

## U3A NUNAWADING MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

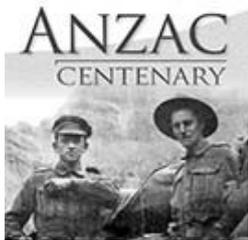
### THE MEANING OF ANZAC: Retired Governor-General Sir William Deane

*"Anzac is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds".*

*Thanks to Neville Betts for submitting the Sir William Deane quotation*

### In Our Centenary Year for Commemorating the Beginning of WW1 a Reminder of the ANZAC History

Plans for the formation began in November 1914 while the first contingent of Australian and New Zealand troops were still in convoy bound for, as they thought, Europe. However, it was decided not to subject the Australians and New Zealanders to the English winter and so they were diverted to Egypt for training before moving on to the Western Front in France. Horatio Kitchener, appointed General William Birdwood, an officer of the British Indian Army, to the command of the corps and he furnished most of the corps staff from the Indian Army as well. Birdwood arrived in Cairo on 21 December 1914 to assume command of the corps.



It was originally intended to name the corps the Australasian Army Corps, this title being used in the unit diary, following the common practice of the time, which often saw New Zealanders and Australians compete together as Australasia in sporting events. However, protests from New Zealand led adoption of the name Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The administration clerks found the title too cumbersome so quickly adopted the abbreviation A. & N.Z.A.C. or simply ANZAC. Shortly afterwards it was officially adopted as the codename for the corps but it did not enter common usage amongst the troops until after the Gallipoli landings.

At the outset, the corps comprised two divisions; the Australian Division, composed of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Australian Infantry Brigades and the New Zealand and Australian Division, composed of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, Australian 1st Light Horse Brigade and 4th Australian Infantry Brigade. The 2nd and 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigades were assigned as corps level troops, belonging to neither division.

Despite being synonymous with Australia and New Zealand, ANZAC was a multi-national body. In addition to the many British officers in the corps and division staffs, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps contained, at various points, the 7th Brigade of the Indian Mountain Artillery, Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps troops, the Zion Mule Corps, four battalions from the Royal Naval Division, the British 13th (Western) Division, one brigade of the British 10th (Irish) Division and the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade.

Following the evacuation of Gallipoli in November 1915, the Australian and New Zealand units reassembled in Egypt. The New Zealand contingent expanded to form their own division; the New Zealand Division. The First Australian Imperial Force underwent a major reorganisation resulting in the formation of two new divisions; the 4th and 5th divisions. (The Australian 3rd Division was forming in Australia and would be sent directly to England and then to France.) These divisions were reformed into two corps; I ANZAC Corps and II ANZAC Corps. I ANZAC Corps, under the command of General Birdwood, departed for France in early 1916. II ANZAC Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General Alexander Godley, followed soon after.

In January 1916, the 4th (ANZAC) Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps with Australian and New Zealand troops was formed, the 1st and 3rd battalions were Australian and the 2nd Battalion British. Then in March 1916, the ANZAC Mounted Division with three Australian and one New Zealand brigade, was formed for service in Egypt and Palestine. There was also the 1st (ANZAC) Wireless Signal Squadron, which served with the British expeditionary force in Mesopotamia in 1916–17.

During World War II, the Australian I Corps HQ was moved to Greece in April 1941. As the corps also controlled the New Zealand 2nd Division (along with Greek and British formations), it was officially renamed ANZAC Corps in April. The Battle of Greece was over in weeks and the corps HQ left Greece on 23–24 April, with the name ANZAC Corps no longer being used. Some troops were evacuated to Alexandria but the majority were sent to Crete in order to reinforce its garrison against an expected air and sea German invasion. The invasion began the morning of 20 May and after the fierce Battle of Crete that lasted ten days when Crete fell to the Germans. During the Vietnam War, two companies from the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment were integrated into Royal Australian Regiment battalions. These integrated battalions had the suffix (ANZAC) added to their name (for example, 4 RAR became the 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion. The current ANZAC Battle Group is an active battle group of Australian and New Zealand units deployed to Timor. Leste as part of Operation *Astute*. The battle group was established in September 2006.

### 2014 Program for Term 3

*Program may be subject to changes*

- 17 July: Tony Tossel: "History's Greatest Naval Disaster "
- 24 July: Rob Ellis: "The Reasons for Dresden" 1945
- 31 July: Mel Green: Fall of Hong Kong
- 7 & 14 Aug: Rob Ellis: "Non-ZACS" - The British & French Naval & Military Actions in the Dardanelles Campaign
- 21 Aug: Mel Green: Franco-Siamese Wars  
Guy Hull: The Zimmerman Telegram  
**(A postscript to previous presentation)**
- 28 Aug: Rex Gilmore: The Military and the Science of Medicine
- 4 Sep: Guy Hull: Siege Weapons
- 11 Sep: Rob Ellis: The Battle of Jutland
- 18 Sep: Bert & Kathleen Lopes: Zulu Wars.

### What's Inside

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### Call for 4th Term Contributors

The Committee are now planning for the 4th Term Program. If you have a paper you would like to put up, please let us know. The Committee can let you know if it may have been done before and can help with the presentation if requested



## Victoria's First War Man of War



**HMVS *Victoria*** (Her Majesty's Victorian Ship; also referred to with the prefix **HMCSS**-Her Majesty's Colonial Steam Sloop) was a 580-ton combined steam/sail sloop-of-war built in England in the 1850s for the colony of Victoria, Australia. She was the second warship to be built for an Australian colonial navy, the first British-built ship given to a colony of the British Empire and the first Australian warship to be deployed overseas when she supported New Zealand colonists during in New Zealand's First Taranaki War.

### Construction and acquisition

*Victoria* was the first warship to be built in England for one of the British colonies. She was the second ship ordered for an Australian colonial navy, after the Australian-built gunboat *Spitfire* for the New South Wales colony. She was designed by the British naval architect Oliver Lang and launched in London on 30 June 1855 by Lady Constance Talbot.

Commander William Henry Norman sailed *Victoria* from Plymouth to Hobsons Bay, arriving on 31 May 1856. The ship was initially equipped with three 32-pounder guns.

### Operational history

*Victoria's* main duties were to protect the colony of Victoria, conduct hydrological surveys, recover passengers and crew from stricken ships, and serve as a lighthouse tender. During her career the sloop delivered the first trout eggs to the colony of Tasmania.

### New Zealand Wars deployment, 1860

In 1860, the colonial government of Victoria decided to send the sloop to New Zealand, to support British colonists fighting in the First Taranaki War. On 19 April 1860, *Victoria* sailed to Hobart, embarked 134 troops from the 40th Regiment of Foot, and transported them to New Zealand. Prior to her departure, the colonial government passed an Act giving the ship legal status, but this law was overturned by Britain as an attempt to create a naval force independent of the Royal Navy.

After delivering the soldiers to Auckland, *Victoria* performed shore bombardments and coastal patrols, while maintaining supply routes between Auckland and New Plymouth.

In July, she sailed to Sydney to transport General Thomas Pratt and his staff to New Zealand. *Victoria* was used to evacuate women and children from the town of New Plymouth, following Maori attacks on the town's fortifications. In October, the ship underwent refit in Wellington, and resumed duties by delivering British reinforcements to the combat areas. As the Victorian colonial government required the ship for urgent survey work, her return was requested at the end of the year, with *Victoria* arriving in Melbourne in March 1861.

The New Zealand Wars deployment was the first time an Australian warship had been deployed to assist in a foreign war. The legal hazards of having a colonial warship operating outside her territorial limits was rectified by declaring that all Australian warships in international or foreign waters had to be commissioned into the Royal Navy.

### Search for Burke and Wills, 1861-2

When news reached Melbourne in July 1861 that the explorers Burke and Wills were missing somewhere between Cooper Creek and the Gulf of Carpentaria the Royal Society of Victoria decided to send a number of search parties to search for them. Commander William Henry Norman sailed from Hobson's Bay in *Victoria* on the 4 August 1861 for Brisbane, where William Landsborough and the Queensland Relief Expedition boarded. *Victoria* arrived at the Albert River in the Gulf of Carpentaria at the end of September 1861. Also aboard was the botanist Diedrich Henne. After finding traces of the explorers, they returned to Melbourne on 31 March 1862.

### 1862 onwards

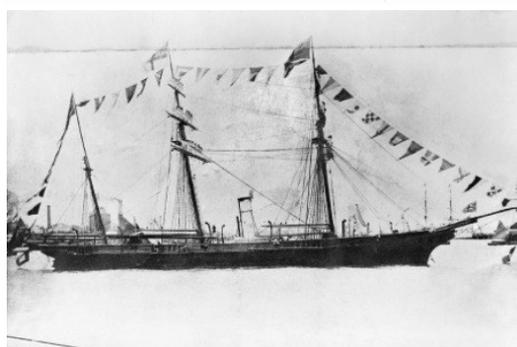
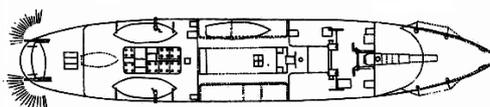
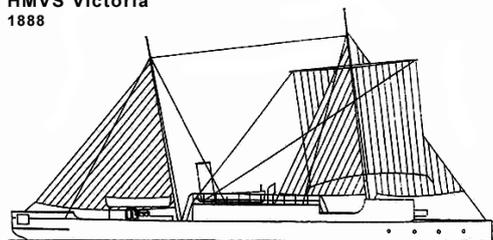
In 1867, *Victoria* was present for the visit of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh—the first member of the British Royal Family to visit Australia.

By 1877, *Victoria's* armament had been altered to include one 10-inch gun, two 13-pounders, and two 3-pounders.

### Decommissioning and fate

Due to the depression of the 1890s *Victoria* was decommissioned in 1893 and sold. She was subsequently purchased by the West Australian government in 1896. She was purchased in 1902 by the Sydney based tug company Fenwicks, who used her as a towing vessel. She was scrapped in 1920 after 18 years of service on Sydney Harbour.

HMVS *Victoria*  
1888



Her Majesty's Colonial Steam  
Sloop *Victoria*,

### It is the day before Anzac Day As specialists from the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) Search explosives In Country Victoria



This is not Afghanistan; it is rural Victoria, on a farm near the town of Derrinallum west of Melbourne, and the soldiers have deployed to support the Victoria Police, using skills, knowledge, training and experience gained a world away.

Special Operations Engineer Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel H (identity protected for security reasons) explained that after the massive blast, which occurred on April 12, Victoria Police requested support from SOER to examine and search areas of interest, which it was feared could contain further explosives.

"Given SOER's unique skills, capabilities and experience, the Victoria Police sought the regiment's help to check a number of areas on the property, where potential caches and further explosive hazards were thought to be located," Lt-Col H said.

In response to the call for help, SOER deployed a team of high-risk search and explosive ordnance disposal specialists, explosive detection dogs and handlers, medical, signal and other support staff to the location where, over a period of three days, they methodically searched two sites on the property.

"Our personnel used a range of SOER's capabilities to conduct the high-risk search, which commenced in the week leading up to Anzac Day. During that time our explosives detection dogs, electronic and manual search techniques were used. No further explosive hazards were found," Lt-Col H said.

"The teams spent Anzac Day working to ensure public safety and allow the Victoria Police to continue their investigations, SOER provides Special Operations Command (Socomd) with an integrated, rapidly deployable and specialised capability to counter chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) threats across the spectrum of special operations – both domestically and overseas.

In addition to Royal Australian Engineers, the SOER consists of Army, Navy and Air Force members from a range of other corps, including intelligence, signals, medical, nursing, ordnance, transport, and electrical and mechanical engineers.

The regiment also employs specialist civilian staff to ensure the unit is always operating at the cutting edge and with the latest counter-CBRNE technology and capability.

"This activity highlights the high regard in which SOER is held as well as the unique capabilities that the unit can and does provide to assist civilian authorities as well as Socomd across a very broad spectrum of threats and support requirements.

### HMAS Darwin nets \$132 million of heroin in Indian Ocean



HMAS *Darwin* operating in the Indian Ocean in international waters, 40 nautical miles off the east coast of Somalia, intercepted a suspected drug smuggling dhow on 13 May 2014, seizing 449 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of \$132 million dollars.

Darwin's Commanding Officer, Commander Terry Morrison, said the seizure removed a major source of funding for terrorist and criminal networks which included Al Qaeda, the Taliban and Al-Shabaab.

"I am very proud of the hard work and determination of the ship's company in HMAS *Darwin* during a particularly long and challenging interdiction," Commander Morrison said.

"Due to the hard work of many previous ships deploying to this region, we have been very successful in intercepting illegal narcotics smuggling."

*Darwin's* boarding party discovered the hidden drugs contained in 20 bags each weighing between 20 to 25 kilograms.

As part of Operation SLIPPER, HMAS *Darwin* is deployed on patrol under tasking to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and the UK led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150.

Commander of Operation SLIPPER in the Middle East Area of Operations, Major General Craig Orme, said Australia's commitment to the CMF contributed to the Indian Ocean's security and the trade which flowed through it which was important to global, regional and Australian strategic interests.

"CTF 150 is responsible for enforcing maritime security in the Middle East and Indian Ocean regions to counter terrorist acts and related illegal activities, which terrorists use to fund or conceal their movements.

The CMF works to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, encourage regional engagement, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business.

HMAS *Darwin* has conducted several previous drug seizures including over 1 tonne of heroin with an estimated street value of \$289 million dollars. HMAS *Darwin* is the 57th individual Royal Australian Navy ship deployment to the Middle East Area of operations since 1990.

## Australia's D Day Effort—The 70th Anniversary Of The D Day Landings

AUSTRALIAN airmen made a significant contribution to the Allied invasion of northern France on June 6, 1944, which returned ground forces to European soil from where they had been ejected in 1940.

Codenamed Operation Overlord and two years in the planning, it involved the landing of five infantry divisions on the first day at Normandy beaches codenamed Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. To ensure that the lodgement of these forces would not be seriously impaired by enemy reinforcements, a combined air campaign was launched to isolate the battlefield. Although no RAN ships or formed units of the Australian Army took part, the story was very different in the air.



Above, a 453SQN Spitfire being readied before a sortie over the D-Day beachheads.

During the early morning of June 6, seven Australian squadrons contributed to the Bomber and Fighter Command attacks on various targets on the Normandy beaches and nearby. Two formations of 13 Lancaster aircraft from No. 460 Squadron each attacked Fontenay-Crisbecq and St Martin de Varreville, while Nos 463 and 467 Squadrons struck at gun emplacements at St Pierre du Mont. Thirteen Halifax bombers from No. 466 Squadron bombed a German battery at Maisy.

The Spitfire-equipped No. 453 Squadron undertook 43 sorties in support of the landing forces on the first day. The Mosquito night fighters of No. 456 Squadron flew 18 sorties on the nights of June 5-6 and 6-7, and shot down four German He-177s. The other Mosquito squadron, No. 464, mounted 20 sorties on the night of June 5-6 against enemy rail and road communication, bridges and enemy troop convoys. Other Australian airmen serving in RAF squadrons are known to have played a part in the various operations that supported the landing. Some were involved in deceptions undertaken as part of the aerial 'cover' plan, while others jammed enemy early-warning radar. Many more transport crews with Nos. 38 and 46 Groups, RAF, took part in the large-scale airdrops that also occurred on

June 5-6. Still others were in RAF squadrons of Bomber Command flying alongside the Australian units in the attack on Maisy, and against similar targets at La Pernelle, Longues and Mont Fleury.

## The Shrine of Remembrance - Galleries of Remembrance Opening Late 2014

The Galleries of Remembrance is a multi-million dollar Victorian Government project that will tell the history of Australians at war, focusing on individual and unit stories of Victorian service and sacrifice.

**Exhibitions:** The vast exhibition space will be called the Galleries of Remembrance. Displays will vary between intimate, personal accounts and the imposing drama of the big stories of war and peacekeeping. An iconic display for the SS Devanha lifeboat, used in the Gallipoli landings in 1915, will be included.

**Education Centre & Learning Spaces:** A permanent Education Centre will meet the demands of increasing student visitation whose experience will be further enriched by the inclusion of an auditorium and activity pods within the exhibition area. A fourth learning pod will provide a Research Centre with computer kiosks for visitors of all ages.

**Rolls of Honour:** Rolls of Honour for the Second World War, Korean War and Vietnam War will present the names of Victorians who served in these conflicts. They will introduce an important new commemorative component to the Shrine of Remembrance and will complement the existing First World War Books of Remembrance. (Web link: <http://www.shrine.org.au/Home>)

## Mike Lewino's Library Report

As of now, our library holds 125 books, 50 magazines, 5 DVDs and 31 Journals of the UK Army Historical Society. A highly informative source of military history spanning the development - often violent of mankind from ancient to present-day times. Both World Wars I and II are covered in great detail but information about many other conflicts through history and up to the current conflict in Afghanistan is available. Access is available each Thursday morning and books may be freely borrowed by members of the Military History Group.

## WW1 Cartoon - Bluey and Curley

