The Battle of Bita Paka was again commemorated at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 101st anniversary of the offensive. It was at this offensive that the first Australian Serviceman made the supreme sacrifice, with the first casualty being AB Billy Williams of Northcote, Melbourne, an ex-employee of the City of Melbourne. Some refer to Bita Paka as a skirmish, whilst it was an offensive that may have only taken 48 hours to succeed, the impact of this success was to have a profound impact on the Australian community. Given it occurred at the outset of hostilities in 1914, it was a significant occasion for the fledgling Commonwealth of Australia. We had no history of our own and this was an event that would provide a foundation for other military feats, whether they be successful or otherwise. Another casualty on the first day of the Battle was the death of Army Doctor CAPT Brian Pockley. CAPT Pockley gave his Red Cross armband to another naval serviceman, Stoker Kember, so Kember could carry Billy Williams back to safety and medical attention. Shortly afterwards, Pockley was also wounded, unprotected due to his unknown medical status.

To mark the occasion a small number of VIPs and Veterans, supported by a Catafalque Party with a Colour Party carrying the relevant Ensigns. The commemorative Service was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance, co-organised by Darebin RSL and the NCCV. The address was delivered by CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus. CAPT Bowater reminded everyone of the tremendous spirit of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force. He spoke of the adverse situation and courage of those engaged in this battle. CAPT Bowater referred to the comparisons made on a time basis, stipulating that the period of conflict is not the appropriate method of measuring the contribution made by individuals under the most impossible circumstances.

Left, the Catafalque Party at Rest as MAJ Charles Castles delivers a reading. Also pictured is POMUS Simon Potter, the Bugler at the service when the national anthem was played with the Catafalque Party at Present. After the service in the Sanctuary, VIPs and family members ad-
We are approaching a month of some significance and we hope you will support the initiative to re-boot Navy Week Victoria - 2015 during October with some vigour. Many within the Navy community will be doing something, all good stuff - but have you factored in at least one of the several Navy Week activities arranged between Saturday, 17OCT and 24OCT15. You will see the list of events listed within this and past editions of Rogues Yarn, all in a keen effort to get you to something during this year of the Spirit of ANZAC. There are a few Champions that have put considerable effort into Navy Week events, we should not let them down. HMAS Cerberus has been terrific in providing support for a multitude of activities during this year, with plenty more to go. Routinely, we remind ourselves of the commemorative milestones that represent 100, 75 & 50 year anniversaries, plus the normal reflection of events. It has proved very difficult to achieve a change in numbers attending these events, each arranged to build on the heritage of the past. Whilst it seems there is renewed interest around offensive activities encountered during WWI, there remains many occasions when the tragic circumstances of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Timor and later Operations in the Middle East should ignite some interest from ex-Service men and women. Also, descendants of those that actually participated in war-like operations should engage. On a different matter, we await the outcome of the recent review by the Victorian Veterans Council as they seek to improve support to Veterans. There will be a range of ideas gathered that will be of benefit to the many independent Ship/Unit and Branch Associations that seek to bind the Veteran community together. Notwithstanding the wide range of views and interests, we should be able to bring them together to maximize our support and value to Navy.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

HMAS Australia - Battle of Leyte, Philippines

The HMAS Australia Veterans’ Association extends an invitation to all within the Naval fraternity to attend their Commemoration Service at 1100, St Paul’s Cathedral on Thursday, 22OCT15. This service reflects the sacrifice made during the World War Two Leyte Gulf offensive. This service is well placed during our newly rejuvenated Navy Week Victoria, where significant activities have been scheduled for several days of that week. Attendance at this service will be welcomed by the WWII HMAS Australia Veterans who arrange this service. During October 1944, Australian ships were part of the massive Allied invasion fleet that landed American troops at Leyte Gulf, in the Philippines, enabling General Douglas MacArthur to honour his promise, made two years earlier to return to the Philippines. The frigate HMAS Gascoyne and motor launch HDML1074 were part of a hydrographic survey group that plotted the approaches to the landing beaches and then the landing ships HMA Ships Kanimbla, Manoora and Westralia were among hundreds of transports and landing craft. The cruisers HMA Ships Australia and Shropshire and destroyers HMA Ships Arunta and Warramunga were part of the covering force. They shelled positions on shore and protected landing craft taking soldiers to their designated landing beaches in Leyte Gulf. It was during this battle that Kamikaze attacks first occurred. Japanese aircraft were packed with high explosive or armed with bombs. On 21OCT44 HMAS Australia became the first Allied warship to be hit by a kamikaze aircraft. The plane flew into the Bridge, killing the command team, including CAPT Emile Dechaineux DSC pictured below.

HMAS PERTH - CAPT Dechaineux on the bridge with the con.
### Wreath Sunday

Our records note that during the mid 1960s NCCV worked with Navy to initiate Navy Week. We understand the wreath laying was in direct response to the death of Admiral of the Fleet Andrew Browne Cunningham RN, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet during WW2. Admiral Cunningham was highly regarded by the Australian Sailors who had served in the Scrap Iron Flotilla and the N Class Destroyers whilst they were under his command in the Mediterranean. It was a mere twenty years since the end of WW2 and their memory of those heady days remained fresh in their minds. Several of the Australian warships involved were lost, each loss etched in their minds the magnitude of the risk surrounding their day to day activities. The Wreath Laying Service will be at 1230, Sunday 18OCT15 in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Senior Naval Officer Victoria will deliver the address. A Catafalque Party will be provided by Cerberus. We hope Service and ex-Service men and women, and descendants will appreciate the significance of the occasion.

### Golf Monday

A wonderful golf tournament has been arranged for those skilled in the use of club and ball! Waveley Golf Club is a terrific course and the only hurdle is the need to make the decision to participate. At $50 Per Person, with group bookings most welcome, the ability to join in the fun is only limited by your capacity to send an email or at worst ring Rohan at HMAS Cerberus. Before you start, you may have to stand at attention for a few minutes, Colours and so forth, just as a reminder for the Old Salts about what it used to be like. The plan is for a game of golf, lunch, generous prizes across all grades (including ladies), nearest the pin, longest/straightest drives etc. To help the aging disgracefully, individual Stableford (Callaway for non-Golf Australia handicapped players) will apply. Be ready for a 0900 shotgun start, that follows (0800-0845) registration and a briefing. You will be in good hands, thanks to Event Co-ordinator Chief Rohan Jennings. You can contact Rohan by email rohan.jennings@defence.gov.au or telephone 03 5931 5806, Mob: 0414 871 957. You may also obtain more info at our website, see below. This will be a great day with like minded folk!

### Seminar Wednesday

We have an opportunity for anyone interested in military to attend a seminar where you can hear from the Senior Military Officers in Victoria, CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN Senior Naval Officer Victoria, MAJGEN Paul McLachlan AM CSC Senior Army Officer Victoria and GPCAPT Terence Deeth, Chief of Staff to Senior RAAF Officer Victoria. We are very pleased to have Admiral Chris Barrie AC present. We will hear Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO CSC on submarines, to round everything off we will hear about medical from GPCAPT Annette Holian RAAFR, an orthopaedic surgeon. Each presenters is well placed to highlight how a particular stream of interest was tackled by the Defence Force during World War One and compare that to today! This opportunity will occur in the theatrette at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Cost will be $30 with lunch. We start at 1000 and finish at 1500. If you are interested, please reserve your seat by email us at naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com or telephone 0411 135 163. After receiving your advice, we will let you know the bank details so you can make your payment prior to the day. We need to avoid accepting coins at the Shrine of Remembrance.

### Bowls Friday

The opportunity to show off your skill as a bowler is being offered to any 4s Team who wish to challenge. At a mere $100 per Team, you can attend the Bowls Tournament at the Mulgrave Country Club on Friday, 23OCT15. This is all part of Navy Week, but you don’t have to be Navy or Ex-Navy to join in the fun! The plan is to play three games of twelve ends. A good test of your skill and ideally suited to draw out the champion Team. On the day, you will experience strong competition, a catered lunch and light refreshments inbetween to the team fuelled up. Prizes will be presented to the best Team and maybe even those who exceed their expectations. The excitement will commence at 0930, again with Colours to remind us that Once Navy always Navy! Entry is by Teams, no doubt you can source other players from your normal fraternity of bowlers. The Event Co-ordinator is Chief Gregory McClelland and we are very thankful for his support. If interested email the Co-ordinator: gregory.mcclelland@defence.gov.au or go to our website and see the proforma for the tournament. The website also shows the banking details for payment and advises on how best to let Gregory know who wishes to play. Let’s give it go!!

Email: naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com  
Website: http://navyvic.net/
ANZAC Centenary

Whilst it appears as if things have slowed down since ANZAC Day, this lull in activities may be reminiscent of the sentiment after the August offensive on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The failure experienced by those at Gallipoli, through extraordinary losses and strategic mistakes occurred beyond the view of Australia. Notwithstanding the mistakes, defence of Turkey by the Ottoman Empire was intense, structured and successful. Defence of Turkey culminated in the departure of Allied Forces on 20DEC15. The Gallipoli campaign had been bookended by HMAS AE2 first in and the RAN Bridging Team last out.

Unveiling. A reminder that the East Gippsland Sub-Section, NAA will unveil the memorial plaque at the Beaufort Gardens, Bairnsdale at 1100 on Sunday, 4OCT15. The memorial plaque is in memory of those who lost their lives during their service in the Fleet Air Arm during WW2.

Navy League. The Navy League of Australia has been in business for 100 years. To mark this significant occasion NL has arranged a bonanza celebration at the Box Hill RSL, Upton Room. Given the contribution by NL over this extraordinary period it warrants our support. If you are interested in joining the fun, go to the Navy Victoria Network, or to the NL website for the proforma to advise of your interest. Fun for all!

HMAS AE1 & AE2. The Submariners Association held their annual commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 13SEP15. Approximately 20 Service and Ex-Service people attended. The Submariners were supported by a Catafalque Party from HMAS Cerberus and also POMUS Simon Potter who played the Last Post. Given the significance of the occasion it would have been nice to see a larger level of support, however, the Association continues to mark the loss of AE1 & AE2 as key historic milestones.

Items of special interest

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Merchant Navy Service. There was also a service at the Shrine of Remembrance in September to recognise the contribution made by those who served in the Merchant Navy under high risk war-like conditions. It takes occasions such as this to remind us of the enormous losses that occurred during War involving Merchant men of Australia & Allied Forces. We only need to recognise the losses experienced up and down the east coast of Australia to appreciate the effort by these sailors.

Recruits. Individuals joining the Navy as General Service visit the Shrine of Remembrance at the end of week three. This experience has improved the level of retention, their connection to the past by way of explanation and touring the Galleries of Remembrance emphasises their new heritage.