



HMA Ships MELBOURNE

1912 - 1929 1955 - 1983 1992 -
ASSOCIATION



PATRONS:
Lady MARTIN
Rear Admiral R.C. SWAN, AO, CBE, RAN Retired

PRESIDENT

Captain Brian L SWAN, AM, RANR

SNR/VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Vincent AJ KELLETT

JNR/VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Vincent B FAZIO, RAN(Ret)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

MR KL MILLER (Mitch)

2 Bottlebrush Ave

BRADBURY,

NSW 2560

Phone 02 4628 6840

NEWSLETTER 4/98

1. ADMIRAL SIR Victor SMITH, AC, KBE, CB, DSC, RET. 1913-1998

It is with regret I have to announce the passing of Sir Victor SMITH, in Canberra 10JUL98 after a prolonged illness.

On the behalf of the committee and members of the HMAS Melbourne Association, I extend our condolences to Lady SMITH and her family.

2. MUFTI MEMBERS.

I would like to welcome the new members who joined, after reading and answering the invitation I placed in the Victorian MUFTI, it's great to have you on board!

3. NEW BANNER.

Our new banner is looking great and I must thank one of our new members Ray Withnell, for organising it's construction and purchase for us. Thanks again!

4. SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting was held to discuss HMAS Melbourne/USS Frank E Evans 30 years Memorial Service in Sydney 03JUN99 and the departure of Bob Winston and his wife Chris, who will be attending the 29th Memorial Service in

Arlington, USA to confirm how many of their members will participating in the 30th Anniversary and what their itinerary will require. Details of meeting follow this newsletter.

5. SPECTACLE ISLAND BBQ

LCDR Graham Thurstans has kindly invited members of the HMAS Melbourne Association to a BBQ at Spectacle Island 1000 22NOV98, this will be Graham's last time that he will be able to show us the sights before he retires from the navy. For those who have not attended our previous BBQ's, there is no where to purchase victuals or any other type of supplies on the island but Graham supplies the BBQ plates, hot water and dining area. Please let me know if you will be attending and how many guests you will be bringing, if we ask the Senior Vice President nicely enough, he might supply the entertainment once again! Parking can be taken at Birkinhead Point Car Park then board the workboat at the jetty under the western end of the Iron Cove Bridge, I will put an application form towards the rear of this newsletter.

6. ANZAC DAY WATER HOLE.

Some of our die hard members tried out our new venue for resuscitation at the completion of the ANZAC DAY march next year and were most impressed. I have yet to meet with the manager, but upon an improvement of my beloved's condition, I will do my best and keep you all informed. Oh, and to all those members who wrote, sent cards or phoned to wish Jude a speedy recovery, I thank you very much!

7. A LIST OF OUR MEMBERS.

Discussed at the Special Meeting was the creation of a list of all members who will allow us to pass on their particulars to all members who would like to know who our other members are, particular those in other states. Please fill out the form at the bottom of the special meeting page. If you don't wish other members to know about you, there's no need to fill in the form! Thank you!

8. FESR 1955-1960 UPDATE

I have included an up date on the above, and also the forming of the FESR Association.

9. HMAS MELBOURNE 111, FFG 05

I have included a letter to our President, Captain Brian Swan, from the new Captain of HMAS Melbourne 05, Commander Peter Jones, who has kindly invited 20 of our members, to participate in a voyage from Adelaide 30NOV98 to Sydney 03DEC98. If you are interested let me know before the 15NOV98. Same routine as before, first in best dressed! some consideration may be given to interstate members as New South Welshmen seem to get the cream of the cake! please fill in the form below and mail to me ASAP.

I wish to partake in the above voyage.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

Our Sen/Vice President, Vince Kellett, Ret.RAN is organising a coach trip from Emu Plains to Adelaide for anyone interested, the cost; \$77. for pensioners and senior citizens or \$96 full fare for us less fortunate types. The trip is through Harvey World Travel, Lennox Shopping Centre, Emu Plains, phone 02 4735 4200 and ask for Karen! For further details ring Vince 02 4735 3625 at home or 02 9833 5173 on his personal extention at work!

10. LAUNCHING OF HMAS MELBOURNE 2

I have included a photo of the launching of HMAS Melbourne 11, back in 1945, sent in to us by a new member, William Crary, who worked on on her being constructed and then whilst she was undergoing sea trials, thanks for the photo Bill!

11. MELBOURNE'S LAST TRIP THROUGH THE HEADS.

I have a coloured photo of the Melbourne going through the Heads, taken from inside the chapel at HMAS Watson, on her way to being scrapped, (photo stat copy towards the rear of this newsletter) to give you an idea what I mean, the size 25cm x 20cms, if you would like one, the cost would be around \$15 which I hope will cover postage, I also have one the same size of the ship's crest, at the same price!

12. CMF/RESERVES MARCH 01JUL98

A letter from the Naval Association of Australia, to our President requesting our association participate in the CMF/Reserves march on the 01JUL98. After madly phoning around the Sydney area, I was able to muster about 30 members

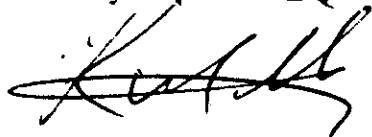
who proudly marched from the First Fleet Park (Circular Quay) up George Street to Tumbalong Park (Darling Harbor) against a head wind of cyclonic proportion, but like true sailors, we made it!

On the behalf of the committee, I would like to wish that all our members and their families, have a wonderful Christmas and a great new year!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Anyone can criticize, but it takes a specialist to give praise!

See you at the BBQ



Mitch MILLER

Sec/Treas,

COMMANDER James FAHEY, 1924-1998

It is regret I have to announce the passing of CMDR (Curly) FAHEY on Wednesday 07OCT98 after a long illness

On the behalf of the committee and members of the HMAS Melbourne Association I extend our condolences to his wife Nola and their family.

HMAS MELBOURNE ASSOCIATION
\$5 APPLICATION FOR / RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
1999

Membership Number: Preferred or Nick Name:

Title (e.g. Mr) Given Name(s) SURNAME Post Nominal(s)

Home/Postal Address
.....
.....

Telephone: : :
.....

Type of Membership: **FULL** **ASSOCIATE** **FAMILY**

ANY CHANGE: **YES / NO**

Please return to: **The Secretary**

HMAS MELBOURNE Association

2 Bottlebrush Avenue

BRADBURY NSW 2560

Receipt required (include stamp): **yes / no** Amount submitted:

SPECIAL MEETING
USS FRANK E EVANS/ HMAS MELBOURNE ASSOC.
NEAPEAN ROWING CLUB
Saturday 11JUL98

Meeting opened :-1320

Apologies :- Brian Swan, Mark Mobley, Graham Thurstans & Des Harper

1. Letters written by our President, Captain Brian Swan tabled, copies to Bob Winston for USA trip, additional contact letters to be written and confirmed. Bob Winston to report back to executive on return from his trip.

2. Protocol for ceremony, ie, Des Harper and Pat Marsh to prepare details for next meeting, Bob Winston to seek any protocol information from the Frank E Evans Association.

3. Extend invitation to Captain JP Stevenson, RAN (Ret), Commanding Officer HMAS Melbourne at the time of the collision, also extend invitations to both COE and Catholic chaplains

4. Extend invitations to Captain and crew of current HMAS Melbourne ie, Ship's company guard, etc.

5. Annual donation to T.S.Melbourne; at the last AGM, it was reported that no communication had been received from TS Melbourne. Mitch Miller had since received a letter from the TS Melbourne's CO explaining the reason for the delay with the letter, it was decided to wait until the next AGM to discuss whether to continue with the donation or not.

6. Retain the name of HMAS Melbourne Association as the official name for the association.

Moved. Mitch Miller Seconded Vince Fazio

7. Vince Fazio will liaise with Pat Marsh, Mark Mobley and Graham Thurstans to arrange details of the memorabilia exhibition at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, where we will be conducting the service. A program of this memorial will be sent out to all members when the final plans are drawn up, and I will keep you up to date with news and events when they come to hand.

8 Bob Winston and his wife Chris have organised a wreath to take with them and place it on the monument at Arlington.

9. Next Special Meeting will be held at Nepean Rowing Club, 1330
10OCT98

10. A list of members of HMAS Melbourne Association.
It was agreed and approved that a list of all members, barring those who do not wish their names to be made public, be compiled and forwarded to those interested. It will assist the secretary, if you will fill it out the following questions and send it to him.

Memb/No.....Surname.....Given names.....Nic name.....
O/N (opp).....What you joined up as.....Where joined.....
What year & month.....What state did you come from.....
Did you serve on the HMAS Melbourne.....if so when?

Meeting closed 1420

AVAILABLE MEMBERS

From time to time I get requests for a group of our members to participate in marches, eg CMF & Reserve Day or events taking place in a short time, eg:- BBQ's, marches, voyages, presentations etc, and to save me making dozens (more than 12) of phone calls, I would like to know if you are available for these type of gatherings, would you please let me know in the near future, so I can compile a list, and have it ready should something like this happen again!

BBQ SPEC IS, 1000,22NOV98

Name.....Ph. No.....I will be attending the
BBQ,Spec Is,1000,22NOV98, I will haveGuests.
Guests names.....
.....
.....

BILLETS FOR USS FRANK E EVANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

We still require billets for members of the above association next year during their visit, if you can help out, please let me or Ron Baker know, so that we can find you a compatible guest and his wife.



HMAS MELBOURNE
FFG-05

89/1/1

Captain B. Swan, AM, RANR
President of the Melbourne Association
Lot 2/9a Sorset Street
EPPING NSW 2121

Dear Captain Swan,

I am writing to both introduce myself and to send some ANZAC Day photographs to you. Gerry Christian informed me, in some detail, of the close ties between your Association and the ship. I intent to continue to strengthen this relationship. We were pleased to read in the copy of the Melbourne Association newsletter 3/98 that your members had enjoyed the ANZAC Day celebrations. Our Ship's Company did as well.

MELBOURNE has had a very busy programme since ANZAC Day. Following a one month maintenance period in Sydney during May, we sailed for a four month deployment which included RIMPAC 98 around the Hawaiian Island chain and a Fleet Concentration Period off Darwin (to which we are currently enroute). MELBOURNE will return to Sydney on Wednesday 23 September.

The programme following our deployment will see MELBOURNE sail for Western Australia in November. Enroute we will visit Melbourne (30 October - 4 November) for the Cup and Navy Week celebrations. The return trip will again allow the opportunity to have up to 20 of your members sea ride from Adelaide, on Monday 30 November, arriving Sydney 03 December. Naturally anyone taking up this offer will need to join on Sunday 29 November and will also be required to complete a Civilian Health Questionnaire which we will send to successful applicants. In addition, if any members of the Association would like to visit the ship during any of our port visits they would be made most welcome.

The crew of MELBOURNE remain keen to foster the affiliation with the Association and, providing there are no last minute changes to our programme, I look forward to welcoming more of your members onboard.

Peter Jones.
P.D. JONES
Commander, RAN
Commanding Officer

20 August 1998

Enclosure:

1. Eight ANZAC Day photographs

AVADSC STATEMENT

RAN SERVICE IN HMA SHIPS Far East Strategic Reserve 1955-1960

In order to establish a position on the discrimination in repatriation benefits accorded to Naval Service in the FESR, compared with those provided for the Army and Air Force components, it is first necessary to begin with the Government's policy and intent in contributing forces to the FESR.

It is quite clear from the relevant papers that the Australian Government pressed for the establishment of the FESR in order to form a commitment to the defence of South East Asia as had been done for Western Europe with the formation of NATO.

The primary role of the FESR as stated in the General Directive was "..... to provide a deterrent to, and to be available at short notice to assist in countering further communist aggression in South East Asia. Within this role it will form part of the forces required for the external defence of Malaya and Singapore.".

From this it can be clearly established that each of the services Army, Navy and Air Force, which were deployed to the area and placed under the control of the C in C Far East, were there to fulfil their operational roles when required in the whole area.

There is no basis in the policy that varying degrees of involvement in any possible operations could form the basis to vary repatriation benefits to members of the Navy compared to Army and Air Force members.

AVADSC is aware of the detailed submissions to the Department of Defence in an endeavour to correct the injustice against Navy and to obtain full repatriation benefits and for these to be retrospectively aligned to Army and Air Force.

We are also aware of the responses from the Department and the apparent lack of thorough research into the points raised, and an obvious resistance to solve the problem. Regrettably the basic problem has been lost in a plethora of detail which has enabled the bureaucracy to avoid a simple solution.

The basic Navy case for equity stems from the conditions under which each of the deployed forces served for the duration of their respective deployments. Involvement in actions against communist forces were part of the whole service, because none of the three services were constantly engaged.

The Navy seeks equity because an Army or Air Force member deployed ashore in Malaya for 24 hours only, received full repatriation benefits and awards, irrespective of whether or not they saw action at any stage during the deployment.

In responding to various submissions from ex-Navalmen and Associations, the departmental replies have resorted to a detailed analysis of "operational service", "hazardous service", "non-warlike service" etc, but this same analysis has not been applied to the service of the Army or Air Force.

In a parliamentary discussion on The Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956, the statement, amongst others, was made "It should be noted however that for administrative purposes, all land-based personnel, whether attached to operational units or not, were accorded Repatriation Benefits". This makes a total farce of the departmental analysis of Naval Service to deny repatriation benefits.

Also there has been an almost unbelievable resistance to the award of the Imperial Naval General Service Medal to those Navalmen who served in ships for the full qualifying service. The fact that Australian awards have supplanted Imperial awards should not prevent retrospective action to award the Medal which was valid at the time of the actual service.

Overall, the departmental responses to various submissions provide lamentable reading. The responses reflect sadly on the ADF bureaucracy which has resorted to inaccurate nit-picking to avoid correcting this incredible anomaly in service awards.

The situation boils down to the Prime Minister having the courage to say that a grave injustice has been imposed on ex-Navymen of the FESR, that observing the need for equity and a 'fair go', retrospective action will be taken to provide full repatriation benefits and the Naval General Service Medal.

AVADSC fully supports further action to achieve justice for the ex-Navalmen involved.

G R GRIFFITHS
Rear Admiral RAN (Retd)
Chairman
23/6/98



CityRail

Passes and Concessions
11-31 York Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
GPO Box 29
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Facsimile: (02) 9224 2826
(02) 9224 3466

Telephone:

Our Ref:

Dear Soldier's Pass Holder

The Government has recently announced an expansion of the free travel entitlements available to holders of the Ex-Member of Defence Force Pass.

In addition to your unlimited free travel on normal State Transit bus and ferry services, you are now able to use your Pass to obtain free travel on ANY CityRail service. These services operate within the area bounded by Goulburn, Nowra, Lithgow, Newcastle, Dungog and Scone.

Your pass is not available for free travel on XPT and Xplorer services operated by Countrylink.

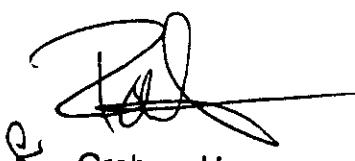
Free travel warrants for travel by Countrylink services will remain available to those who are currently entitled to receive them. There is no expansion of this entitlement to other people.

Station staff have now been advised to recognise your existing pass for the new travel entitlements, and a new pass for 1999 will be issued to you later this year. This pass will show the full details of your travel entitlements and will be magnetically encoded to allow use of the automatic ticket gates at major stations.

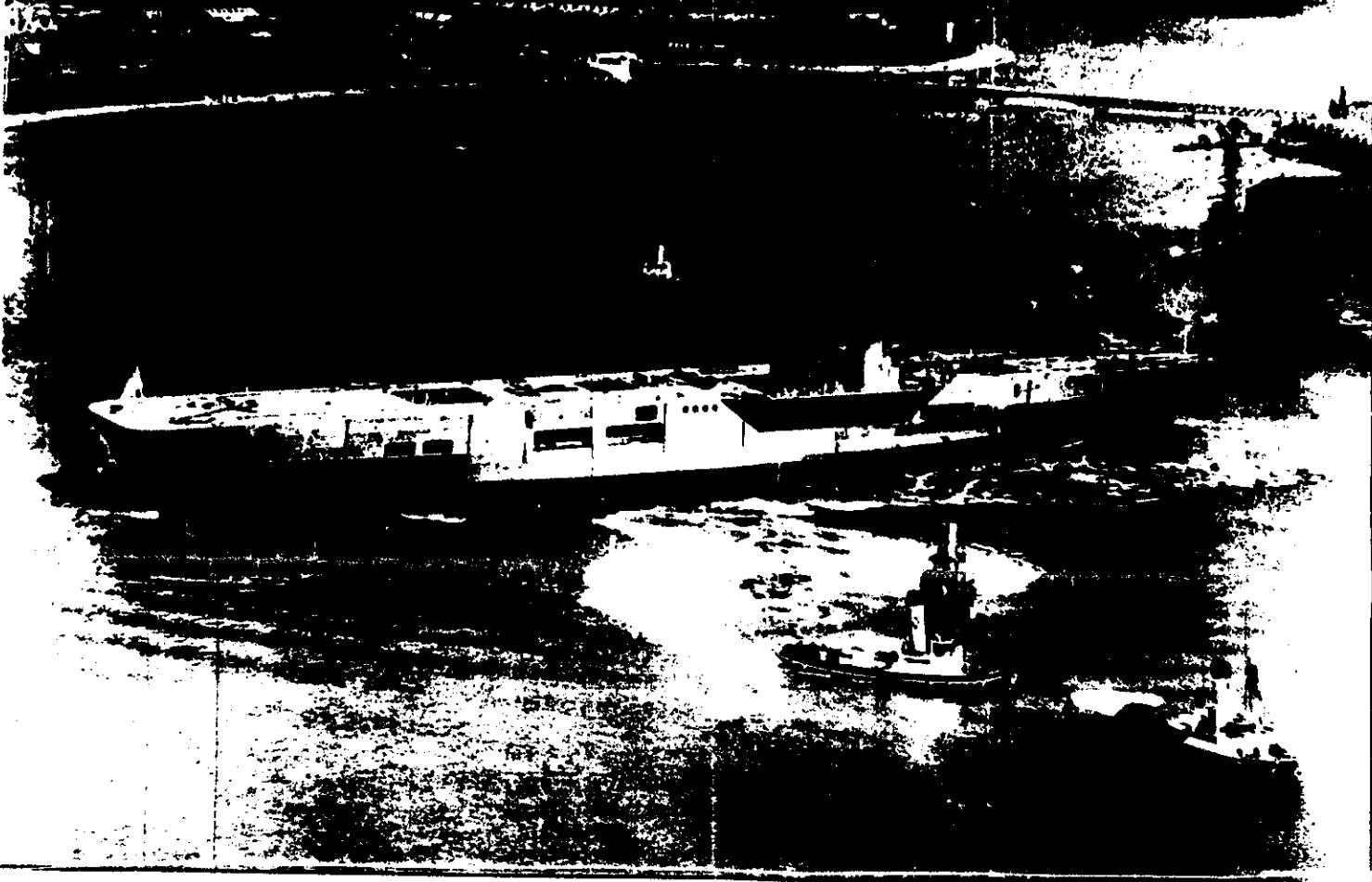
Free travel entitlements on local privately operated route bus services remain unchanged.

I trust that you will enjoy use of your new free travel entitlements.

With best wishes for the future



Graham Harper
MANAGER



Above: After the initial light fleet carrier design, modifications were produced to enhance capability, producing the *Majestic* class, showing only slight alterations from the initial design. However, none of the six *Majestic* class ships built ever served in the Royal Navy; one (*Leviathan*) was broken up incomplete after lying idle for many years at Portsmouth, two examples were completed for the Royal Australian Navy, two for the Royal Canadian Navy, and one

(which still exists) as the Indian Navy *Vikrant*. This shows the launch of HMS *Majestic* on February 28 1945. Work on her was suspended later in the year and was not resumed until 1949. Extensive reconstruction and modernisation followed and on October 28 1955 she was renamed HMAS *Melbourne* by the Royal Australian Navy. She was present at the Queen's Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet, Spithead, in 1977.

For those who are not sure of their association number and others who are not sure if they have paid or up to date with their subscriptions, I have placed a small display below explaining how to check by looking at your address on my envelope to you.

Membership Number

Paid up to.

738 1998
LEUT Ahmad A RIDA, RAN
1/96 Onslow Street
ROSE BAY NSW 2029

ADECAIDE - SIDNEY TRIP.

NOVEMBER 29 - DEC 3.

John Dicon
Hels Crowley
Vince Kellert
Doc. Plummer