# Remembrance Day



The gallant last stand of HMAS Yarra, steaming towards overwhelming odds as she tries to protect other ships from a Japanese onslaught. Painting courtesy of artist David Marshall. Oil on canvas, 2012.

## About the heroics of HMAS Yarra

AMONG the continuing bad news of surrender, loss, death and destruction flooding the Australian press in 1942, culminating in the fall of Singapore, the story of the recovery of 13 survivors from the sloop HMAS Yarra, sunk by the Japanese on March 4, 1942, was a rare bright moment in a time bereft of good news.

Sadly, Donald Chisholm of Dumbalk, a member of the heroic crew, then aged 21, did not survive (see details in an article by Leongatha Historical Society secretary Lyn Skillern).

Here are a few details from the story of

Following the coordinated Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hong Kong, Malaya and The Philippines on December 7 and 8 1941, HMAS Yarra was recalled to home waters. She arrived at Jakarta on January 11, 1942 and was soon embroiled in the desperate fight to stop the Japanese advance. Over the next few weeks, the sloop escorted convoys in and out of Singapore experiencing several air raids.

On February 5, 1942, Yarra was escorting a convoy into Singapore harbour when the troopship Empress of Asia was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The vessel was badly damaged, set on fire and began to sink. With great skill and daring, Lieutenant Commander 'Arch' Harrington manoeuvred Yarra alongside the stern of the sinking ship, rescuing 1334 men who jumped directly onto the sloop's deck.

Meanwhile her gun's crews, particular-

ly No. 2 gun under the control of Acting Leading Seaman Taylor, kept up a heavy rate of fire to keep other Japanese aircraft away, although this did not prevent one Japanese aircraft from strafing Yarra's upper deck, injuring two men.

After the survivors were landed ashore in Singapore, Yarra returned to Indonesia and Harrington handed over command to Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin.

Sometime later, Yarra collected a small convoy for escort back to Australia but within four days of their arrival in Fremantle and Australia for the first time in 18 months, they met a force of five Japanese vessels comprising the heavy cruisers Atago, Maya and Takao each carrying 10 x 8-inch guns and two destroyers Arisha and Nowaki each equipped with 6 x 5-inch guns bearing down on the convoy

There was no escape.

Over the next five days, Yarra's survivors drifted helplessly on two life-rafts and wreckage suffering from wounds, exposure and thirst in shark-infested waters.

On the morning of March 9, they were luckily picked up by a Dutch submarine.

Following a sustained public campaign to have the heroic deeds of Yarra's crew officially recognised, the then Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC, CVO, presented a retrospective Unit Citation for Gallantry to HMAS Yarra on March 4, 2014; among those honoured was Donald Chisholm.

## Only fully vaccinated at the Shrine

the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the day-2021. eleventh month - we pause to remember those men and women who have served and those who have died in all wars and peacekeeping operations.

This year, the Remembrance Day service at the Shrine will reflect upon 21 years of service in the 21st century.

The past 21 years have seen Australians serve all over the world in conflicts, peacekeeping and peacemaking missions. Here at home, the Australian Defence Force has supported our community through some of the most challenging experiences of our generation - from floods to bushfires and in the front lines of the current pandemic.

Fully vaccinated visitors are able to attend the Shrine's Remembrance Day service. Learn how to show your proof of

EVERY year at 11am on November 11 - vaccination at shrine.org.au/remembrance-

There will be seating available on the Second World War Memorial Forecourt. Bookings are not required.

All attendees will be required to check in on arrival using the Service Victoria app. Please allow extra time. The onsite service will commence at 10.40am.

Please note that this year's service is dependent upon the public health restrictions as at November 11, 2021 and may be subject to change. Up to date advice will be provided at shrine.org.au/remembranceday-2021 in the lead up to Remembrance Day.

The Remembrance Day service will be live-streamed and available to watch via the web page (above), or the Shrine of Remembrance Facebook and YouTube channels.

## Oscar hopes to bring Australia a win at World Monologue Games

OSCAR Tuchtan, of Cape Woolamai, has beaten the competition to win a place in the global finals of the World Monologue Games, the largest acting showcase in the world which features performers from 50 coun-

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing when my name was announced as one of the winners," Oscar said.

"This puts me up against the best actors in the world. You might say I'm feeling a little bit of pressure!"

The event is judged by industry experts from around the world including renowned actors, film directors and heads of international acting schools. Over a hundred thousand viewers have already tuned in to the qualifiers and regional livestream finals.

Event founder Pete Malicki couldn't be happier with the response World



Oscar Tuchtan will be going up against some of the best actors in the world in the global finals of the World Monologue Games.

Monologue Games 2021 had been receiving.

"We have some incredible performers advancing to the globals this year. I don't envy the judges - picking the winners from each category is going to be one heck of a tough call!"

The World Monologue Games have seen around 5000 performers from over

100 countries register since its inception last year. Only 95 competitors have won a spot in the global finals, which consists of six categories broken down by age group, experience level and monologue duration.

"The monologue I'm performing is about the time my friend Joey and I were at the football, and as it was my birthday, Rhys Palmer gave me his muddy boots after the game. This is a monologue I wrote myself. I'm really excited despite the pressure and can't wait to compete on the world stage!"

The World Monologue Games global finals will be livestreamed on November 12, 13, 19 and 20. You can see Oscar in the Tigers category on Friday, November 12 at 8pm.

Read more about the event or watch the event at monologues.com.au/WMG.

These keen cyclists rode from Inverloch to enjoy a cup of coffee from the 'Muffin Lady' in Cape Paterson. They highly recommend the coffee and a chat with the Muffin ladies themselves, Chelsea Connell and Bec Slavin.





### **FREE ONLINE SESSION**

#### Preparing your property for the fire season

CFA is running two online sessions for South Gippsland Shire residents, providing vital knowledge and advice on ways to prepare their property for fire season. Each session will run for one hour and cover;

- Is my property at risk?
- · How fires destroy buildings
- · Landscaping and garden design
- What can I do?
- Fire Danger Ratings

For more information please contact our team on the details below 0419 874 484 or firesafetvoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au

#### Session 1

7:00pm - 8:00pm Tuesday

16 November 2021

https://cfa-vic-gov-

au.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ctce2ppz 4uGdli-4WWOGTyTcy3ynwDdNoC

#### Session 2

7:00pm - 8:00pm Thursday 18 November 2021 https://cfa-vic-gov-



au.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5UqcyoqT4uHdMtNO6fjEaMTdJwcx1QxADt