NAVY
Serving Australia with Pride

HMAS *Melbourne* (III)

HMAS *Melbourne* (III) is the last commissioned Adelaide class guided missile frigate (FFG) in the Royal Australian Navy's fleet. The ship is a long-range escort prioritised for area air defence and fully capable of surface and undersea warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. The ship can counter simultaneous threats from aircraft, surface vessels and submarines. In order to maintain her effectiveness against contemporary threats, the ship underwent a significant upgrade in the mid-2000s. This included upgrades to the combat system, radars, sensors and new missiles.

At the time of their commissioning, *Melbourne* (III) and her five sister ships were the first RAN ships to be powered by gas turbines. This, combined with a modern repair by replacement policy, has allowed both a reduced complement and a high availability for sea duty. In addition, two forward mounted retractable auxiliary propulsion units provide a secondary means of propulsion plus excellent manoeuvrability in confined waters.

An Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile fires from HMAS Melbourne's MK-41 vertical launcher during training in the East Australian Exercise Area off the New South Wales coast.

The ship is also equipped with a sophisticated computer-based command and control system that fully integrates her significant suite of weapons and sensors to enable rapid and effective weapon employment when required.

Designed for helicopter operations, *Melbourne* (III) is capable of embarking and employing the new MH-60R 'Romeo' helicopter further extending the reach and lethality of the ship. With a full flight embarked, *Melbourne* (III) can accommodate up to 232 officers and crew.

Status	Decommissioning on 26 October 2019
Commanding Officer	Commander Marcus Buttler
Class	Adelaide Class
Type	Frigate, Guided Missile (FFG)
Role	• Undersea Warfare • Over the Horizon Targeting • Surveillance • Boarding Support • Search and Rescue (SAR) • Utility Operations
Pennant	FFG 05
International Callsign	VKLP
Motto	Vires Acquirit Eundo
Home Port	Fleet Base East
Builder	Australian Marine Eng (Consolidated), Williamstown
Laid Down	12 July 1985
Launched	5 May 1989
Commissioned	15 February 1992
Dimensions & Displacement	
Displacement	4267 tonnes
Length	138.1 metres
Beam	13.7 metres
Draught	4.5 metres
Performance	
Speed	29 knots
Range	4500 nautical miles

HMAS Melbourne fires a Standard Missile 2 from its Guided Missile Launching System during RIMPAC 2018.

Melbourne (III) deployed to the Arabian Gulf during 2002 as part of the Multinational Interception Force (MIF) enforcing United Nation's sanctions against Iraq, and again to the Middle East in 2010, 2013 and 2015 as part of the Combined Maritime Force (CMF) promoting maritime security, stability and prosperity in the region.

HMAS Melbourne is deployed on OP MANITOU in Middle East Region.

The name Melbourne has been carried by two former RAN warships: a light cruiser 1913-1928, and an aircraft carrier 1955-1982.

The ship's motto, 'VIRES ACQUIRIT EUNDO', translates as 'She Gathers Strength As She Goes'.

HMAS Melbourne sails past the iconic 12 Apostles, Victoria.

Complement	
Crew	199
Propulsion	
Machinery	- 2 GE LM 2500 gas turbines - 2 auxiliary electric retractable propulsors
Armament	
Missiles	- Harpoon Block 2 - Standard SM-2 Block IIIA - Mk 41 VLS launcher
Guns	- 1 x OTO Melara 3 in (76 mm)/62 US Mk 75 - 1 x 20 mm Mk 15 Vulcan Phalanx anti-missile system - 6 x 12.7 mm MGs - 2 x Rafael Mini-Typhoon 12.7 mm remote-controlled guns (for selected deployments).
Torpedoes	6 x Mk 32 (2 triple) tubes
Physical Countermeasures	- 4 x Loral Hycor SRBOC Mk 36 or TERMA SKWS - 2 x Rafael long-range chaff rocket launchers - LESCUT torpedo countermeasures
Electronic Countermeasures	- Elbit EA-2118 jammer - Rafael C-Pearl
Radars	- Raytheon SPS-49A(V)1 - ISC Cardion SPS-55 - Lockheed SPG-60 - Sperry Mk 92 Mod 12
Sonars	- Thales Spherion (TMS 4131) - Petrel (TMS 5424) mine avoidance - Albatros (TMS 4350) towed-array torpedo warning system
Combat Data Systems	ADACS. OE-2 SATCOM; Link 11. Link 16.
Weapon Control Systems	- Sperry Mk 92 Mod 12 gun and missile control - Radamec 2500 optronic director with TV, laser and IR imager
Helicopters	- 2 x Sikorsky S-70B-2 Seahawks or - 1 x Seahawk and 1 x Squirrel
Awards	
Inherited Battle Honours	- RABAUL 1914 - NORTH SEA 1915-18 - MALAYSIA 1964-66
Battle Honours	- EAST TIMOR 1999-2000 - PERSIAN GULF 2001-03 - MIDDLE EAST 2003-2014
Resources	
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After more than 28 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy, HMAS *Melbourne* will decommission at Garden Island, Fleet Base East on Saturday, 26 October 2019.

HMAS Melbourne battles the swell in a high sea state outside of Sydney Harbour on 17 June 2013.

HMAS Melbourne sails into Sydney Harbour for the last time, flying her decommissioning pendant signifying its last voyage with the Royal Australian Navy on 27 September 2019.

Middle East Region Deployments

Contributing to stable, rules-based global security is one of Australia's national objectives. Since 1990, the Royal Australian Navy has conducted maritime security operations in the Middle East region (MER), which remains strategically important to Australia's economic and trade interests.

Ship	Rotation No	Year	Operation
HMAS Melbourne (III)	61	2015/2016	Operation MANITOU
HMAS Melbourne (III)	56	2013/2014	Operation SLIPPER
HMAS Melbourne (III)	52	2012	Operation SLIPPER
HMAS Melbourne (III)	48	2010/2011	Operation SLIPPER
HMAS Melbourne (III)	29	2003/2004	Operation CATALYST
HMAS Melbourne (III)	21	2002	Operation SLIPPER
HMAS Melbourne (III)	13	1999	Operation DAMASK
HMAS Melbourne (III)	12	1996	Operation DAMASK

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

To fight and win at sea.