



CALL THE HANDS



Issue No. 48 December 2020

From the President

Welcome to this edition of *Call the Hands*, our last in the Society's 50th anniversary year. It includes a variety of short articles which are connected through various themes including the RAN's first ship, HMAS Parramatta (I) and her namesakes. Another connection is the shared anniversary of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) celebrating its 100th anniversary. Accordingly, we acknowledge our many readers who are members of the NAA. Their service in the RAN (past and present) has contributed to the history of Australia's great Navy.

The Society's close connection with *Parramatta (I)* stems from the not insignificant project to recover her bow and stern sections from a Hawksbury River mudflat. These sections are now prominently displayed in Sydney. Additional information about this fascinating project recently came to light and has been published in the December Naval Historical Review now being distributed to members. We also feature a recent NAA commemorative service for HMAS Parramatta (II) and recognition of the commissioning commanding officer of HMAS Parramatta (III), Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths RAN, Rtd.

Many interesting and sometimes obscure naval stories remain untold. Occasional paper 97 is a good example. It is the story of a small party of sailors landed in Arnhem Land from HMAS Fremantle (I) in 1958 to observe Japanese pearl fishing operations. This story was shared by Eric Deshon with Australian National Maritime Museum's oral history volunteers and published in the ANMM's volunteer newsletter 'All Hands' in June 2018.

Recording historic events on canvas has been a traditional art form which continues today. This was certainly the case when 'The Life Line', a painting of the moment of rescue of single-handed yachtsman, Tony Bullimore in the Southern Ocean came to our attention. This painting by Darrell White was exhibited in the October 2020 Australian Society of Marine Artists exhibition. We contacted Darrell and Raydon Gates, the then commanding officer of the rescue ship, HMAS Adelaide for their insights into the event. Thus, Occasional Paper 98 provides two very interesting perspectives on this historic event.

With Christmas fast approaching we are offering a 20% discount on the sale of many items through the Society's online shop. By taking advantage of the offer which won't last long, you contribute to the Society's financial wellbeing. Finally, look out for the pilot tour of Sub Base Platypus and much more. This tour is being offered by the Society on 20 January 2021. If successful, it will become a regular event. [Book through Eventbrite](#).

Seasons greetings to all,

David Michael

Support the Society

Although *Call the Hands* is a free service to the community, produced by volunteers there are costs. Our objective is simply to promote understanding of Australian naval history. Voluntary contributions are essential to deliver this service to readers. If you value our work **please consider a donation**. <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/donate/>



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of Australia**

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HMAS Parramatta II Memorial Day Ceremony

On Sunday 22 November 2020 the Parramatta Memorial Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia conducted the 79th HMAS Parramatta II anniversary service in the Queens Wharf Reserve, Parramatta. The service, held annually on the Sunday closest the date of sinking of HMAS Parramatta II commemorates the 138 men, including all officers, who lost their lives. There was only 24 survivors.

Following the service, Society member and former President, Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths, AO, DSO, DSC, RAN Rtd was presented with his World War 2 commemorative medallion issued by the Government of New South Wales. The medallion was struck to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2. Captain Simon Cannell CSC, RAN who delivered the oration presented Rear Admiral Griffiths with his medallion.

Admiral Griffiths is Patron of the NAA Parramatta Sub Section and was the commissioning commanding officer of HMAS Parramatta III.



Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths
AO, DSO, DSC, R.A.N Rtd,
NHSA Image

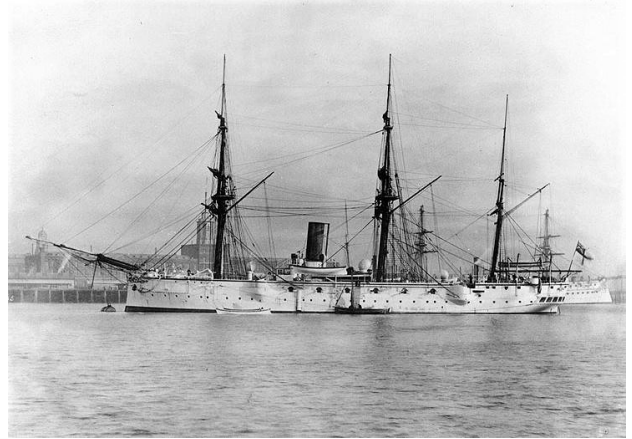
L to R: Captain Simon Cannell CSC, RAN; Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths AO, DSO, DSC, RAN Rtd; Councillor Bob Dwyer, Lord Mayor City of Parramatta; Mr Bruce Richens, President NAA Paramatta Memorial Sub Section. NHSA image.

Gossip about Glossop

By John Smith, Senior Researcher

In trawling through the Society's extensive archives recently, I came across two small articles concerning John Glossop at different ends of his naval career.

The first was in 1889 when he was a Midshipman serving in HMS Calliope. *Calliope* was a sailing corvette with a steam driven reciprocating engine driving a single screw. This was just sufficient to enable her to steam out of Apia harbor in Samoa during the great hurricane of 1889. United States and German warships also in Apia harbour at the time were unable to accomplish this operation. It must have been an incredible experience for an eighteen year old midshipmen.



The second item relating to Glossop which I came across was a letter he wrote whilst Captain of HMAS Sydney during her action in which she destroyed the German light cruiser *Emden*. The following is the letter,

*HMAS Sydney
At Sea
9 November 1914*

Sir,

I have the honour to request that in the name of humanity you now surrender your ship to me. In order to show how much I appreciate your gallantry, I will recapitulate the position.

- 1. You are ashore, three funnels and one mast down and most guns disabled.*
- 2. You cannot leave this island and my ship is intact.*

In the event of your surrendering, in which I venture to remind you is no disgrace but rather your misfortune, I will endeavor to do all I can for your sick and wounded and take them to a hospital.

*I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
John Glossop
Captain*

*The Captain
H.I.G.M.S. Emden*



Painting, Captain John Glossop,
AWM image

Glossop wrote this letter even though he knew it could not be delivered until after the action had ended. Curiously the original of this letter is reputedly held on board HMS Flying Fox, the headquarters ship of the RNR in Bristol, Gloucestershire. How did it get there?

Further Reading

John Collings Glossop (1871–1934) Biography, Australian Dictionary of Biography, available at, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/glossop-john-collings-6403>

The Loss of HMAS Parramatta II

HMAS Parramatta (II) was lost in the early hours of the 27th November 1941 while escorting a convoy to the Allied garrison at Tobruk under siege by German and Italian forces. *Parramatta* was hit by a torpedo fired from German submarine U559. The torpedo caused the ship's magazine to explode causing the ship to roll rapidly to starboard and sink within minutes. The Commanding Officer, Commander Jefferson Walker immediately ordered the crew to abandon ship. However, only about a third of the ship's complement was able to escape, so quick was the sinking.

The other convoy escort, HMS Avon Vale, rescued 21 men despite being some way off at the time of the attack. Tragically, many of those who survived the sinking perished in the sea despite the efforts of Avon Vale's crew. Three other survivors made it to shore and were found by advancing British troops.

In total there were 24 survivors, but 138 men, including all officers lost their lives.



The Tobruk Ferry, HMA Ships Parramatta, Waterhen and Vendetta, June 1941.
Painting by Phil Belbin, Naval Heritage Collection image.

Further Reading

G. Hermon Gill, official history of the Second World War, Royal Australian Navy, 1939–1942. Relevant chapter available at; <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1417452>

HMAS Parramatta (II) History, Sea Power Centre Australia, available at, <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-parramatta-ii>

Australian War Memorial, Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Parramatta 2008, available at <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/anniversary-of-the-sinking-of-hmas-parramatta>

Naval Association of Australia: 100 Years

On 20 November 2020 the Naval Association of Australia marked its 100th anniversary with a wreath laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

The Naval Association of Australia (NAA), is understood to have been formed following a chance meeting of former WWI shipmates in Melbourne in 1920. This then led to the establishment of an Association that would evolve into the only national organisation solely committed to watching over the interests of serving and ex-Navy men and women in Australia. The NAA shares the Royal Naval Association's motto: 'Once Navy, Always Navy'. It is an association of like-minded shipmates who share an ethos borne 'in service at sea and ashore, in peace and in war'. Today it has 2,860 members in 76 Sections and Sub-Sections across Australia who afford each other companionship and support through naval fellowship. The Association exists to safeguard the legacy of those now passed and to minister to the wellbeing and recognition of the naval veteran.



NAA anniversary service; a Sailor's Cap, symbolic of Members still serving and Veterans; Counterpane symbolising those who are now at rest; the Bosun's Call symbolising the heralding of a New Day

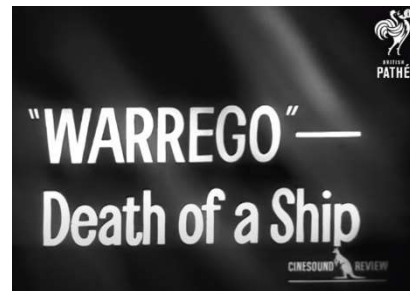
Further Reading

President's message by David Manolis, available at, <https://navalassoc.org.au/links/presidents-page>

Video of the Month

A short news article covering the service of HMAS Warrego during WWII and her final disposal in the 1960's.

[Australian Naval Boat For Scrap \(1965\) - YouTube](#)



New Tour: Wednesday 20 January 2021

Sub Base Platypus and the story of the RAN submarines, torpedoes, submariners and those who supported them.

Society volunteers will conduct this pilot tour of the former submarine base, HMAS Platypus and adjacent torpedo factory on Wednesday 20 January. This tour goes beyond the base to address Sydney's association with submarines dating back to 1914 with the arrival of the first two Royal Australian Navy AE Class submarines and the WW2 Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney.

Bookings can be made through this [Eventbrite link](#).

Zoom Presentation 9 December 2020: The Sinking, Salvaging and Scrapping of the *Costa Concordia*

Details of this presentation are available on the Society's [website events page](#).



Zoom Speakers Program 2021

The draft 2021 schedule of Zoom presentations is maturing. The final version will be issued in January. It is a most interesting array of topics which is bound to interest members. The first presentation will be delivered by Commodore Bob Trotter RAN Rtd. It is entitled, 'Iron men and tin fish'. The following is a synopsis of this fascinating presentation.

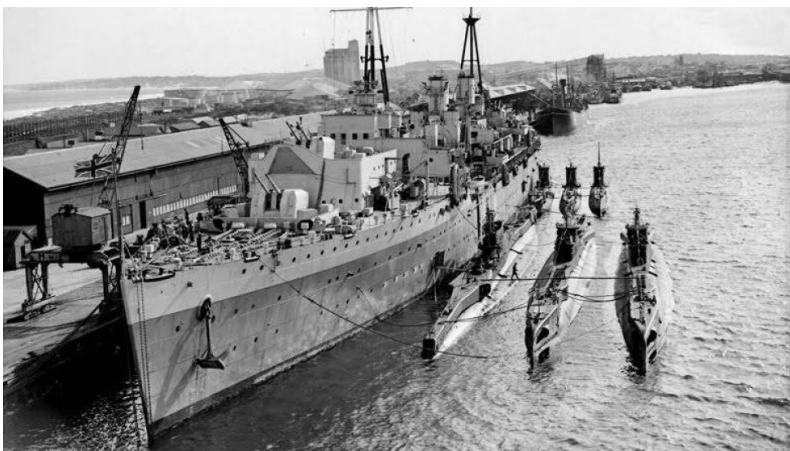
Iron Men and Tin Fish – The Fremantle and Albany Submarine Bases – SW Pacific Submarine Command.

In the period 1942 to 1945 Fremantle was the second largest submarine base in the World. Some 167 Allied submarines operated out of Fremantle, from where they conducted one of the most effective submarine operations in history. The existence of the Allied submarine operation from Fremantle for Australia's defence in the period 1942 to 1945 is not widely known, and yet its effect was critical. These submarines were to strangle Japanese maritime communications so that Japan could not re-supply its deployed forces and could not feed its own population. It was probably the most effective submarine war ever conducted.

Not well known is that from the start of the Pacific War, US submarines had very few successes against enemy shipping despite aggressive patrolling of enemy invasion and re-supply routes in the Philippines and Dutch East Indies theatres. The main problem was the submarine's main offensive weapon, the Mk 14 torpedo. As in many wartime cases, the initiative of the 'men at the front' came to the fore by ignoring an obfuscating munitions bureaucracy, rolling up their sleeves and forcing a solution. A few hours, a single submarine and a few torpedoes fired at a fishing net in Frenchman's Bay, Albany, WA changed the course of the war in the Pacific.

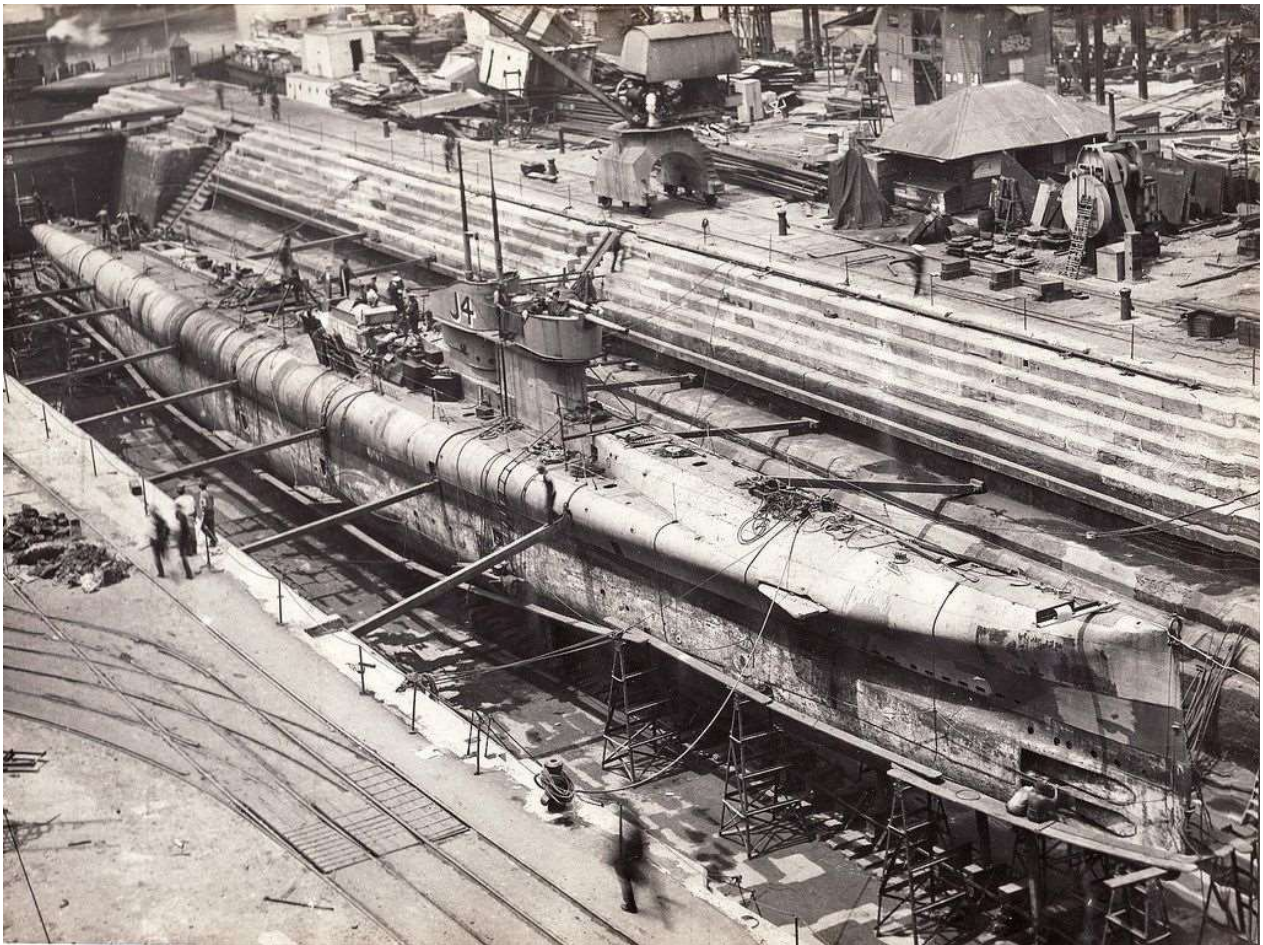
DRAFT NHSA SPEAKERS PROGRAM – 2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
<u>JANUARY</u>	Iron men and tin fish	Bob Trotter
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	LHD's and LST's	John Jeremy
<u>MARCH</u>	Battles of the Atlantic	Desmond Woods
<u>APRIL</u>	The Teddy Sheean Story	Noel Phelan
<u>MAY</u>	DUYFKEN	Roy Stall
<u>JUNE</u>	IIMAS AUSTRALIA II	Kez Hasanagic
<u>JULY</u>	Lawn Tennis	Colin Randall
<u>AUGUST</u>	Nelson	Walter Burroughs
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	Captain Cook Graving Dock	David Michael
<u>OCTOBER</u>	IIMAS MELBOURNE IIMAS VOYAGER collision	Terry Feltham
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	Pilot boats	Luke Nye
<u>DECEMBER</u>		TBA



Submarines alongside a Fremantle Submarine Base in WWII, WA Museum Image

Photo of the Month:



HMAS J4 at Cockatoo island Dockyard

In 1918 the Royal Navy presented the six remaining boats of the J Class to the Australian Government and all the submarines commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy at Portsmouth on 25 March 1919, as tenders to the submarine depot ship HMAS *Platypus*, J7 being the senior boat. The Commanding Officer of J4 was Lieutenant Ambrose N Lee RN.

The beam tubes were removed from all six J Class submarines before they sailed for Australia. The tubes were despatched separately to Garden Island. The reasons given for the removal were that the beam tubes were not a success and that increased accommodation was required. On 9 April 1919 *Platypus* and the submarines, escorted by the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney*, sailed from Portsmouth for Australia, their first two ports of call being Gibraltar and Valetta.

Having arrived at Sydney in a poor condition, the submarines were taken in hand at Garden Island Dockyard for refitting. After her refit was completed J4, in company with J and *Platypus*, sailed on 16 February 1920 for the submarine base at Geelong, Victoria.

After uneventful service, little of which was spent at sea, J4 and her five sisters paid off into Reserve at Westernport on 12 July 1922. The boats had become victims of the worsening economic conditions of the time, coupled with their high cost of maintenance.

On 26 February 1924 J4 was sold to the Melbourne Salvage Syndicate. On 10 July 1924 she sank at Williamstown Dockyard wharf but was later raised and sunk outside Port Phillip Heads in 1927.

News in Brief

Australia's New Icebreaker RSV Nuyina Starts Sea Trials

After her arrival in the Netherlands at the end of August, Australia's icebreaker RSV Nuyina is commencing her sea trials in the North Sea. This marks the start of a month-long phase and an important milestone for all involved in the icebreaker project; the Australian Antarctic Division, ship managers Serco and shipbuilder Damen. Damen has been working on the icebreaker since 2016. Sea trials will be followed by additional weeks of deep-water trials.



Testing of the ship's speed, noise, propulsion systems, steering, advanced electrical systems, and science equipment will take place as the vessel prepares for final sea ice trials in the Arctic early next year.

One of the most advanced vessels of its kind, RSV *Nuyina* will provide a world-class scientific platform for Antarctic researchers, carrying cutting-edge equipment to study the depths of the Southern Ocean, sea ice and the upper atmosphere. The vessel is expected to arrive in its home port of Hobart in mid-2021 to commence Antarctic operations in next year's Southern Hemisphere summer season.

Australia's Canberra-Class LHDs Achieve Final Operational Capability

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) is now one of the world's premier amphibious forces with both Canberra-class Landing Helicopter Docks (LHD) and Landing Craft successfully achieving Final Operational Capability.



The entire amphibious capability acquired under Joint Project 2048, including the LHDs HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Canberra, the twelve Landing Craft (LLC) and the amphibious supporting organisations, achieved the milestone in November, confirming they are able to deliver and deploy the full scope of amphibious operations.

As the centrepiece of Australia's amphibious force, the Canberra-class have the ability to complete operations spanning from amphibious warfare through to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. At 230 metres long and with a speed in excess of 20 knots, the 27,500 tonne LHDs are highly reliable and effective ships with capabilities which include six helicopter positions and four integral ship-to-shore connectors, which are able to carry all of Army's in-service vehicles, including the M1A1 main battle tank.

This Month in History

December 1875	HMVS Victoria went to the rescue of the clipper ship <i>Tienstin</i> , foundering in Bass Strait. The crew of the disabled ship was taken off, and an attempt was made to tow TIENSTIN to safety, but she rolled over and sank.
December 1910	Commonwealth ships HMAS Parramatta and HMAS Yarra, (torpedo boat destroyers), the first warships built for the Australian navy since Federation, arrived in Port Phillip, Melbourne, Victoria, the Federal Capital of Australia.
December 1911	SBLT A. M. Longmore, RN, an Australian serving in the RN, successfully landed a Short S27 aircraft fitted with airbags on the Medway River, England.
December 1917	Flight Lieutenant F. N. Fox, RNAS, flew a Sopwith Pup aircraft from the quarterdeck of HMAS Australia, (battle-cruiser). This was the first successful aircraft take-off from an Australian warship.
December 1929	HMAS Swordsman decommissioned and was placed into reserve. She was eventually sold for breaking up on 4 June 1937.
December 1934	HMAS Australia (II) sailed for England, with His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester embarked, on exchange duty with the Royal Navy, her place on the Australia Station being taken by HMS Sussex. Proceeding via New Zealand, Fiji, Balboa and Kingston, Australia (II) reached Portsmouth on 28 March 1935
December 1939	The 20th Minesweeping Flotilla, HMA Ships <i>Swan</i> , <i>Yarra</i> , <i>Orara</i> , and <i>Doomba</i> , commenced operations on the east coast of Australia.
December 1940	The intensity of the struggle in the Mediterranean may be gauged from this diary entry of HMAS Waterhen: 'Torpedo attack by aircraft 3.30pm. Attack by 24 bombers escorted by 18 fighters. First salvo missed <i>Waterhen</i> 40 yards clear on starboard side. <i>Chalka</i> near-missed and leaking. Many soldiers killed on shore. Great dog fight by Gladiators, several bombers and Italian fighters shot down by our fighters. 7.15pm torpedo attack by aircraft turned away by fire from <i>Waterhen's</i> main armament. 9pm left Salum on patrol westward of Bardia.'
December 1943	HMA Ships Australia (II) (Captain HB Farncomb, DSO, MVO, RAN), <i>Shropshire</i> (Captain JA Collins, CB, RAN), <i>Arunta</i> (I) (Commander AE Buchanan, RAN) and <i>Warramunga</i> (I) (Captain EFV Dechaineux, DSC, RAN) bombarded enemy targets at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, in preparation for Allied landings. Over the course of 80 minutes, the four vessels expended over 700 rounds of 8-inch, nearly 900 rounds of 4.7-inch, and nearly 100 rounds of 4-inch ammunition. By the end of the day 12,500 troops and 7600 tons of supplies had been landed at Cape Gloucester.
December 1951	A Sea Fury from HMAS Sydney was shot down to the westward of Pyong-Gang and in the afternoon a second Sea Fury was shot down off Ongjin. Both pilots were rescued, the first by a United States helicopter from Paengyong and the latter by a friendly junk.
December 1956	HMAS Arunta (I) passed to dockyard control for refitting for Operational Reserve. She had steamed 95,221 miles during her second commission bringing her total mileage to 357,273 since commissioning in 1942. <i>Arunta</i> (I) remained in Operational Reserve at Sydney from 1957 to 1968. She was sold for scrap to the China Steel Corporation of Taipei, Formosa, on 1 November 1968.
December 1962	The newly formed 16th MCM Squadron arrived in Australia with the six Bird class minesweepers.
December 1969	The Oberon class submarine HMAS Onslow, (LCDR C. Nixon-Eckersall, RN), was commissioned at Greenock, Scotland. <i>Onslow</i> was laid down in Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd, Greenock, Scotland on 26 May 1967 and launched on 3 December 1968. Princess Alexandra performed the launching ceremony. <i>Onslow</i> was transferred to the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, as a permanent exhibit after decommissioning in March 1999.
December 1976	Twelve of the RAN's Tracker anti-submarine aircraft were destroyed in a disastrous fire at HMAS Albatross, Nowra, NSW. The combined strength of Fleet Air Arm Squadrons 816 and 851 was reduced to one serviceable Tracker.

December 1985	HMAS Stalwart, (maintenance ship), made an emergency voyage to Macquarie Island for ANARE to land Christmas stores for the staff when the Antarctic supply ship <i>Nella Dan</i> developed defects.
December 1986	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, approved the posthumous award of the Australian Bravery Medal to Able Seaman Michael George Oliver, RAN for bravery during a gas alarm in HMAS Stalwart, on 22 October, 1985.
December 1992	HMAS Jervis Bay departed Sydney for Mogadishu, Somalia, to provide strategic sea-lift for Operation Solace, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the US-led operation to bring peace and humanitarian relief to the war torn African nation
December 1995	The badly damaged hulk of HMAS Derwent was finally scuttled, by charges set by CDT 4, in deep water to the west of Rottnest Island, WA. During the previous 10 weeks, the old ship had been subjected to a series of tests by DSTO staff, to observe the affect of bomb and shell damage on a warship. Due to the damage to the vessel she was sunk in very deep water to prevent divers attempting to dive on the wreck.
December 2004	HMAS Kanimbla II sailed from Sydney for Indonesia via Darwin for Operation Sumatra Assist in the wake of the Boxing Day Tsunami.
December 2011	817 Squadron decommissioned and last Sea Kings withdrawn from RAN service.
December 2018	HMAS Gascoyne II returned to Australia after completing the longest voyage undertaken by a vessel of its class. Gascoyne, along with sister ship, HMAS Huon, had visited ports and exercised in the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Philippines. <i>Gascoyne</i> and <i>Huon</i> steamed in excess of 4,000 nautical miles during the voyage and were the first Australian Mine Warfare vessels to travel to the Republic of Korea

The entries selected for publication this month are randomly generated from an extensive database of historic naval events. The absence of a significant event is in no way intended to cause offence. The objective is to provide a cross section of events across time. The Society's website enables you to look up any event in RAN history. Searches can be made by era, date look up or today. The latter appears on the home page. The others are accessed via the Research page. <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/research/on-this-day/>

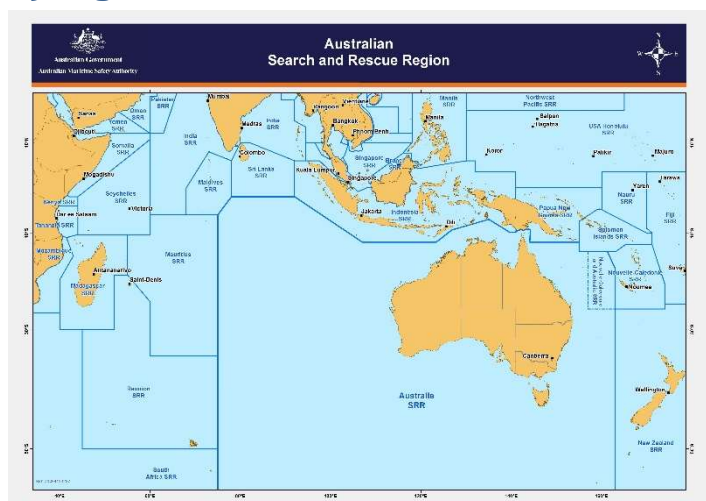
Occasional Papers in this edition

Included with this edition of Call the Hands are the following occasional papers: -

- Occasional Paper 97 - The Lost Patrol a story by Eric Deshon
- Occasional Paper 98 – The Life Line: The rescue of Tony Bullimore

Australia's Search and Rescue (SAR) Region

Australia has responsibility for a very large search and rescue region which covers the continent of Australia and large areas of the surrounding oceans, the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans as well the Australian Antarctic territories. This region is nearly 53 million square kilometres (one tenth of the Earth's surface) and borders the search and rescue regions of 10 other countries. SAR operations for aviation and maritime incidents are managed from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Canberra.



Reference: [Australian Maritime Safety Authority](https://www.marine.gov.au/)

Society Matters

Your Committee 2020-21

The Society's Annual General Meeting was conducted as a Zoom webinar on Thursday 17 November with 32 members attending, 20 online and 12 in the Boatshed. The standard AGM agenda items included acceptance of the financial statements and election of the Committee of Management. The statements and President's report are available to members on the website.

Most former Committee members stood again with the exception of Kingsley Perry who retired after more than four years on the Committee. King is thanked for his dedication and support as a Committee member and for his ongoing commitment in a voluntary capacity. Replacing King on the Committee is Noel Phelan who will now be familiar to most members and subscribers given his management of the Society's Speakers Program.

Office Bearers

President,	David Michael
Vice President,	John Jeremy,
Honorary Secretary,	David Blazey
Honorary Treasurer,	Nick Horspool
Editor NHR magazine,	Walter Burroughs

Committee Members

Ian Phillips
Tony Townsend
Colin Randall
Noel Phelan
Peter Brigden



Naval Historical Society of Australia, AGM 2020 Office Bearers, L to R, John Jeremy, Vice President; David Michael, President; David Blazey, Honorary Secretary and Nick Horspool, Honorary Treasurer.

A Society Motto after 50 Years

The idea for a motto for the Society to help mark its 50th anniversary year came from founding member, Mr Norman Rivett, who served in the Dockyard for more than six decades both on Staff and as a Society committee member and volunteer. In this time Norm wrote many stories for the Naval Historical Review. One story about the General Managers of Garden Island Dockyard published in December 2012 included an anecdote about General Manager George Starr, employee Dan Craig and a motto 'The Written Word Remaineth'. Although a possible option for a Society motto the Committee selected 'Honouring History' from a short list of proposed mottos.



Poster depicting evolution of the Society badge and motto.

The motto was officially launched by Warrant Officer of the Navy, WO Deborah Butterworth, OAM, CSM and Bar at a function in the Boatshed 12 November 2020. WO Butterworth was representing Society Patron, the Chief of Navy.

Christmas Special Catalogue Out Now

Distributed with this edition of Call the Hands is the Society's Christmas Catalogue offering 20% discounts to readers on a range of products.

Of special note is the membership offer which provides membership for 18 months instead of the usual 12. It is a great opportunity that should not be missed.

Shopping on the website is easy. Don't forget to apply the coupon reference number in the checkout.

SPECIAL OFFER!

**Spend \$20.00 or more
in one purchase and
save 20%**

using this voucher



Office Closure

The Society's office will be closed from 10 December to 12 January however, Christmas special orders will continue to be processed.

The next edition of Call the Hands will be published on 1 February 2021.

Subscription to Call the Hands

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 publications@navyhistory.org.au. Current subscribers can unsubscribe by emailing the same address.