

## **INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NAVAL VETERANS IN THREE KEY EVENTS**

**I have received the following letter from CMDR Phillip Anderson OAM RAN the person responsible for 3 key events during the International Fleet Review. To assist members to better understand this information I have included my own remarks where necessary.**

1. The International Fleet Review (IFR) is a high profile international event and Navy's signature Commemorative event for 2013. Planned in partnership with the New South Wales State Government and the City of Sydney Council, it is anticipated that approximately 40 visiting warships and at least 12 tall ships, in addition to Royal Australian Navy (RAN) units, will participate in this historic event to be held on Sydney Harbour.
2. The IFR will commence on Thursday 3 October 2013 with the arrival of the tall ships in Sydney, followed by the ceremonial arrival of the warships on Friday 4 October 2013. The formal review of the assembled ships will take place on Saturday 5 October 2013 and will culminate in the evening with the IFR Pyrotechnics and Lightshow Spectacular. Based on Navy's experience with previous public events, such as the Navy's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Review in 1986 and Bicentennial events in 1988, it is anticipated that close to one million people will observe the IFR on Sat 5 October 2013.
3. Commencing at 1400 on Sunday 6 October 2013 the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) will conduct an Ecumenical Service at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The Principal Guest of Honour is Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, the Governor of NSW.
4. Commencing at 1230 on Tuesday 8 October 2013 the RAN will conduct a Navy Memorial Service at the Cenotaph, Sydney. The Principal Guest of Honour is Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, the Governor of New South Wales.
5. Commencing at 1230 on Wednesday 9 October 2013 the RAN will host a parade through the City of Sydney that will be reviewed by Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.
6. I am writing to you to clarify arrangements for the various ship associations and ex-naval members to take part in these three key events and to clarify our earlier discussions.

### **Ecumenical Service – Sunday 6 October – St Mary's Cathedral - 1400**

7. The memorial aspects to the International Fleet Review will be highlighted during the Navy Ecumenical Service at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 6 October. As the key memorial aspects will be acknowledged during the Navy Memorial Service my initial concept for members of the ex-naval community to proceed into the cathedral during the Ecumenical Service will now not be proceeding. Nor will I require the ship association banners for the Ecumenical Service. However, members of the ex-naval community will be warmly welcomed at this Ecumenical Service, which commences at 1400 at St Mary's Cathedral. Please note that access into the cathedral will not be permitted until 1330 on the day.

**FNSA Members Note: Banners will NOT NOW be required for this Service. Members of ALL affiliated Assns are VERY welcome to attend this significant Service. Dress: Jacket & Tie with Medals. Partners also welcome.**

**Navy Memorial Service – Tuesday 8 October – SYDNEY CENOTAPH 12.00**

8. I am looking forward to seeing a large contingent of former Naval Veterans and ship association banners at this Memorial Service. I will be providing seating for 200 ex naval members. If you feel that I need to increase these numbers, then I would appreciate your early advice. Please note that these numbers are separate to the official guests, which will number approximately 300, plus 240 sailors from the RAN ships and visiting international navies, the RAN Band, Guard and Catafalque Party.

9. Ex-naval members will be required at the Cenotaph by 1200 prior to the commencement of timed arrivals for the Distinguished Guests.

**Note for FNSA Members. As many Banners as we can Parade will be appreciated.**

**Combined Navies Parade – Wednesday at 1200 on WED 9 October**

**FNSA Members please NOTE:**

**Participation in this Parade is limited to those former ships which arrived in Sydney on 4 Oct 1913 (100 years ago). These are mentioned in para 10 below.**

**Please also note a section on the right hand side of the Town Hall will be reserved for Naval Veterans wishing to view the Parade.**

**A separate email will be forwarded to those Ships participating in the Parade. This will provide more in depth detail.**

**Dress: As for Anzac Day, Jacket & Tie with Medals**

10. The involvement of former members of HMA Ships *Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, Yarra, Encounter, Warrego* and *Parramatta* in the parade is warmly welcomed. Please note that this parade is not an ANZAC Day styled event, and the following concept is still to be finalised:

**Assembly Point—Regimental Square on George Street (Wynyard St Opp Martin Pl)**

The Combined Navies Parade will commence from Circular Quay precinct for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and International contingents and then proceed along George Street. The banners of the seven ships of our First Fleet Unit will be carried by Australian Navy Cadets to the point where the ex-naval members will be fallen in by ship name. At this stage I hope to secure Regimental Square (opposite the Cenotaph, the west side of George Street) as the assembly point for our ex-naval members:

The banners will need to be delivered to the Naval Cadets in Regimental Square by 1130 on Wed 9 Oct so that the ANC can take them to the Parade “Start Point” in the Rocks.

When the banner bearers (cadets) arrive at Regimental Square, they will remain in the line of march and mark time while the ex-naval members move into position behind their banners. When assembled (as quickly as possible), the contingents will step off at a regulation 120 beats per minute marching pace.

**Dismissal Point**

The ex-naval contingent will march past the saluting dais at the Town Hall and

will then turn right into Liverpool Street (or possibly Bathurst Street) and then right into Kent Street for dismissal. Banners can be collected at end of Parade.  
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### **Shortened Route**

This route will provide an opportunity for our ex-naval members to be seated in the benches at the square before joining the parade. They will also be able to witness the parade as it passes. Importantly, it will significantly lessen the distance actually marched and prevent the possible onset of fatigue amongst our former members.

### **Selection of Members to March**

In accordance with these arrangements, ship associations will need to select only those members who are physically able to march unaided and at the normal pace required for this parade.

### **Contingent Sizes**

To avoid wide disparity in the sizes of the contingents, a **maximum** of twenty ex-naval members will be permitted to march under their banner making a total of not more than one hundred and forty members in total. Where necessary, members of sister associations may march in place of members who are no longer able to do so. This arrangement may be particularly applicable to those marching under the banners of *Australia* and *Warrego*.

**Note: the FNSA will liaise with Assns to make up Numbers where necessary.**

### **Members not marching**

Members of associations who are not marching but who wish to witness the parade will be offered an opportunity to do so in the vicinity of the Town Hall and should go there and not to Regimental Square. **Please note that the vantage point plan is still being worked through.**

11. Thank you for your assistance in coordinating the involvement of the ex-naval community in these three events. I look forward to working through any additional points with you in the coming weeks.

Ken Swain AM  
President FNSA  
& Vice President RANCBA NSW