

Invitation to attend Coral Sea Dinner ~



THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Stanthorpe & District Sub Section
Once Navy, Always Navy.

Battle of the Coral Sea

In early May, 1942, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched Operation MO—the seizure of Port Moresby, New Guinea, and points in the Solomon Islands, Nauru, and the Ocean Islands, preparatory to invading Australia and neutralising it as an Allied bastion.

The period from 4th to 8th of May 1942 marked the first naval engagement fought without the opposing ships making contact. The allies deployed three groups to intercept the invasion force and its protective fleet. Task Force 17, centred on the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, attacked the invading Japanese at Gavutu and Tulagi in the Solomons, and sank a destroyer, and three minesweepers, and damaged another destroyer, a minelayer, a troop transport and a cargo ship. Japanese planes bombed and torpedoed USS Yorktown.

Task Force 11, centred on the aircraft carrier USS Lexington, attacked the Japanese Carrier Strike Force and sank an aircraft carrier. Japanese planes bombed the USS Lexington and sank the destroyer USS Sims and damaged the oiler USS Neosho, which was later scuttled. Task Force 44, a Cruiser Squadron, centred on HMAS Australia, with HMAS Hobart and USS Chicago and three destroyers, tasked with intercepting the Japanese invasion force troop transports which had left Rabaul heading for Port Moresby.

The Americans sustained heavy casualties including the loss of at least 69 planes to a Japanese loss of approximately 92 aircraft. The damage to the Japanese aircraft carriers and their aerial losses temporarily denied the Japanese the availability of their fleet carriers. The Allies achieved a strategic victory by halting the push southward and blunting the seaborne thrust toward Port Moresby. The Japanese then abandoned their plan to occupy Port Moresby by sea and shifted their advance overland across the Owen Stanley Ranges. But that is another story for another time.....

INVITATION

You and your guests are cordially invited to attend the NAA Stanthorpe & District Sub Section **Coral Sea Battle Commemorative Dinner** to be held at the **Stanthorpe RSL Services Club** on **Saturday 13 May 2023**, at which we remember the Australian and American servicemen who fought and died in the **Battle of the Coral Sea** from 4-8 May 1942 to save Australia from invasion by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Dress:

Gentlemen: Dinner Suit + Miniature Medals

Ladies: After Five Dress + Miniature Medals

Uniform: W4 (or equivalent) + Miniature Medals

Entertainment: Dancing to the RAN Band Jazz Ensemble

Tickets: \$75 per person \$560 for a table of 8

Payment: by direct credit to NAA Stanthorpe Functions BSB: 633-000 A/C: 154229082 Ref: (your surname) or email: graemecaesar@yahoo.com