



Call the Hands



Issue No. 79

October 2023

From the President

Welcome to this the 79th edition of Call the hands and accompanying occasional papers. My thanks to Ross Gillett and Lorraine Fildes for this month's papers. Occasional paper 172 on Dennis Adams a renowned marine artist who also served as a war artist during World War 2 relates to the Society's concept for website enhancement. A page providing a collection of marine art depicting RAN ships and personnel is under consideration. The collection of artwork images is well advanced. However, the matters of copyright and funding for the website enhancement are ongoing. Occasional paper 171 relates to the little-known World War 1 theatre of conflict on Lake Tanganyika. An eccentric Australian officer serving in the Royal Navy, Geoffrey Spicer-Simson is featured in this story.

As always, stories which you consider worthy of sharing are welcomed. Everyone who served will have experienced an important or unique event which may not have been officially recorded or reported. We would like to receive it, regardless of length, quality of grammar etc. for possible publication in the Naval Historical Review or a newsletter. If not published a copy for the archive is also important.

This edition took on a Coastwatcher theme following receipt of a letter from John Gates a member living in Brisbane. John sought the Society's assistance for the support of a petition to the Brisbane City Council seeking the allotment of land for a future Coastwatchers memorial. There is currently no memorial in Australia to these valiant men and women who served in difficult conditions often behind enemy lines during World War 2. To assist, we have included two articles on the Coastwatchers and provided a link to the [ePetition](#). Please assist this worthy cause by signing the petition. It will only take a few minutes.

The Society's volunteer tour guides have been busy in recent weeks hosting personnel from HMAS *Supply* on Heritage tours of Garden Island. Two tours tailored for *Supply* are conducted each week and will continue into October. As naval history is no longer included in the Recruit School and New Entry Officer Course syllabi, it has been gratifying to see how well these tours have been received by the ships company.

Another fruitful activity for the Society in recent weeks was the provision of a stand in the former torpedo factory at Sub Base Platypus, Neutral Bay in Sydney. A report on this event is included on page 9. Such exposure contributes to volunteer and member numbers.

Finally, the Society's preliminary accounts for financial year 2022-23 show a good result which the Committee looks forward to presenting during the coming Annual General Meeting. As soon as advice on availability of the Anzac Memorial auditorium is received full details of the AGM will be promulgated. More details can be found on page 8. Importantly, there are vacancies on the Committee to be filled. If you wish to make a contribution by nominating for the Committee please do so as soon as the notice of meeting is issued.

Kind regards,

David Michael



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of Australia

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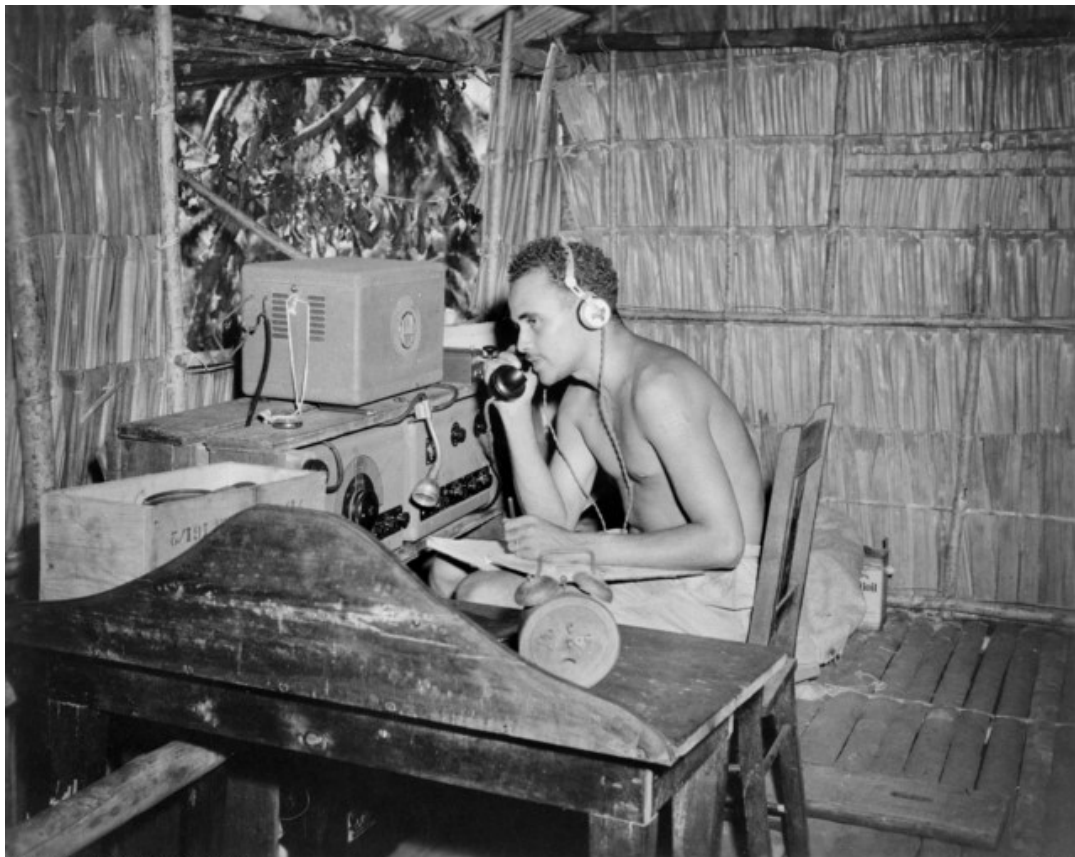
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The Coastwatchers and Ferdinand the Bull

The establishment of a formal coastwatching network had been discussed as early as 1919. In March 1922, the three Services agreed that a coastwatching network in Australia was a necessity, but it was left to the Naval Board to establish and administer the network through the Naval Intelligence Division. By the outbreak of WWII, hundreds of coastwatchers had already been recruited throughout Australia and the South Pacific. Responsibility for the network fell to Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, RAN, Staff Officer (Intelligence) Port Moresby. It was not until 1941 that Operation *Ferdinand*, the code-name for Coastwatcher operations became a more formal naval operation. The name 'Ferdinand' was taken from the children's storybook character, Ferdinand the bull. Unlike all the other bulls, Ferdinand refused to fight, a reminder that the coastwatchers job was to observe and not to fight.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 306814
A local wireless telegraphist operator operating an AWA 3BZ teleradio at Segi Coastwatchers station, British Solomon Islands. AWM 306814

As civilians, most coastwatchers were advised to cease their operations and evacuate as the Japanese advanced into their territory. However, the vast majority of them chose to continue their activities in the knowledge that capture could result in their execution as spies. In March 1942, following the execution of an elderly planter by the name of Percy Good, the coastwatchers were given ranks or ratings, mostly in the Volunteer Reserve, in the hope that this would provide them some protection in the event of capture. In many instances, it did not. On New Ireland, for instance, Lieutenant Alan 'Bill' Kyle, RANVR, and Sub-Lieutenant Gregory Benham, RANVR, led around 30 military and civilian personnel to safety before being captured and executed just 18 hours before they were due to be evacuated by submarine. They were both posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

One of their most important coastwatcher contributions in the Pacific theatre was the intelligence provided during the Allied campaign at Guadalcanal, which involved some 16,000 US marines, 48 combat ships, 28 auxiliaries and 670 aircraft. More than 700 people served in *Ferdinand* during the course of the war, all making their own contribution to the war effort, and with their own stories to tell. It is impossible to do justice to their contribution in a short paper, but after the war, Feldt himself noted "The Coast Watchers had done their job and, for their numbers, had made a contribution out of all proportion...The team had won its game." Halsey was rather more effusive when he said "I could get down on my knees every night and thank God for Commander Eric Feldt."

Reference:

Petar Djokovic, Semaphore: The Coastwatchers and Ferdinand the Bull, Semaphore Issue 4, 2014 available at: <https://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/semaphore-04-14>

Further Reading:

- Eric Feldt, *The Coast Watchers*, published in Melbourne, 1946.
- James Burrowes, *The Last Coastwatcher*, website available at <https://thelastcoastwatcher.wordpress.com/>
- Department of Veterans Affairs, The Coastwatchers 1941-1945, Anzac Portal, available at: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/world-war-ii-1939-1945/resources/coastwatchers-1941-1945>
- Virtual War Memorial Australia, 'M' Special Unit, available at <https://vwma.org.au/explore/units/610>

Coastwatchers Killed in Action in World War II

Of the more than 700 Coastwatchers and M Special Unit – Allied Intelligence Bureau personnel 33 were Killed/Missing in Action during World War II. Thirteen of these were Royal Australian Navy.

Further Reading:

James Burrowes, *The Last Coastwatcher*, available at: <https://thelastcoastwatcher.wordpress.com/coastwatching-organization/coastwatchers-kia-in-wwii/>

Commander Eric Augustus Feldt

Born on at Cardwell, Queensland, Eric Feldt joined the fledgling Royal Australian Navy as a member of the first (1913) Cadet entry into the RAN College located at Geelong, Victoria. After graduating and serving in numerous RN and RAN ships he resigned as a Lieutenant in 1922. At this time, he could see little future in the severely reduced, post war RAN.

In his new civilian life, he served initially as a Patrol Officer then District Officer in the Territory of New Guinea becoming familiar with different parts of the Territory. By April 1936 and living at Wau he was administering the mining ordinance as the Territory's Chief Warden.

After promotion on the Retired List in 1928 to Lieutenant Commander, he later transferred to the Emergency List taking on the post of Staff Officer (Intelligence) in Port Moresby. Feldt's assignment was to activate and extend the coastwatching screen across the north eastern approaches to Australia which would warn of hostile incursions by sea or air. Travelling by air, sea and on foot, he visited key sites in Papua, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the New Hebrides, meeting coastwatchers and bringing officials and civilian planters into the service.



Commander Eric Feldt OBE

In May 1941 after appointment as Supervising Intelligence Officer, North Eastern Area he was based in Townsville. When the Japanese entered the war in December, the coastwatchers showed their worth by transmitting warnings of air raids to defenders in Rabaul - before its capture in January 1942 - and then to those in Port Moresby. After the Americans invaded Guadalcanal in August, coastwatchers alerted them to the approach of Japanese aircraft from Rabaul and Kavieng, New Ireland, enabling American planes to be in position to intercept the faster Zeros.

From early 1942 the majority of the coastwatchers were in enemy territory. Because of naval parsimony, Feldt experienced difficulty in supplying them with stores and equipment. The cooperation of the RAAF in dropping supplies was one source of encouragement. Initially, Feldt had only one staff member at headquarters and the stress and strain of the work began to affect Feldt's health. While visiting Guadalcanal in March 1943, he suffered a coronary thrombosis. After recovering, Feldt was stationed in Brisbane and carried out duties with the Allied Intelligence Bureau. He had been promoted Acting Commander in July 1942, but the RAN reduced him to his substantive rank in August 1943. In February 1945 he was appointed Naval Officer-in-Charge, Torokina, Bougainville, and in May regained the rank of Acting Commander. Returning to Brisbane in June, he was demobilised on 29 September 1945. He had been appointed OBE in 1944 for his outstanding service.

Feldt retired from the New Guinea administration and lived in Brisbane on a pension. In 1946 he published 'The Coast Watchers' (Melbourne), the definitive story of the service. He died of myocardial infarction on 12 March 1968 at his Brisbane home.

Reference: JCH Gill, Commander Eric Augustus Feldt, sea Power Centre Australia, available at: <https://www.navy.gov.au/biography/commander-eric-augustus-feldt>

Coastwatchers honoured by Naval Association of Australia

By Jayne Keogh, State Public Relations Officer, Queensland Naval Association of Australia Section.

The Naval Association conducts monthly ceremonies at the Jack Tar statue in the South Brisbane Memorial Park. The July 2023 commemoration honoured the coastwatchers of World War 2 and included an address by Dr Rosemary Gill, daughter of Lieutenant James Connal Howard Gill the young 23-year-old Naval Reservist tasked by Eric Feldt to recruit, train and manage the network of ordinary people who stepped up and achieved extraordinary things for their country. In attendance were descendants of legendary decorated Coastwatchers Paul Mason and Bill Bennett along with representatives from the United States, Solomon Islands, New Guinea and Chinese communities.

In December, 1941, Connal Gill MBA OAM, a young Brisbane lawyer was sent to Rabaul to assist Lieutenant H. A. (Hugh) Mackenzie RAN. With the fall of Rabaul in January 1942, Mackenzie and Gill began a dangerous, exhausting two-month trek by land and water to Witu Harbour, where their party boarded the *Lakatoi* and sailed to Cairns. They saved 250 lives on that journey. Gill suffered from Malaria and ulcerated legs on the journey. He kept a diary throughout the trek, a remarkable record which was the basis of several historical publications.

Coastwatcher Connal Gill was an Officer in the network of 400 intelligence gatherers recruited to give early warning of Japanese shipping and air movements and rescue stranded and shipwrecked Allied personnel. They hid and sheltered the pilots and sailors in the jungle until the Navy could retrieve them. As the Japanese forces swept closer the Coastwatchers arranged the evacuation of endangered civilians by Navy ships and submarines.



*Lieutenant Connal Gill MBA
OAM*

The Solomon Islands became the epicentre of the Pacific War as the Japanese advanced south by sea and air. They had perfected a network by which they were able to give three successive warning signals of Japanese bombers enroute to Tulagi and Guadalcanal. United States forces at Tulagi and at Henderson Field had ample notice of impending air attacks and were able to gain a decided advantage by having their planes aloft and ready to strike at the most opportune time.

Coastwatchers in the hills overlooking Bougainville Island sent daily reports on enemy harbor activity to the Allied Fleet off Guadalcanal's shore. Another gave details of sea and air arrivals and departures at Buka Passage, an important anchorage for ships operating against Guadalcanal. They formed an interlocking and efficient intelligence and radio communication net.

Such was the significance of the campaign that US Fleet Admiral William Halsey famously said:

'Guadalcanal saved the Pacific and the Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal'

Coastwatchers rescued 75 prisoners of war, 321 shot-down Allied airmen, 280 shipwrecked naval personnel, 190 missionaries and civilians, uncounted Islanders and 260 Asians who had put their own lives into danger. The Coastwatchers wrote a glorious page in the sad history of war.

Apart from their intelligence-collecting chores, Coastwatchers also rescued stranded Allied sailors and airmen including future U.S. President John F. Kennedy after his patrol torpedo boat, PT-109, was sunk by a Japanese destroyer.

A memorial in Madang that is dedicated to the 36 Australian Coastwatchers who chose to put country before self and paid the ultimate price is inscribed with the words:

'They watched and warned and died that we might live.'



*Coastwatchers memorial lighthouse,
Madang, New Guinea.*

WWII Coastwatchers Monument Proposed for Brisbane

Please support this proposal by signing an [petition](#) to the Brisbane City Council

Society member, John Gates initiated this petition in order to recognise the great contribution and sacrifice made by Australian Coastwatchers. The petition seeks Council approval for a Memorial Place to be known as for “WWII Coastwatchers Place” and situated in Newstead Terrace Park. This location is midway between two Coastwatchers support elements being the Submarine base at Newstead and the Flying Boat base at Murarrie. The petition points out that this would be the first memorial on Australian shores to recognise the vital contribution by the Coastwatchers played in Allied success during the War in the Pacific. An additional reason is that for some time during WWII the Coastwatchers leader, Commander Eric Feldt was headquartered in Brisbane.

To read the full petition and provide your support
please follow this [LINK](#) and [SIGN](#).

Thank you

Petition closes 11 November 2023

Coming Events

2023 Goldrick Seminar

This annual seminar will be held on 19 October 2023 in Canberra at the Adams Auditorium, Australian Defence Force Academy.

The theme, *The Influence of Seapower on Australia's Future* is selected by the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond.

The seminar is staged by the Australian Naval Institute in partnership with ADFA, the Naval Studies Group at the University of NSW (Canberra) and the Seapower Centre Australia. Speakers are selected from Defence, academia and industry.



[Seminar Program](#) and [Booking information](#).

International Maritime Exposition

The INDO PACIFIC International Maritime Exposition connects Australian and international defence, industry, government, academia and technology leaders, in the national interest. It incorporates an international industry exhibition, specialist conference program featuring presentations and symposia from leading maritime institutions and networking opportunities.



Indo-Pacific Sea Power Conference:

Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy this year's conference theme, "Fleet 2035: Sea Power and the Future of Maritime Warfare", is built from the reality that sea power is a ubiquitous element of Australian national security, and prosperity; yet we live in a maritime region that is being reshaped, and our strategic environment is becoming more challenging. The Maritime domain has once again become the frontline for strategic conversations between nations.

<https://www.indopacificexpo.com.au/seapower2023/>

IMC International Maritime Conference

IMC International Maritime Conference, organised by The Royal Institution of Naval Architects, The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology and Engineers Australia allows delegates to be involved in discussions concerning the latest developments in naval architecture, marine engineering and maritime technology; both in the areas of defence and commercial shipping.

[IMC 2023 International Maritime Conference](#)

Annual General Meeting



Naval Historical Society
of Australia

The Society's 2023 annual general meeting will be held at the Anzac Memorial, Sydney on either 21 or 23 November. The availability of the Memorial's auditorium on these days is fluid at present. Notwithstanding, the formal 'notice of meeting' and nomination form for Committee positions will be issued on 5 October 2023. The notice will confirm the exact date. Members will have the option to join by Zoom as well as physical attendance. Please make a note in your diary.

As in previous years, you will be advised when the financial accounts and reports are available in the members area of the website. The bottom line is that Financial Year 2022-23 was a very good year for the Society and the Committee looks forward to reporting on it and meeting members during the social event following the meeting.

In terms of Committee positions there are two vacancies to be filled. Similarly, the current office bearers have made incredible contributions to the success of your Society which will be demonstrated in the AGM reports. All have served long terms and would welcome the opportunity to hand over to younger, enthusiastic members.

The work of office bearers is constant but not overbearing. Flexible arrangements are in place but regular attendance in the Boatshed is important. Committee members can make a contribution by keeping abreast of Society issues and attending 4-5 Committee meetings each year.

If serving on the Committee appeals to you but you would like to learn more, please contact either the Secretary or President by emailing office@navyhistory.au with your contact details and a preferred time for us to contact you.

We look forward to hearing from you.



The historic Boatshed on Garden Island, Sydney home of the Naval Historical Society

Renewed Torpedo Factory, Neutral Bay

Between July 2022 and September 2023, the Harbour Trust partially demolished the former factory and revitalised it as a sheltered public space. The new Torpedo Factory Precinct now features a space featuring historical artefacts and interpretive signage and images depicting the history of the site. It also includes a three-piece mural by Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist Dennis Golding.

The renovated building was officially opened on 15 September 2023 by the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water. Vice President John Jeremy represented the Society at this event.

The official opening was followed on Saturday 16 September with a community open day hosted by the Harbour Trust. This well attended event was supported by a Society information stand. In addition to marketing the Society, its tours and cruises a number of potential volunteers were identified and contacts made.

A final stage of the renewal project is the delivery of a new foreshore park to be situated on the sandstone bench at the foot of the new Torpedo Factory Precinct. This area is expected to open to the public in late 2023.

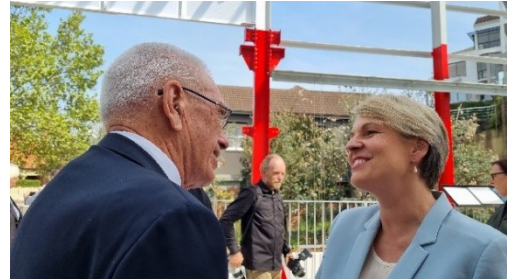
Additional Reading:

NHSA Occasional Paper 101: RAN Torpedo Factory, Neutral Bay, available at:

<https://navyhistory.au/occasional-paper-101-ran-torpedo-factory-neutral-bay/>

Harbour Trust, The Story of Sub Base Platypus, available at:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/AgUREEekgIOEIA>



Society Vice President, John Jeremy AM with the Hon Minister Tanya Plibersek, MP. Leone Lorrimer image.



Above: Historical panels inside Torpedo Factory. Harbour Trust image

Left: refurbished entrance to Torpedo Factory, Neutral Bay. Harbour Trust image.

Below Visitors to the Naval Historical Society information stand, 16 September 2023. NHSA image.



Photo of the Month



Jenny's Side Party – Hong Kong

From approximately 1928 to 1997, when the Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region of China and the Royal Navy withdrew, Jenny, Mrs Ng Muk Kah, BEM which was her full name led a tireless team of girls known as Jenny's Side party. At one time the Party numbered nearly three dozen. They unofficially served the Royal Navy and Commonwealth Navies in Hong Kong by cleaning and painting their ships, attending their buoy jumpers, and, dressed in their best, waiting with grace and charm upon their guests at cocktail parties.

Captains and Executive Officers would find fresh flowers in their cabins and newspapers delivered daily. And many a departing officer received a generous gift as a memento from Jenny.

For all of this, she steadfastly refused ever to take any payment. Instead, she and her Side Party earned their keep selling soft drinks to the ships' companies and accepting any item of scrap which could be found on board. She died in 2009 aged 92.

News

HMAS Albatross turns 75

Recently Nowra locals and dignitaries gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the commissioning of the Navy's only air station and largest operational base, HMAS Albatross.



The decision to build an airfield on the site was made soon after the beginning of WW2, and it originally opened as a RAAF base on May 7, 1942. In October 1944, the base was transferred to the Royal Navy, renamed HMS Nabbington and supported the British Pacific Fleet until March 1946.

In July 1947, the formation of the RAN Fleet Air Arm was sanctioned. On August 31, 1948, Albatross was commissioned. HMAS Albatross is currently home to the Fleet Air Arm and more than 20 resident units from across the three services, the Australian Public Service, several Defence contractors and commercial entities.

Joint Decommissioning Ceremonies

The latest Armidale class patrol boats to decommission; HMAS *Maryborough* (II) and HMAS *Larraika* (II) were decommissioned at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin on 28th September 2023.

Throughout their service these vessels conducted a wide variety of operations alongside Border Force, Australian Fisheries and the Australian Federal Police. The vessels served for a combined 32 years.



This Month in History

October 1858	The Victorian Government approved the building of a graving dock at Williamstown.
October 1911	The existence of the new Australian Navy was formally advised when the Naval Board issued an historic order promulgating the designation 'Royal Australian Navy'. The order also directed that the permanent naval forces of the Commonwealth and for the ships of the Navy to be designated 'His Majesty's Australian Ships', and that all ships and vessels of the Royal Australian Navy were to fly at the stern the White Ensign as the symbol of authority of the Crown, and at the jack staff, the flag of Australia.
October 1915	HMAS MELBOURNE intercepted the steamer HAMBORN, off New York. A boarding party was put aboard and LEUT H. V. Creer, RAN, steamed the vessel to Halifax, Nova Scotia. HAMBORN, although registered as Dutch, was German owned.
October 1917	The Australian destroyer flotilla, HMA Ships WAREGO, PARRAMATTA, YARRA, SWAN, TORRENS, and HUON, began patrol operations in the Mediterranean, at the mouth of the Adriatic Sea, from a base at Brindisi, Italy.
October 1920	The Hydrographic Department of the RAN was established under CAPT E. Robins, RN.
October 1933	HMA Ships STUART, VAMPIRE, VENDETTA, VOYAGER and WATERHEN commissioned into the RAN after transfer from the RN.
October 1939	HMA Ships AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA and ADELAIDE searched for suspected German minelayers off Gabo Island from the 10th to the 13th. Following the sighting HMA Ships SWAN and YARRA commenced the first minesweeping operations on the Australian coast in WWII
October 1940	HMAS AUSTRALIA rescued 9 of the crew of 13 of a Sunderland flying boat which had been forced to land in heavy seas, and gale-force winds, west of the Hebrides. Four airmen lost their lives. In the rescue, CMDR J. M. Armstrong and 12 ratings were lowered over the cruiser's side on ropes to snatch the airmen from the sea.
October 1944	HDML 1074 was rammed at night by an unidentified vessel while under tow by USS PEBBLE. The craft was severely damaged, but reached Leyte safely.
October 1950	HMAS WARRAMUNGA operating with the American Task Force, bombarded the North Korean industrial city of Chengjin, 55 km from the Manchurian border.
October 1960	HMAS WOOMERA was lost when dumping obsolete ammunition at sea, off Sydney Heads. A violent explosion, followed by a fierce fire, caused WOOMERA to sink in a few minutes. Two of the crew were killed in the explosion, but the other 25 were picked up by HMAS QUICKMATCH. While in the sea the survivors were attacked by albatrosses.
October 1968	HMAS PERTH, (CAPT D. W. Leach, RAN), with two Skyhawk aircraft from USS INTREPID destroyed the Dac Nguyen highway bridge in Vietnam.
October 1974	RAN Clearance Divers completed the disposal of 5,096 pieces of WWII ordnance in Papua-New Guinea.
October 1982	The crew of HMAS TORRENS 'spliced the mainbrace' to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on completion of TORRENS tour of duty as escort to HMS BRITANNIA.
October 1988	The International Bicentennial Fleet, with over 50 warships from 16 nations moored in Sydney Harbour, was reviewed by the Duke and Duchess of York, embarked in HMAS COOK. An estimated 2 million people witnessed the historic review.
October 1993	HMAS TOBRUK arrived at Arawa Bay, Bougainville. After the wharf and adjacent seabed at Loloho had been cleared by a clearance diving team, TOBRUK berthed, and commenced to unload troops and equipment required for Operation Lagoon.
October 2001	HMAS KANIMBLA II departed for the Middle East as part of the maritime force assigned to Operation SLIPPER.
October 2016	Operation RENDER SAFE 2016 concluded. During this operation HMA Ships DIAMANTINA and HUON spent two weeks finding and destroying unexploded WWII munitions in the waters around the Solomon Islands. The Sydney-based minehunter vessels found more than 10 tonnes of projectiles and bombs during their searches around the Russell Islands, Florida Group and Honiara.

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/>

Video of the Month

For more than three hours on a fine, calm August morning in 1955, the eyes of Sydney's suburbia were fixed skyward, anxiously watching the flight of a pilotless Auster aeroplane as it circled above and headed from Bankstown to the City, pursued by RAAF and RAN aircraft.

This video is the story of that day.

[Flyaway Auster - YouTube](#)

THE PLANE THAT TOOK OFF BY ITSELF

-gave war pilot his first 'kill'

SYDNEY, Tuesday: Thousands watched the sky in fear here today as a pilotless plane circled crazily over the city for nearly three hours.

Ambulances and fire engines stood by as the runaway, launched into space by a "billion-to-one" chance, banked and turned.

Then there were sighs of relief as the plane, a light Auster, headed out to sea, pursued by

They were guided to the target by radar, and sighted the Auster at 10,000 feet, about seven miles off Palm Beach.

McNay made a slow sweep past the circling Auster to ensure nobody was in the plane.

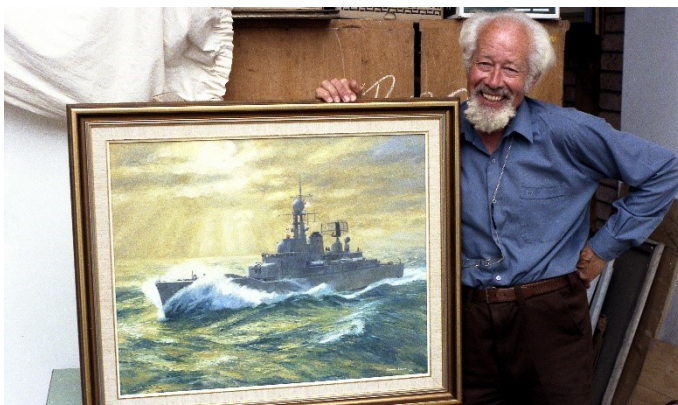
Then he attacked from the stern, firing a quick burst with his four 20 millimetre cannons.

● Lieuts. J. R. T. Bluett (left) and P. F. McNay.

Melbourne Argus clipping of the pilotless plane incident

Occasional Papers

- Occasional Paper 171 - Tasmanian leads the African Naval Expedition 1915
- Occasional Paper 172 - Dennis Adams War Artist



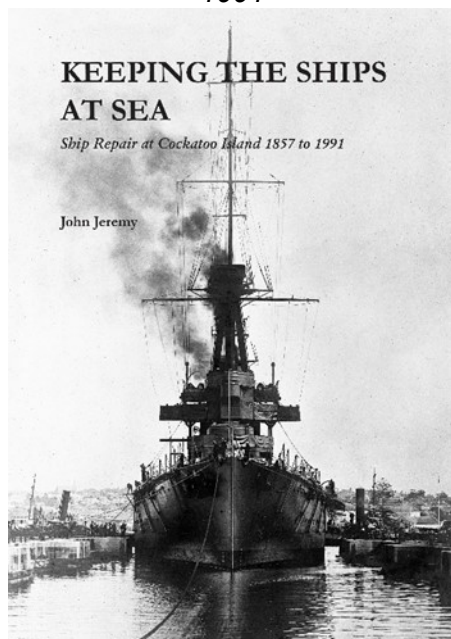
Dennis Adams with one of his paintings of HMAS Torrens. Photo courtesy of John Jeremy

New Products in Online Shop

The Society's relationship with the Sydney Harbour Federation trust recently extended to enable the sale of two books originally written for the Trust by Society Vice President John Jeremy. As the Chief Executive Officer, Cockatoo Island Dockyard from 1981 to 1991, having started there as a Naval Architect apprentice in 1960 there is no one more qualified than John to document the history of ship building and ship repair on Cockatoo Island. The books outlined below are now available through the website [shop](#) for \$60 each. Postage to an Australian address is included.

KEEPING THE SHIPS AT SEA

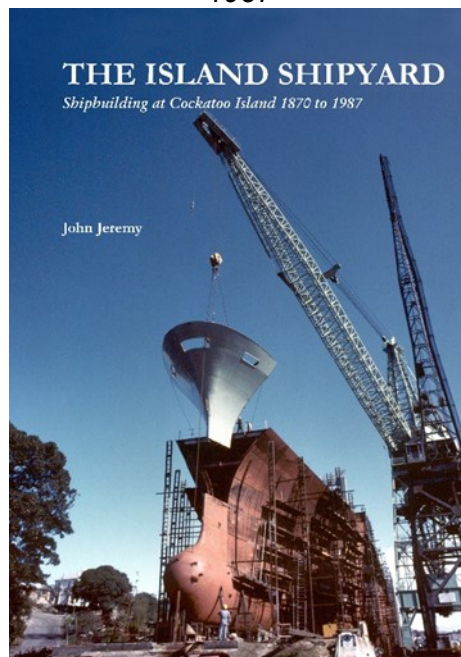
Ship Repair at Cockatoo Island 1857 – 1991



Keeping the Ships at Sea: Ship Repair at Cockatoo Island 1857 – 1991 examines Cockatoo Island's crucial role in maintaining the seaworthiness of Australia's naval and maritime fleets. Over 134 years, thousands of ships were repaired and refitted in its docks and slipways.

THE ISLAND SHIPYARD

Shipbuilding at Cockatoo Island 1870 to 1987



The Island Shipyard: Ship building at Cockatoo Island 1870 – 1987 chronicles the island's 117 years of shipbuilding activity, with a focus on the dockyard's most important shipbuilding work of constructing ships for the Royal Australian Navy.

[Buy now online \\$60 in the website shop](#)