

CALL THE HANDS

NHSA DIGITAL NEWSLETTER
Issue No.2 October 2016

From the President

It is a pleasure to report the proceedings of our Society over the last month and advise that much positive feedback was received on the September (first) edition in. My aim is to continuously improve content and relevance so that Members better understand they are part of a community of like-minded people who care about naval history. Through *Call the Hands* I hope to stimulate greater interest and understanding of what we are doing and what more we can do to achieve our mission of recording, preserving and promoting the knowledge, understanding and awareness of naval history of Australia at all levels of the national community. Further stimulation of two way communication which has also started

With the harbour sparkling in bright spring weather, activities by our regular band of willing volunteers in the Boatshed continue to be diverse, interesting and satisfying throughout September. Activities ranged from the routine mail out of the *Review* and *Buzz*, conducting dockyard tours, responding to research queries to participating in history workshops. Lobbying the West Australian State Heritage Office for the preservation of the Leeuwin Drill Hall and supporting production of a Navy PWO video were a little out of the ordinary. We also rerecorded the introductory tour video and importantly have made progress with re-establishment of our ACT Chapter. Members attending the September presentation by Vice Admiral Peter Jones, Ret'd were provided with unique insights to the RAN Naval College class of 1913. More details on these matters are provided in the following pages.

Development of a new business plan has progressed with its publication scheduled for the Annual General Meeting on 22 November 16. With incorporation of most member suggestions made earlier this year the plan will provide a blueprint for refreshing the Society and increasing its relevance in our modern information age community. However, there is a man-power bill if all the initiatives are to be achieved. As an all-volunteer society we continually need new willing volunteers to give their time. Any amount of time given, be it at the Boatshed or remotely will assist greatly with implementing the many initiatives in the plan.

For non-members who have received this newsletter please understand that it is because you are known to the Society and we felt you may appreciate a copy. If this is not the case feel free to unsubscribe. More importantly, if it inspires greater interest in Australian naval history, please consider membership. Our website tells you how, <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/membership/>.

I trust you enjoy this edition of *Call the Hands* and look forward to further feedback.

David Michael
President

30 September 2016



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of Australia

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From the Editor

We are still waiting for a volunteer editor to step forward. This rewarding position would occupy one or two days each month. It can be done from anywhere. If you are interested please e-mail us at secretary@navyhistory.org.au

Acting Editor

Workshops and Relationships

The Society was pleased to participate in September workshops conducted by the Naval Studies Group at the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict (ACSACS), University of NSW and Director Naval Heritage Collection. Discussion at these events focussed on how best to engage the Navy and civil community in reading, researching and writing naval history. The key themes which emerged were not unlike those provided in survey responses by members earlier this year. They included; the need to appeal to a wider and younger audience and the need for a cooperative approach by like minded organisations to achieve this. Initiatives to encourage younger and junior serving personnel in particular need to be identified. The Navy Studies Group will conduct periodic workshops for organisations and individuals to address common issues.

From a Society perspective, redevelopment of our website will be a key strategy in appealing to a wider audience.

The Society's close working relationship with the Sea Power Centre, (Navy Historian and Director Naval Heritage Collection) continues with the regular exchange of information, heritage items and images. We also work together on requests for assistance. A recent example was the Australian Consulate-General in Noumea, New Caledonia seeking photos for an exhibition and seminar focusing on the vital role played by HMAS Adelaide in liberating French forces in New Caledonia in WWII. In this case the Sea Power Centre took the lead.

Re-establishment of the ACT Chapter

An inaugural meeting to re-establish an ACT Chapter of the Society is scheduled for Wednesday 2 November at Legacy House, Deakin. Our Patron, Vice Admiral Barrett, Chief of Navy has been invited to attend. A formal notice of meeting to ACT and Southern NSW members will be issued in the coming weeks. However, this is conditional on meeting the requirements of the Objects and Rules of the Society which require twenty members from the area to petition for the Chapter. An e-mail, with petition attached, advising members was circulated on 23 September. To date, only five petitions have been received. If you are in the ACT or Southern NSW and support this initiative, please return it as soon as possible.

Battles for Leyte Gulf

An interesting three way coincidence occurred in September. This involved publication of a story in the *Naval Historical Review*, 'The Battles for Leyte Gulf', advice about a history tourism opportunity to Leyte in October for the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Surigao Strait and the production of a Navy video about the role of Principle Warfare Officers (PWOs). The Society's role in the video simply involved facilitating an interview with a long standing member and regular volunteer, Ian Wrigley. Ian was an officer of the watch and Direction officer serving in HMAS Australia II when it was struck by a Kamikaze on 21 October 1944 in Leyte Gulf.

Ian has previously written about the incident. Naval Historical Review Vol 33 No. 3 September 2012 refers <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/hmas-australia-night-order-book-raises-kamikaze-queries/>. There are many other stories about HMAS Australia and RAN involvement the Leyte battles. These are accessible through the website, <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/reading/>.

Ian's interview will be made available to members in due course. For the curious, Ian is a sprightly 93 year old, an ex dual Olympian in shooting and America's Cup yachtsman.

Details of the trip to Surigao, Leyte for the coming commemoration are available from David Mattiske; phone 07 55310087 and e-mail david.mattiske3@bigpond.com.

Who was the Youngest RAN Officer to Command a submarine?

This question was the subject of recent debate sparked by a challenge to the Society's website which records historic events on particular days. The page for 7 August 1973 recorded LCDR R. Fayle, RAN as the youngest officer to command an RAN submarine at age 30 years. After research by Commander Tony Vine RANR the issue was resolved and LCDR Fayle dethroned. Tony's full analysis will be published at a later date by the Society.

The historical context which led to three new contenders being researched was the significant number of Australian officers in UK preparing for the commissioning of the two Australian O Class Submarines - HMAS OXLEY (I) and HMAS OTWAY (I) in the late 1920s.

It was confirmed that Lieutenant Norman Hamon Shaw was the first to command either a RN or RAN submarine as well as the youngest RAN officer to command a British submarine (HMS H27). He was also the youngest to command an Australian submarine (HMAS OTWAY I).

Norman Hamon Shaw was born on 9 July 1900 and entered the Naval College as a Cadet Midshipman on the 31 December 1913. He joined HMAS J7 in September 1919 before returning to surface postings on the paying off of the J Class. He returned to UK joining Dolphin in November 1924 before posting to HMS L52 in March 1925, taking over as her XO on the 15th of October that year. He commenced his Perisher course in April 1926 and on the 20th of July 1926 he was appointed in command of HMS H27. At the time of his appointment in command he was 26 years and 11 Days old. He commissioned HMAS OTWAY as First Lieutenant and on the 19th of February 1929 he was appointed in Command of OTWAY. At the time of his appointment in command of OTWAY Shaw was 28 Years and 228 days old.

Australian War Memorial Official History Project

Dr David Stevens, Navy's former Chief Historian is now a member of the AWMs Official History Project team. Their objective is to write the official history of Australian Operations in the most recent conflicts in which Australia has been involved; Iraq (2003–11) and Afghanistan (2001–14), as well as its role in peacekeeping operations in East Timor (1999–2012).

The Team is particularly interested in receiving first-hand accounts, photographs etc. that will enable them to tell as much of the story as possible.

The NHSA is keen to support this project and requests that members, if not able to assist directly, at least pass this request on to those who can.

The website of the Official History Project is here: <https://www.awm.gov.au/histories/operations-iraq-afghanistan-and-peacekeeping-operations-east-timor/>

At the bottom of the page there is a request for information from veterans and families and a link to the data entry form.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/histories/operations-iraq-afghanistan-and-peacekeeping-operations-east-timor/information-form/>

If you have any questions Dr Stevens can be contacted on 02 62434504.

New Naval History Books

Three new naval history books will be released this quarter. These include; *Flagship* by Mike Carlton which was launched in HMAS Canberra on 6 September, *Bravo Zulu Volume 1* by Dr Ian Pfennigwerth to be launched on 20 October and *Australian Argonauts* by Peter Jones to be launched before the end of 2016.

Flagship: The Cruiser HMAS Australia II and the Pacific War on Japan by Mike Carlton

This book focuses on HMAS Australia II and its role during World War II but deals also with its sister ships, HMAS Canberra I and HMAS Shropshire. The 30 July 2016 Australian Newspaper review provides more detail: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/mike-carltons-flagship-how-hmas-australia-ii-beat-off-the-kimakazes/news-story/f28c0bc934a1727aa6d90fb43d50def2>

Bravo Zulu: Honours and Awards to Australian Naval People Volume 1, 1900-1974 by Ian Pfennigwerth

This book will examine some 4,000 Australian naval people who received honours and awards for their efforts, courage, sacrifice and service to the nation in the period 1900 to 2014. Volume 1 covers the period 1900 to 1974. It contains almost 800 pages with 24 maps and 250 illustrations. It has a 74-page Index of the recipients of honours and awards, linking the text to the recipient. The book traces, through the recipients' stories, the formation and development of the RAN, its fortunes during World War I, its resurrection from the depths of the Depression, and its fine fighting record during World War II. Post-war the stories tell of our Navy's growth toward independence, the exploits of its men in Korea, Malaysia, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam, and its development of ships and weapons systems like the famous Ikara anti-submarine missile. There are also stories about the loss of Voyager and of spectacular feats in naval flying and diving. For more detail, visit Ian's website; <http://www.nautilushistory.com.au/>

AUSTRALIA'S ARGONAUTS

AUSTRALIA'S ARGONAUTS, is the remarkable story of the first class to enter the Royal Australian Naval College. The boys were drawn from every State and became known as the 'Pioneer Class'. They bore witness to some of the most important events in the Navy's early history. John Collins became the first graduate to become Chief of Naval Staff. Rupert Long, famed naval intelligence officer, Eric Feldt who ran the famous 'Coastwatchers' and Peyton Kimlin who wrote the score to Australia's first ballet. The book traces their roll and service with the Grand Fleet in WW1 through to their great contribution during WW2 and their eventual passing into history. For more detail; <https://www.echobooks.com.au/book-shop/australias-argonauts>

Background Briefing: The History of the Twenty-First-Century Chinese Navy

Given the significant international attention on China's militarization of the South China Sea readers may be interested to better understand the history of the PLA Navy (PLAN). A paper by Bernard D. Cole which helps this understanding was recently received by the Society. It was first presented at the United States Naval Academy History Symposium 15-16 September 2011. It is available via the following link.

<https://www.usnwc.edu/getattachment/5c20e42d-5309-4644-8bf7-ea7932f99a49/The-History-of-the-Twenty-First-Century-Chinese-Na.aspx>

Featured Web site: 'Battle for Australia'

Society researchers recently assisted the Commanding Officer HMAS Kuttabul with material for incorporation in her keynote address for the 7 September 2016 Martin Place Commemoration Ceremony. This event naturally raised the question, what is this Battle for Australia? Where did the term come from and why is it important?

The Battle for Australia website <http://www.battleforaustralia.org/> provides the following description. The site is maintained by the Battle for Australia Historical Society which came into existence in 2002.

"The term "Battle for Australia" describes the clash of Japanese and American strategic war aims with Australia as their focus that produced a series of great battles in 1942 across the northern approaches to Australia, including the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Kokoda Campaign, and the Guadalcanal Campaign. It was Australia's wartime Prime Minister John Curtin who first used the term "Battle for Australia" in the press release above to describe the impending massive struggle to defend Australia against Japanese military aggression."

A copy of CO Kuttabul's address which she has kindly made available is attached.

Goldrick Seminar – Maritime Operations in the Littoral – 20 October 2016

A seminar entitled Maritime Operations in the Littoral with speakers drawn from senior levels of Defence, academia, industry and the media will be held at the Australian Defence Force Academy Thursday, 20 October 2016

This seminar is a joint event between the ANI and Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society (University of New South Wales - Canberra).

The event will also see the launch by the Chief of Navy of the book *Bravo Zulu: Honours and Awards to Australian Naval People Volume 1, 1900-1974* by Ian Pfennigwerth.

More information and bookings are available at <http://navalinstitute.com.au/goldrick-seminar-maritime-operations-in-the-littoral-20-october-2016/> Bookings close 11 October 2016.

Members Forum

Feedback on the first edition of *Call the Hands* included a proposal to incorporate a question and answer (Q & A) section. The objective being to publish requests for assistance with research or information which other readers may well be able to assist with. Three such issues have been submitted this month.

Anthony Lee in Tasmania is seeking photographs of HMAS Swan1 and HMAS Huon 1 taken when they were employed as training ships in the 1920's in Tasmania.

Bob Osborne from New South Wales is seeking examples of daily orders or other documents which detail typical daily routines on board frigates and destroyers in the 1960s and or 70s.

Ian Holmes of New South Wales is downsizing and offering ships crests at no cost. These are Adelaide, Canberra, Cerberus, Darwin, Hobart, RANC, and Sydney. Please contact Ian via e-mail if you are interested, ianjanh@bigpond.com.

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Society's 2016 AGM is scheduled for 1100 Tuesday 22 November 2016 in Sydney at the Combined Services RSL Club, Barrack Street. Notice of the meeting and a proxy form have been e-mailed to members. The AGM will be followed by an 'End of Year' function for members and partners.

World War II 75th Anniversary Commemorations

Advice of the following commemorations was received from Navy Events, Navy Headquarters.

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE	Commemoration Events
19 Nov 16	The loss of cruiser HMAS <i>Sydney</i>	The RAN's largest loss of life in a single action during WWII. 645 killed, including 6 members of RAAF and 4 civilian canteen staff, in action in the Indian Ocean.	The City of Greater Geraldton Memorial Service at Geraldton. The Shire of Carnarvon Memorial Service at Carnarvon.
27 Nov 16	The loss of sloop HMAS <i>Parramatta</i>	137 of her complement of 160 killed in action in the Med.	NAA Parramatta Memorial Sub-Section NAA will hold a march, a Memorial Service and a luncheon in Parramatta on 27 Nov.

Subscription

Should you become aware of others who wish to receive *Call The Hands* they should be advised to register by e-mailing the Society at callthehands@navyhistory.org.au.

For those wishing to unsubscribe, simply e-mail the editor at callthehands@navyhistory.org.au