**Patron in Chief**
HRH Prince Phillip
Duke of Edinburgh

**Patron**
RADM Guy Griffiths AO, DSO, DSC RAN Rtd

**All Correspondence**
**To Secretary:**
Mrs Helen Miller
9 Avoca Road
TURRAMURRA NSW 2074
Phone: (02) 9144 7352

# 2012
# Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting

| | |
|---|---|
| **Venue:** | **Bowlers Club of NSW**<br>95 York Street, Sydney |
| **Date:** | **Saturday, 20 October 2012** |
| **Time:** | **12.00pm for Annual General Meeting (Visitors Welcome)**<br>**12.30pm for Luncheon** |
| **Parking:** | **At the rear of the club in Clarence Street** |
| **Dress:** | **Lounge Suit or Jacket with tie** |
| **Cost:** | Association Members, Wives, Partners,<br>Widows and Social Members…….. **$25.00 each***<br>Visitors……**$30.00 each*** |
| **Drinks:** | Drinks ordered before and after the luncheon are to be paid for at regular club prices. Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks served with the meal are included in the luncheon cost. |

***This function is subsidised by Association funds in order to keep it affordable to all members**. **Same format as recent years – a set 2 course lunch + coffee and tea**.

Please complete the enclosed return advice slip together with full payment and mail in the also enclosed addressed envelope before **Monday 8th October 2012.** Payment **must** be in advance - we need to know definite numbers for catering.

**President: Chris Johnston Phone: 0413 995605**

**Treasurer: John Hardiman Phone : 02 4392 1986**

## IN REMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DRIFTED FROM US

**VALE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Peter Brown Tel (SA) | 14 March 2012 |
| Len Matthews AB (VIC) | 26 March 2012 |
| Raymond Fahey AB (TAS) | 30 March 2012 |
| George Wellington O/Stwd (VIC) | 7 April 2012 |
| Malcolm Okely L/Sto. (VIC) | 11 April 2012 |
| George Kellas AB (VIC) | 19 April 2012 |
| Jack Stanbridge Tel. (VIC) | 2 June 2012 |
| Carlyle Johnstone L/Sto.(QLD) | June 2012 |
| Maxwell (Max) Farrell L/Sto. (SA) | 16 July 2012 |
| Les (Lofty) Rathbone AB (NSW) | July 2012 |
| Ron Emery AB (SA) | August 2012 |
| Keith Hodgson AB (SA) | 13 August 2012 |
| Thomas (Tom) Thurlow L/Sig. (VIC) | 4 August 2012 |
| Robert (Bob) Boyd AB OAM (TAS) | 4 August 2012 |

**We will remember them, Lest We Forget**

## Anzac Day Sydney 2012

The Anzac Day March in Sydney was led off this year by both President, Chris Johnston and Treasurer, John Hardiman. It was a fine Sydney day and numbers were ok with 10 veterans marching behind our 2 proud banners this year. As usual, following the march, ships' company regrouped at City Tatts for refreshments and to catch up with each other. Earl Chisholm led the memorial Service at the Tatts Club at his usual 11am timeslot. I eagerly await instructions from the RSL and March Committee in relation to ANZAC Day 2013 and how veterans will "march". You'll recall their desire to have all WW2 veterans in jeeps from next year.

Pat Lee – an iconic figure of Sydney's ANZAC Day march every year who sadly passed away recently.

## Arrangements for this years' Annual Reunion Luncheon

We will again have a set alternate menu this year of 2 courses (Beef and Barramundi) that will be served to you at your table. Should you have any special dietary requirements, please advise these on your acceptance form when you return it. The luncheon is again subsidised by the Association in order to keep costs reasonable for all.

**Please ensure you return your acceptance form and cheque by 8th October 2012 so we can confirm numbers with the Bowlers Club. Please also let us know any food allergies or special dietary needs as well at the same time.**

## Special Notice – Annual General Meeting

**The AGM for HMAS *Canberra* / HMAS *Shropshire* NSW Division is to be held on Saturday 20 October 2012 commencing at 1200 hours at the Bowlers Club of NSW, Sydney, just prior to the reunion luncheon. This is to ensure as many members as possible can attend.**

**Agenda**

Ode
Minutes
Matters Arising
Treasurers Report
Presidents Report
Election of Officers
General Business
Next Year's Meeting dates

## HMAS Canberra 70th Anniversary Memorial Service – 12 August 2012

The 70th Anniversary service was held by our much loved Chaplain Gareth Clayton, RAN at the Naval Chapel, Garden Island on Sunday 12 August for HMAS *Canberra* and the Battle of Savo Island. We had over 80 people attend the chapel service for this milestone commemoration which was lovely to see.

Following the wreath laying ceremony at the Heavy Cruiser Memorial at the tip of the island, morning tea was then served in the Naval Historical Society buildings. Many thanks once again to Helen Miller supported by Vicki Good and Suzanne Johnston for always providing an abundance of tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits for us to enjoy following the ceremony.

There is a special feature on the following pages on the 70th Anniversary activities in Savo arranged by the RAN. Its a shame though that the Navy News couldn't get the date of the RAN's largest capital ship loss right!

**Important Dates to Remember:**

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|---|---|
| **Annual General Meeting** | **At the Reunion Luncheon Saturday 20 OCTOBER 2012 at Bowlers Club 12.00 pm** |
| **Annual Reunion Luncheon** | **Saturday 20 OCTOBER 2012 12.30pm** |

## Vale George "Duke" Wellington

I am very sad to report the recent passing of George Wellington in April this year. As many of you knew, George was a past President of the Victorian Association and one of the most devoted and passionate members of *Shropshire* particularly when it can to arranging, promoting and organising the ex HMAS *Shropshire* Association in Victoria. George had been in a nursing home for a number of years and had sadly lost his sight and memory.

Whilst his action station was in a cordite magazine below decks, he always made it his business to learn every detail of the action Shroppie was in seeing as he wasn't able to witness it directly. Much of it he wrote down, however was never published.

He served in *Shropshire* for his full wartime service 1942 – 1946 and was a member of the first draft to Chatham. He spent all his sea time as Officer's Steward and was eventually promoted to Captain's Steward.

George was a tireless worker for the Association and is also well remembered for organising his two International Reunion Tours in 1986 and 1990.

There was a huge crowd at George's funeral and current Victorian President Mac Gregory delivered a fitting eulogy in his honour. We will all miss George's drive, passion and pride for his ship and our Association.

George and his wife Maisie in Pitt Street and George on Anzac day a few years ago

**BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND:** Passengers and crew on HMA Ships *Gascoyne* and *Huon* at the final resting place of HMAS *Canberra (I)*, fell silent and remembered the 84 men who lost their lives during the Battle of Savo Island; The two sons, inset, of PO Boyle, who were accompanied at the ceremony by their seven children.

# Memory lives on

**LEUT Grant McDuling**

AUGUST 9, 1945, will always be remembered as the day the RAN suffered its largest warship loss at sea.

Seventy years later, HMA Ships *Gascoyne* and *Huon* positioned themselves over the final resting place of HMAS *Canberra (I)*, fell silent and remembered the 84 men who lost their lives during the Battle of Savo Island.

Among those on board were two generations of PO Stoker Redmond Boyle's descendants who laid a wreath in his memory.

Joining family members for the service was Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney; Fellow at the Sea Power Centre RADM James Goldrick; and Assistant Secretary Pacific and East Timor, IP Division, Tyson Sara.

According to CO HMAS *Gascoyne* LCDR Ben Fennell, the Navy will always remember the important sacrifice made by our officers and sailors.

"The Guadalcanal Campaign, which included the Battle of Savo Island, was the first major offensive by Allied forces against the Imperial Japanese Navy," LCDR Fennell said.

"During the battle, HMAS *Canberra* was crippled and three American cruisers sunk. *Canberra* was hit 24 times in just two minutes, killing 74 of her 819 crew. A further 10, including the ship's Commanding Officer, Captain Frank Getting, later died of wounds."

The Battle of Savo Island was a significant naval engagement in the South Pacific Ocean during World War II.

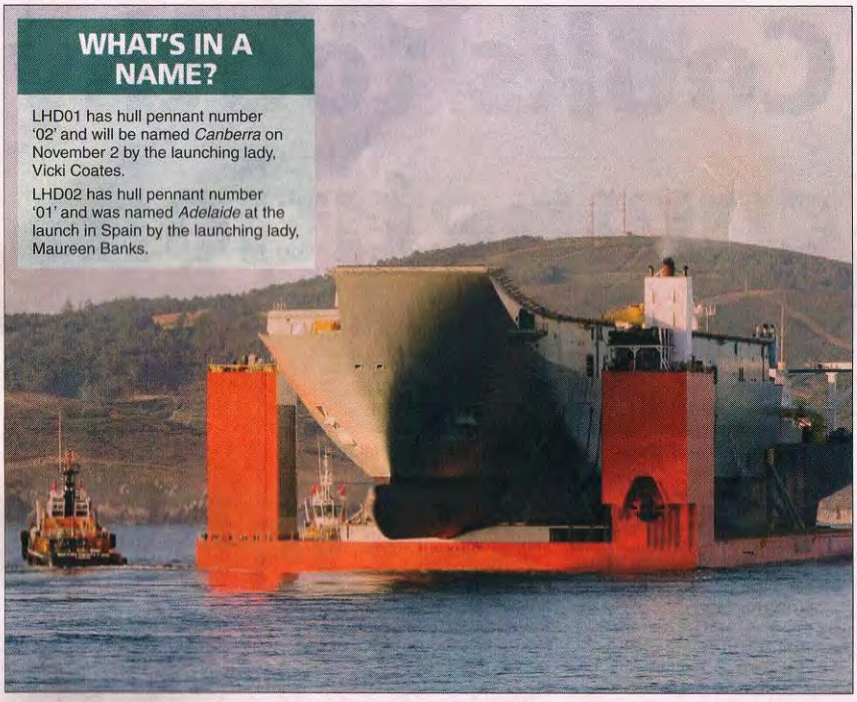
During a surprise night attack, Japanese cruisers under the command of ADM Gunichi Mikawa were responsible for inflicting heavy losses on the Australian and US navies.

> *Canberra* was hit 24 times in just two minutes, killing 74 of her 819 crew. A further 10 later died of wounds.
>
> – LCDR Ben Fennell, CO HMAS *Gascoyne*

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

LHD01 has hull pennant number '02' and will be named *Canberra* on November 2 by the launching lady, Vicki Coates.

LHD02 has hull pennant number '01' and was named *Adelaide* at the launch in Spain by the launching lady, Maureen Banks.



**AUSTRALIA BOUND:** The first hull of Navy's new amphibious ships departs from Ferrol in northern Spain. Right, the hull was loaded onto *Blue Marlin* in a significant engineering feat that involved submerging the heavy lift vessel so the hull could be floated onto it.

# On the way to Australia

**LSIS Paul Berry**

THE first LHD hull, LHD01, has departed Spain for Australia, bringing the ADF a step closer to advanced amphibious operations.

The hull is being transported to Melbourne from the Navantia shipyard in Ferrol.

In a significant engineering feat, the 230m hull for the future HMAS *Canberra* was loaded onto *Blue Marlin*, a semi submersible float-on/float-off heavy lift vessel.

The process of loading the LHD hull was just as impressive as the LHD itself.

*Blue Marlin* was first submerged by filling the ballast tanks with sea water before the hull of the LHD was towed and manoeuvred onto the vessel by tugs.

Once in position, *Blue Marlin* emptied its ballast tanks to raise its deck and the LHD out of the water.

This allowed the LHD to be secured with sea fastenings before departure.

Announcing the departure on August 20, Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare said the trip was expected to take about seven weeks, depending on weather conditions.

"On arrival in Australian waters, the ship will transit to Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne and then on to the Williamstown dockyard for consolidation of the superstructure and installation of the combat and communications and navigation systems," Mr Clare said. "This will be followed by sea trials."

LHD01 is scheduled to be delivered to Navy in early 2014.

The hull of LHD02 was launched, and named *Adelaide*, on July 4 from the Navantia shipyard in a ceremony attended by CN VADM Ray Griggs.

## She's on her way here!

LHD001 – the new HMAS *Canberra* is on her way to Australia. You'll read above of the massive effort to get the largest ship that the RAN will commission seaworthy for her journey here.

HMAS *Canberra* III will be named on November 2 by Vicki Coates, the widow of RADM Nigel Coates who was a great supporter of our Association and a former Captain of HMAS *Canberra* II taken all too soon from us a few years ago.

# Salute to new memorial

**Michael Brooke**

A $3M project that features a new memorial and the refurbishment of the HMAS *Sydney I* mast in Sydney Harbour will mark the centenary of the first Navy fleet entry next year.

The project at Bradleys Head will feature a memorial avenue of trees to commemorate the most significant Navy ships lost in war.

Director Naval Heritage Collection CAPT David Michael said the new memorial would join three existing memorial plaques to be relocated on a common plinth adjacent the *Sydney I* mast.

"Each of the 21 trees in the memorial avenue is dedicated to a Navy ship or submarine lost as a consequence of war," he said.

The project will bring the memorial area in line with the same presentation standards as the Bradleys Head amphitheatre and re-establish access to former viewing areas on the higher parts of the precinct.

The project was announced at Bradleys Head on August 17 by a group of NSW state officials and Navy stakeholders including CN VADM Ray Griggs and Commander Australian Fleet RADM Tim Barrett.

"Bradleys Head is already a saluting station for Navy warships entering and leaving the harbour, but the new memorial will make it a whole of Navy memorial rather than just one for *Sydney I* and *II*," CAPT Michael said.

The memorial design focuses on Navy's people and their sacrifices, while the avenue of trees focuses on individual ships and their companies.

Signs and individual tree plaques will provide information including name, date lost, location and nature of the action.

CAPT Michael said the memorial would be dedicated during the International Fleet Review next year.

The centenary celebration also marks the arrival of the first Navy fleet on October 4, 1913, when HMA Ships *Australia*, *Melbourne*, *Sydney*, *Encounter*, *Parramatta*, *Yarra* and *Warrego* entered Sydney Harbour.

Bradleys Head was recently included on the NSW State Heritage Register.

**WE REMEMBER:** Assembled dignitaries and onlookers in front of the mast from HMAS *Sydney I* to mark the launch of the project at Bradleys Head, Sydney. Inset, Commander Australian Fleet RADM Tim Barrett, Director Naval Heritage Collection CAPT David Michael and CN VADM Ray Griggs show the plans for upgrades to the memorial. Photos: ABIS Richard Cordell

I have been following the developments of the new RAN memorial with great interest. The efforts are being led by the Federation of Naval Ships Associations (FNSA) with new President Bob Auston along with CAPT David Michael whom we met for the first time in August at GI for the *Canberra* memorial service. Our *Canberra* memorial tree and plaque is included within the plans for the expanded memorial and the FNSA want this area to be the Naval memorial site in Sydney for general public access.

We will obviously retain the link with GI and the special place this has with the Chapel, Heavy Cruiser Memorial and the other smaller memorial plaques on the Island.

As the saluting station for all warships entering and leaving the harbour, this expansion will allow all sailors to pay their respects to all those who have fallen.

I will continue to keep you updated in relation to the progress of this project.

Picture of HMAS *Shropshire* found on Ebay for sale.

One off casting in aluminium of HMAS *Shropshire* crest – so the ad read on Ebay!

HMAS *Sydney* memorial at Geralton WA at sunset May 2012
A beautiful and sombre place that is a fitting tribute to those lost.

Its amazing what little gems pop up for sale on the internet.