics Club has built a drone prototype that can provide Navy warships with live video footage during a critical incident, boosting response times to that incident. Known as a Marine Evolutions Response Vessel (MERV), the drone has the ability to autonomously patrol incident areas, with the video footage fed back to a ship for viewing by command, enabling them to make more informed decisions. Head of the robotics club, Chief Petty Officer Electronics Technician Allan Winning, said the drone could be used for things like a man overboard incident, patrolling naval waters, intercepting and interrogating trespassing vessels and towing targets for live firing.

MERV was developed using lessons learned from the club's Critical Response Vehicle Project and is a scaled-down version of Navy's current seaboat. The land-based prototype is made from plywood and fibreglass and propelled by a 3D-printed water-cooled brushless motor made at the Centre for Innovation at Fleet Base East. "Being able to produce these components through these emerging technologies has allowed the robotics club to test designs in conjunction with safety considerations and refine the final product," Chief Petty Officer Winning said.

"This has allowed us to move forward in implementing this system to display at this year's Autonomous Warrior event."



Reference [Drone set to speed up incident response times | Defence News](#)

Spotlight on highly sensitive light sensor

Crews of navy ships could one day be able to locate distant small aerial targets and threats flying just above the waves by detecting single photons of light.

A single-photon avalanche diode (SPAD) is an extremely sensitive sensor that works at the level of the individual particle and has the potential to overcome the challenge of picking out small targets amid the ocean waves, like a small uninhabited aerial vehicle or a missile flying just above the surface of the water. Dr Dennis Delic, of the Defence Science and Technology Group, is leading the design, development and commercialisation of SPADs within Defence.

This revolutionary technology has a wide range of potential uses – both military and civilian – from finding objects underwater to tracking objects moving through space.

Another significant advantage of this technology for military operators is that using a SPAD as part of an active sensor system – that is, a system which is emitting energy that could be detected by an adversary – would reduce the risk of the user being targeted when they switch it on because of the reduced power required.

Dr Delic said using a SPAD as the detector in a LiDAR system, which measures distances by illuminating objects with light from a laser and then detecting the reflected energy, would considerably reduce the power needed because of the SPAD's ability to function at very low photon levels. He said the wider adoption of SPADs was expected to be far-reaching, with benefits flowing through to the design of wearable augmented reality vision sensors, autonomous vehicle navigation systems and advanced medical imaging capabilities, among many other possible applications.



Reference: [Spotlight on highly sensitive light sensor | Defence News](#)

HMAS Choules delivers fire trucks to PNG

HMAS Choules has delivered five fire trucks and fire-fighting equipment donated by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services - QFES to the Papua New Guinea Fire Services

The delivery of the fire trucks comes one year after 100 Papua New Guinea Defence Force personnel played a critical role in the Black Summer Australian bushfires.

PNG and Australia continue to work closely together to deepen our strong and long-standing partnership,



Reference: [\(20+\) #hmaschoules - Explore | Facebook](#)

TEDDY SHEEAN AWARDED THE VC



Your Executive sent a 4-page submission supporting the campaign for Teddy Sheean to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Teddy Sheean was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery and in 1999 HMAS *Sheean*, a Collins Class submarine, was named after him - the only ship in the RAN to bear the name of a sailor.

In 2020, following a sustained public campaign to have Ordinary Seaman Sheean's selfless actions appropriately recognised, an expert panel recommended to the Australian Government that he be considered for the award of a Victoria Cross.

On 12 August 2020 His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia announced that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had approved a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Ordinary Seaman Sheean.

In doing so, Ordinary Seaman Sheean became the first member of the Royal Australian Navy to be awarded Australia's highest honour for valour.

On 1 December 2020, 78 years to the day since the death of Ordinary Seaman Sheean and the loss of HMAS *Armidale* (I), the Governor-General presented the insignia of the Victoria Cross for Australia to Teddy Sheean's family at a ceremony held at Government House in Canberra, ACT.

Source: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/sheean-edward-11671>.

The Royal Australian Navy Band performed The Naval Hymn, Eternal Father, to mark the significant occasion of the investiture of the Victoria Cross for Australia to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean.

Go to youtube to see it -

[RAN Band performs Eternal Father - Investiture of the VC to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean - YouTube](#)

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE REPORT

Change to CEO Role

After nine years' outstanding service to the Shrine, Air Vice-Marshal Chris Spence AO (Retd) has chosen not to re-nominate for the position. He leaves a significant legacy of achievement—including observance of the Centenary of Anzac commemorative program and development of the Galleries of Remembrance.



Captain Stephen Bowater OAM has been appointed Chairperson of the Shrine of Remembrance Trustees, effective 14 February 2021. Stephen has more than 40 years' naval service and brings with him a wealth of knowledge from experiences in Australia and abroad. During his service, Captain Bowater served in Iraq and Kuwait and has experience on nine operational deployments.

Most recently, Stephen served as the Royal Australian Navy's Commander Shore Force: overseeing Australia's 14 naval bases and 3,000 staff, as well the Navy's shore-based responses to the 2019–20

Australian bushfires and the 2020 coronavirus outbreak in Australia.

Stephen was also a Senior Naval Officer in Victoria from 2013–17 and has sound knowledge of military history, commemoration and ceremonies in Victoria.

Last Post Services



The public are invited to attend the 15-minute Last Post Services being held at 4.45pm each Sunday on the Shrine's northern forecourt. Each Service includes bugle calls, a wreath-laying at the Eternal Flame and Shrine Guard in historic uniform.

Service personnel are encouraged to attend and lay wreaths. Bookings are required by email - ceremonies@shrine.org.au or phone 03 9661 8100

Royal Australian Navy Wreath Laying service

7 March 2021 10:00 am - 10:30 am
Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance

This wreath laying service recognises the contribution made by the Royal Australian Navy to Australia's national security. Each month the current recruits at HMAS *Cerberus* make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance. This visit links a sailor's experience at Recruit School with current and past members of the Defence Community.

The recruits take part in a wreath laying ceremony in the Sanctuary, then learn about the Shrine and the Australian Defence Force's deployments to war, peace keeping and peace-making missions. View online at [\(20+\) Shrine of Remembrance | Facebook](#)

Visits to the Shrine of Remembrance

Entry to the Shrine is free. For those who would like to learn more, professionally guided tours are also available. Bookings are essential. Eligible community groups may book a 45-minute highlights tour of the Shrine accompanied by a Shrine volunteer guide. To be eligible, community groups must be not-for-profit organisations that directly support either the service community, adult education, youth or health care. Social clubs are not eligible community groups.

For more information go to [Shrine tours | Shrine of Remembrance | Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne](#)

Shrine Volunteers returning soon

Shrine Volunteers have been mainly meeting via Zoom as they were not permitted to go to the Shrine due to COVID restrictions. However, COVID training is now being offered to volunteers and they will gradually return to assist visitors and students tour the grounds and exhibitions.

Autumn Garden Tour



As the leaves start to turn, explore the Shrine Reserve on this special guided tour and discover the creative vision and symbology behind the beautiful floral plantings. Our sprawling gardens provide respite and are a sacred pilgrimage site to remember those who have served our nation in peacekeeping and war.

Date: Saturday 27 March

Times: 10am and 12pm (90-minute tour)

Shrine of Remembrance, Birdwood Ave, Melbourne, VIC 3004

\$5 per person - Free for Shrine Friends

Limited spaces, booking essential.

Go to [Autumn Gardens Tour - Shrine of Remembrance Reservations \(rezdy.com\)](#)

New Exhibition: *Imagining Centaur*



The Shrine's newest exhibition, Dean Bowen's *Imagining Centaur*, centres on a series of beautiful, thought-provoking works of art created in response to the tragic sinking of the 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship Centaur on 14 May 1943.

Go online to join the exhibition's curators, Dr Madonna Grehan and Neil Sharkey in conversation as they discuss the historical significance of Centaur's sinking and their role in bringing this unique exhibition to life: [Meet the Curators: Imagining Centaur | Shrine of Remembrance | Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne](#)



Nursing Sister Ellen Savage, the only surviving woman of the sinking of the Hospital Ship Centaur.

The Shrine Shop

Items can also be purchased online, including books, DVDs, ceremonial merchandise, collectible items and souvenirs are available. All proceeds fund the development and delivery of education programs which honour the service and sacrifice of Australians in war and peacekeeping. Some examples are:



Website: [Shop - The Shrine of Remembrance - Home](#)