

Corevette Veteran's Club

1st July 2013

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HMAS Armidale is named after the original Armidale, a Bathurst class corvette, which served with distinction in World War II.

Armidale Class

On 17 December 2003 a contract was awarded to Defence Maritime Services Pty Ltd for the Armidale class patrol boat with construction undertaken by Austal Ships at its Henderson yard near Fremantle, Western Australia. The \$553m contract was for the design, construction and in service support of 12 patrol boats.

Following the naming convention that RAN ships emphasise the links between the Navy and the wider Australian community, boats of the Armidale class are named after Australian cities and towns with close links to our naval heritage. The first of class, HMAS Armidale is named after the original Armidale, a Bathurst class corvette, which served with distinction in World War II. The other 11 boats are named (alphabetically), Albany, Ararat, Bathurst, Broome, Bundaberg, Childers, Launceston, Larrakia, Maitland, Pirie and Wollongong, while the names of the two additional patrol boats have not yet been announced.

Message from the President

This year we have continued to provide a great environment for all, while recognising the achievements of our members.

We will be supporting the community by promoting our events and historical information through the implementation of a new website. We are currently in the process of working with a web designer to develop the site for us, hopefully launching later this year.

In the coming month we remember that at 12:00 noon Japan standard time on August 15, the Emperor's recorded speech to the Japanese, reading the Imperial Rescript on the Termination of the Pacific War.

Bob McGavin
President

HMAS Launceston performed escort duties around Australia and the Indian Ocean before conducting anti-submarine patrols in Asian waters.

Tasmanian Named Corvettes

The Bathurst class corvette HMAS Burnie commissioned on 15 April 1941. She served in Australian and Asian waters as well as the Indian Ocean and for a time flew the broad pennant of the famous Tasmanian naval officer, Commodore John Collins, RAN then Commodore Commanding the China Force. She was involved in postwar minesweeping before transferring to the Royal Netherlands Navy on 5 July 1946.

The Bathurst class corvette HMAS Launceston commissioned on 9 April 1942. She performed escort duties around Australia and the Indian Ocean before conducting anti-submarine patrols in Asian waters. She was involved in post-war minesweeping before transferring to the Royal Navy as HMS Launceston on 21 May 1946, and later transferred to the Turkish Navy.

HMAS Strahan commissioned on 14 March 1944. Another Bathurst Class corvette, she performed escort and antisubmarine patrol duties around New Guinea and Borneo and, after the cessation of hostilities, was involved in minesweeping and anti-piracy patrols around Hong Kong. She decommissioned on 25 January 1946.

Upcoming Events

Here are some upcoming events for the Corvette's Veteran's Club over the next few months. Hope to see you all there.

Anniversary of the Japanese

Surrender in 1945	August 15
Melbourne Cup Luncheon	November 5
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Dinner	December 14
New Year's Eve Celebration	December 31
Australia Day Luncheon	January 26

RSL Bulimba Festival, Brisbane

The RSL Bulimba Festival showcases over 250 market stalls including food, fashion, arts and craft and buskers.

With something for the whole family to enjoy, the children will be entertained for hours at the kid's corner which includes farm animals, rides, face painting and more. Adults can chill out at the Oxford Street Lounge or check out the main stage entertainment from the Navy Band and highlight acts including Frankie J Holden, Wilbur Wilde and Joe Camilleri.

Date: 25th August 2013

Time: 9.00am to 4:00pm

Where: Oxford Street, Bulimba, Brisbane

Cost: Free, however, gold coin donation is encouraged



The RSL Bulimba Festival attracts thousands of people of all ages to the Oxford Street precinct, making it one of Brisbane's most popular community events.

Sailor Profile: Alfred Victor Knight

KNIGHT, ALFRED VICTOR (1895-1983), naval and merchant navy officer, was born at Dover, England on 20 February 1897, the youngest son of a Merchant Navy officer and the latest in a long family line of seafarers. Educated at St Mary's School in Dover, he was active in the local scout troop as well as the church choir. Knight joined the Roberts Steamship Company as a cadet in 1912 and served his apprenticeship in the tramp steamer *Batiscan*.

When World War II broke out there was initially no position for an officer of his seniority, but after being mobilised in March 1940, he joined the Naval Staff in Melbourne as member of the Trade Division. From June 1941 until February 1943, he served as the commander of HMAS Lithgow, a Bathurst class corvette. During this time Lithgow swept for mines sown by German commerce raiders in Bass Strait, assisted in the destruction of the Japanese submarine I-124 off Darwin, escorted the first contingent of Allied troops from Townsville to Milne Bay, and took part in the campaign to recapture Buna in northern New Guinea. For his services in Lithgow, Knight was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Knight was next appointed to the requisitioned liner, HMAS Westralia, recently converted into Australia's first infantry landing ship. He remained as her Commanding Officer until October 1944, training more than 21,000 men in amphibious warfare, transporting more than 19,000 men and 30,000 tonnes of military equipment to the forward areas and taking part in the Allied landings at Arawe, Humbolt Bay, and Panoan in the Philippines. Westralia was several times the flagship of the transport task units concerned and for his exceptional service in command Knight was awarded the US Legion of Merit. The citation described him as a 'forceful leader', and by his 'splendid cooperation in the conduct of a vital training programme, aggressive determination and untiring energies' he had 'contributed materially to combined large-scale operations and the successful prosecution of the war' in the South-West Pacific area.

Knight thereafter returned to an administrative role, acting as the Sea Transport Officer in Sydney until July 1947. During this time, he was promoted captain and served as Honorary ADC to two Governors-General. Having left the permanent naval forces, Knight joined the Australian National Line and commanded many of its ships. Upon retirement in 1962 he was made an Honorary Commodore, the Line's first. Knight transferred to the Australian Shipping Board and later became Chairman of the Glebe Island Committee and an active member of many naval and merchant navy associations.

In 1930 Knight married Irene Payne and they had one daughter. Irene died in 1967, and the following year he married Hilda Marian. Knight died at his Double Bay home on 22 January 1983 and was privately cremated. He was survived by his daughter and three grandchildren.

Source: <http://www.navy.gov.au/biography/commodore-alfred-victor-knight>.



Commodore Alfred Victor Knight (1895-1983) served on the HMAS Lithgow and HMAS Westralia during World War II.