



The Navy League of Australia

South Australia Division

A.C.N. 008 451 063

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION NEWSLETTER – Issue 4 - OCT 2021

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'REMEMBER TO REMEMBER" REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

Thursday 11th November.



11th November marks the anniversary of the Armistice which brought an end to The Great War of 1914 - 1918. November is a significant month for the RSL and includes Remembrance Day commemorations and the Poppy Appeal for the Returned Services League.



The Poppy Appeal fundraises for the RSL to deliver services and assistance to veterans and their families. The appeal provides support for Advocacy Services and Wellbeing Assistance programs throughout Australia. The RSL applauds the support of volunteers and serving personnel from the Australian Defence Force who collect for the Poppy Appeal. Gratitude also for the support of sporting organisations and all who support the RSL and its Poppy Appeal during the year.



Part of the Field of Remembrance on the North Terrace lawns adjacent to Government House, Adelaide. The crosses are planted by veteran associations and school students.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUILT FIRST LADY of the FLEET PAID OFF

HMAS Paluma (A01) the RAN's oldest warship was constructed at Eglo Engineering, Osborne, South Australia and commissioned on 27 February 1989. She and her slightly younger sistership HMAS Mermaid (A02) were both decommissioned at HMAS Cairns on 18 September 2021.



Four catamaran Survey Motor Launches were built for the RAN to survey the shallow coastal waters of the Great Barrier Reef and Northern Australia. The design provided stability and a relatively shallow draft for inshore work. Sisterships HMAS Shepparton (II) and Benalla (II) remain in service.

HMAS Shepparton (A03), which commissioned on 24 June 1990, is now First Lady of the Fleet.



First Lady Trophy with HMAS Shepparton (II)

Since their construction began 32 years ago, the Eglo site was absorbed by ASC for construction of and maintenance of the Collins Class Submarines. More recently it was expanded for building the Hobart Class destroyers.

In the interim, two Arafura Offshore Patrol Vessels are in their later stages, with the site further enlarged for building nine Hunter Class Frigates.

South Australia continues to demonstrate its expertise in the complex task of constructing modern warships.

HMS ASTUTE SAILS FROM SCOTLAND TO AUSTRALIA



HMS Astute is an operational nuclear-powered attack submarine in the Royal Navy, the lead boat of her class. Commissioned in 2010, Astute has been conducting a port call to Perth, Western Australia.

The visit, a first for her class of submarine, is demonstrating “the strong existing naval partnership between Australia and the United Kingdom” according to the Australian Department of Defence. The submarine has been part of the British Carrier Strike Group deployment to the Indo-Pacific which had recently exercised with a range of Royal Australian Navy units and regional partners.

The visit comes six weeks after the announcement of AUKUS, an enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, said the submarine’s visit was a testament to the three nations’ commitment to greater co-operation on security and defence capabilities.

MARITIME PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED

The Royal Australian Navy this month joined key partners Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom for the Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Indian Ocean.

Anzac-class frigate HMAS *Ballarat* took part in the complex training, held in the Bay of Bengal during October, with ships and aircraft from the participating nations.

Commander of the Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Mark Hammond, said “The Maritime Partnership Exercise demonstrated our capacity to work together to support the security and resilience of the Indo-Pacific. The Royal Australian Navy has benefitted from multiple engagements with regional navies this year, sharing in the knowledge and experience of our partners, and enhancing our interoperability in the maritime domain.”

Notably, this exercise included UK’s Carrier Strike Group including HMS Astute during its Indo-Pacific deployment. “We are pleased to see our European partners strengthening their engagement in the region and supporting our shared interest in safeguarding the rules-based international order.”

This is the Royal Navy’s first Carrier Strike Group deployment since the Falklands War and the largest deployment to the Indo-Pacific region since WWII.

FISHERIES PATROL STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP



Indonesian Navy vessel KRI Sura, top, HMAS Ararat and KRI Kerapu conducting a coordinated security patrol during Ausindo Corpat 2021.

Concurrently, HMAS Ararat completed Ausindo Corpat 2021, a five-day coordinated patrol with Indonesian Navy vessels KRI Sura and Kerapu along the shared maritime border. This is the 11th occasion the exercise has been held. At times the ships manoeuvred at close quarters as they strengthened bilateral ties with Indonesia, while delivering a strong and coordinated response to illegal fisheries activity.

This co-ordinated patrol refined the ability of Australia and Indonesia to work together in cooperative maritime surveillance, security and interdiction within in a contactless manner to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



RENDEZVOUS AT SEA SWEET AS MAPLE SYRUP

Photo: Petty Officer Yuri Ramsey

HMA Ships Brisbane, Warramunga and HMCS Winnipeg recently formed an in-company transit in the South China Sea, conducting small-boat operations, flying operations and maritime manoeuvres. A particularly special experience for LCDR Stephen Wall RAN, previous XO of HMAS Brisbane III.

LCDR Wall was Winnipeg's gunnery officer when the ship deployed in the Gulf of Aden for counter-piracy operations in 2009. He still has friends in the Canadian Navy who are in Winnipeg and so it was an opportunity to meet up again.

Shortly after his Gulf of Aden deployment in Winnipeg Lieutenant Commander Wall first visited Australia on Exercise Talisman Sabre, sparking an interest in immigrating.

"That was my first visit to Australia, and obviously it made an impression because I'm now an Australian citizen and a member of the Royal Australian Navy," he said. The training between Brisbane, Warramunga and Winnipeg was an example of why it was important to work with partner nations in the region.:

LCDR Stephen Wall was Executive Officer during the building of HMAS Brisbane III at Osborne Naval Shipyard in Adelaide.

Prior to his departure from Adelaide for Brisbane's commissioning NLA-SA Division's President and Vice President were invited aboard (a few hours before sailing!) to present a Commissioning Ship's Crystal Decanter.

CAPTAIN HENRY FINNIS RAN (Rtd) FORMER NUCLEAR SUBMARINER



Captain Henry Finnis RAN (Rtd) with his sons, Lieutenant Commander Alexander Finnis, left, and Lieutenant Edward Finnis

Former Royal Navy (RN) nuclear submarine executive officer, Captain Henry Finnis (Rtd), sees the benefits of Australia acquiring the vessels as he reflects on his career as a submariner.

On September 16, the Prime Minister announced a new trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and United States, called AUKUS.

Despite being surprised by the Australian Government's announcement to acquire at least eight nuclear-powered submarines for the RAN, Captain Finnis welcomed the announcement.

"Nuclear-powered submarines will offer much greater flexibility, range, speed and operational capability than conventionally powered subs," Captain Finnis said. "Given the rapid change in Australia's strategic circumstances over the past few years, I can understand why the Australian Government has made this decision. It's probably one of the most fundamentally defining decisions made by an Australian government in my memory."

He attended Naval College at Dartmouth, South Devon, in 1968, continuing a family tradition of officers in the army or navy going back to 1804.

Captain Finnis streamed into submarines in the early 1970s when the RN was building its nuclear submarine fleet. He served in ballistic missile submarines HMS Resolution and HMS Revenge as well as other British and Canadian submarines. Initially spending 18 months as executive office on the Porpoise-class submarine HMS Walrus, Captain Finnis was executive officer of the nuclear submarine HMS Swiftsure in 1978.

Joining the RN as a junior weapons officer, Captain Finnis worked his way through various billets, sub-specialising in sonar and underwater weapons. He was predominantly involved in operations during the Cold War, as part of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

"When we went off on deterrent patrols it was always for real," he said. "It got pretty bloody interesting from time to time."

Captain Finnis came to Australia in 1980 as part of an exchange program after completing a Principal Warfare Officer course in the UK. He was the first RN exchange officer to be posted to a Hobart-class DDG as a Principal Warfare Officer. At the end of his two-year exchange in 1982, he transferred to the RAN.

Captain Finnis eventually realised his goal of commanding a ship when he was appointed Commanding Officer of HMAS Fremantle in 1984. "It was a unique and challenging experience and certainly one of my most memorable in the RAN," he said. He retired following a naval career spanning more than 50 years.

‘MATES SHOUTED A DRINK AT SEA’

By Captain Peter March 13 October 2021 Photo: Leading Seaman Sittichai Sakonpoonpol
HMAS Sirius conducts a replenishment at sea with USS Stockdale during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21



Replenishment ships such as HMAS *Sirius* play a vital role in the maritime theatre, providing supplies such as fuel, food, provisions and cargo at sea to the fleet, enabling the ships to sail for extended periods of time.

Commanding Officer Sirius Commander Christopher Doherty said he was proud of the capability that he and his ship offered, especially during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021 (IPE21).

“Sirius is a really important capability for conducting IPE21, because she supplies logistical support to the task group and partner nations. Sirius’ unique capability is the fact that she can carry a very large volume of fuel that can supply our own ships and those of other navies. **At the micro level, the ships are a hive of activity.**

Music plays loudly through speakers – “*Sweet Home Alabama*” welcomed the American ships – as crew members busily manage the intricate web of ropes, flags, and hoses.....**But at the macro level, the scene can be eerily tranquil.**

With ships sailing alongside in close proximity, while moving at exactly the same speed, the complete absence of physical reference points, other than the ships themselves, can create the illusion that everything has come to a complete standstill.

However, there is no time to idly stand by and take in the sights during the RAS, as everyone is hard at work. Heaving in the gun lines isn’t easy and has to be done pretty quickly. Good communication and teamwork are vital.

The hard work and dedication of the crew of *Sirius* to conduct these and other activities is not lost on Commander Doherty. “The greatest thing about being the captain of *Sirius* is getting to operate with all the great people that we have on board. The team is fantastic – they do an amazing job, particularly in the COVID-19 environment. It is a tough role, and I’m super proud to be their Captain” said **CMDR Christopher Doherty**.



AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The South Australia Division of Navy League Australia is extremely fortunate and appreciative of the close association with both the Director-General ANC and Commanding Officer Navy Headquarters South Australia.

Commodore David Greaves RAN Director-General ANC, has released the ANC Passage Plan to 2023 which outlines the Directorate's ethos, objectives, priorities and where effort will be focussed until 2023.

ANC 2023 IS UNASHAMEDLY 'CADET-CENTRIC'

IT RECOGNISES THAT CADETS ARE THE REASON THE ANC EXISTS AND THE FOCUS OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

ANC recently selected and appointed a new Flotilla Commander (FLOTCOM) for Torrens Flotilla in South Australia. Lieutenant Commander Pieter Scott has been appointed to the role. He has had an extensive period of being a volunteer in the Australian Army Cadets (AAC), including being the Assistant Commander SA AAC Brigade for three years and has previously been an honorary Petty Officer attached to TS Adelaide. He has transferred to the ANC and commenced in the role on 4 October 2021.

In strengthening the DGANC support to the Flotilla Support Officers and the ANC, CDRE Greaves has recently had additional Navy resources added to his staff. These appointments are Regional Support Officers who are to bridge the higher support and community engagement requirements.

For the South Australian Torrens Flotilla this will be Commander Christopher Jones, RAN, a Reserve Officer based in Adelaide. He is yet to commence in his role as he has been recently part of the voyage crew for the new Australian Antarctic Vessel, which arrived recently in Hobart.

Commander Alistair Cooper ADC RAN Commanding Officer, Navy HQ-SA provided the following update:

ANC in South Australia has struggled with COVID over the last 18 months, but now beginning to get back on track. The five units (TS Adelaide, TS Augusta, TS Noarlunga, TS Stuart & TS Whyalla) are currently parading and there is hope to re-start TS Flinders. Now we have a South Australian-based Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Support Officer, this will certainly be of huge benefit to all SA ANC Units.

Navy League of Australia – South Australia Division congratulates both LCDR PIETER SCOTT ANC and CMDR CHRISTOPHER JONES RANR on their new appointments.

We look forward to our continued support for the South Australian Navy Cadets.

NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL AGM and ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For the second year in a row, the Navy League National AGM and Annual Conference was held via Zoom on Friday 23 October 2021. 16 delegates took part from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, ACT and Western Australia. Each Division was asked to present their Annual Reports which certainly made for varied and interesting reading.

Congratulations to Lynda Gilbert, Division Secretary Victoria/Tasmania, who was unanimously acclaimed as the new Federal secretary. Lynda is the first female to be appointed to the Federal Executive. BZ

The meeting was quite constructive in the time available and, where some matters require further input, these will be explored during the coming year. Hopefully, we will resume meeting in person at the Navy League Australia national conference in Canberra in 2022.

South Australia Division was very pleased to deliver good news regarding the Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) Units at the League's National AGM and Annual Conference.

'Sun is over the yardarm and time to splice the main brace'
Kindest regards from Diana & the NLA-SA Executive Team

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and offshore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly-based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present and projected.
- By organising symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interest throughout the year.
- By supporting the Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of *The Navy*), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1779, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victoria Division: PO Box 146, Warrandyte, VIC 3113.
Queensland Division: PO Box 2495, Chermide Centre, QLD 4032.
South Australia Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
Western Australia Division: 11 Georgetown Drive, Malibu WA 6169.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victoria Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australia Division respectively.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: The Hon. Secretary
The Navy League of Australia
_____ Division

I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.

Name: [Mr] [Mrs] [Ms] [Rank] _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Street _____

Suburb _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Date _____

State _____

P/code _____

Mobile _____

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

TO JOIN NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION
Please complete this form and post to Secretary, PO Box 3008, Unley, South Australia 5062

Enquiries – Secretary or President Joining Fee \$35.00 pa

WELCOME ABOARD