Shipmates, Welcome to the HMAS CANBERRA Newsletter, 2012 is shaping up to be a very important year for HMAS CANBERRA.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS CANBERRA 1 at Savo Island with the loss of 84 personnel on the 09 August 1942. Memorial Services will be held in August 2012 in every state of Australia, the National HMAS CANBERRA Memorial in Canberra, ACT and in the Solomon Islands. I will post the details of the Memorial Services on the website as they come to hand [http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/scuttle.html](http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/scuttle.html)

The HMAS CANBERRA 3 is programmed to be transported from the shipyards in Spain to Williamtown, Victoria in July 2012 for construction to be completed here in Australia by the end of 2013.

I am also working on reactivating the HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association here in Western Australia.

**HMAS CANBERRA – HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association**

The HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association was formed in each state of Australia from 1948, the following Divisions are active with a committee and membership:

- New South Wales
- Victoria
- South Australia

The following states do not have the HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association represented:

- Queensland
- Tasmania
- ACT
- Western Australia

I am currently working on reactivating the WA Division of the Association, I am being assisted by 2 former members of the Association who served in WW2, however I need more support from HMAS CANBERRA (2) personnel, please let me know if are able to assist.
Once we have the Association reactivated in WA I will be looking to do the same in Queensland, the ACT and Tasmania.

To ensure the viability of Association into the future I encourage you all to become members of the HMAS CANBERRA - SHROPSHIRE Association in the states the Association is active, and assist in the reactivation of the Association in the states that require reactivating.

I have updated the Association webpage with the point of contact details of the Association in each state: [http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/association.html](http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/association.html)

**HMAS CANBERRA 2014 Reunion**

HMAS CANBERRA 2014 Reunion will be held in Sydney, NSW when HMAS CANBERRA 3 is commissioned in January 2014. Planning for the Reunion will commence early in 2013.


**Website Updates**

The website is constantly being updated, these updates are posted on the News webpage [http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/scuttle.html](http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/scuttle.html)

**ANZAC DAY 2012 – Perth**

The HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION in Western Australia is inviting all former members of HMAS CANBERRA (2) Ships Company to march with the Association on ANZAC Day 2012 in Perth this year.

If you are available and interested in marching in Perth on Anzac Day please contact me. For further information go to [http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/Canberra-ShropshireWA.html](http://www.hmascanberra.com/news/Canberra-ShropshireWA.html)

Yours Aye,

Bickies

Lee "Bickies" Webster

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HMAS Canberra FFG02 does not have an Official Association.

Historical Context

Every major Unit in the RAN has an Association, except HMAS CANBERRA, this is not entirely true, provision exists in the HMAS CANBERRA HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association constitution for HMAS CANBERRA 2 to join the Association.

It is a quirk of naval history that the Association has 2 ships in its name and is unique to these two fine ships of the RAN, both Ships have wonderful Naval Histories to be proud of.

HMAS Canberra 1 was commissioned in 1928; she was tragically sunk during WW 2 off Savo Island in 1942, 84 members of the Ships Company were killed in action.

Many survivors from HMAS Canberra were transport to the United Kingdom in 1943 to commission her replacement HMAS Shropshire.

The HMAS Shropshire Association was originally established in 1948, at a later date it was decided to incorporate HMAS Canberra into the Association

HMAS Canberra 2 was commissioned 39 years after the sinking of HMAS Canberra 1, four decades passed without a HMAS Canberra in the RAN; this was due to the US Government naming the USS Canberra in honour of the HMAS Canberra 1.

The HMAS Canberra 2 had a strong affiliation with the HMAS Canberra – Shropshire Association which was maintained over the life of the ship from 1981 until 2005.

With the passing of the years the HMAS Canberra – Shropshire Association has been in decline, only 9 members of the Association marched in Sydney for Anzac Day in 2011.

I am aware of only 2 ex HMAS Canberra 2 personnel who have joined the HMAS Canberra - Shropshire Association in SA, to support our forebears and carry on the fine traditions established by HMAS Canberra 1.

In addition we do not have an association to support the Ships Company that have served in HMAS Canberra 2, this will be very important as we try and address issues pertaining specifically to the ship, this was recently demonstrated by the review of the service on Operation DAMASK VI during 1993 that was inappropriately classified. I have had some
enquiries into the 1983 NWIO Deployment to put a case to be awarded the ASM for that deployment

HMAS Canberra 3 will be commissioned in 2014; it will be great to be involved as an organised Association for this and other important occasion in the future. It will also provide the legacy of an Association for future HMAS Canberra Ships Company members.