
HMAS Castlemaine

Location

Gem Pier WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 162167

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

HMAS *Castlemaine* is one of sixty Bathurst-class minesweepers or corvettes built during the Second World War. She was built at Williamstown and launched on 7 August 1941 by Mrs R. G. Menzies. The *Castlemaine* was commissioned on 17 June 1942, and is the last of the fifty-six who served with the Royal Australian Navy remaining afloat.

After escort duty to New Guinea, the *Castlemaine* landed Damien Parer and three other war correspondents at Betano on the south coast of East Timor on 4 November 1942. She was involved in the evacuation of the 2/2nd Independent Company in December, with HMAS *Armidale*. The *Castlemaine* was bombed and lost four crew, while *Armidale* was sunk on 1 December.

The *Castlemaine* resumed escort duties and returned to Sydney in July 1943 after 327 days at sea. After a refit, she served in New Guinea waters until 1944. In 1945, she was based in Darwin as a survey vessel, before sailing to the Philippines and clearing mines in Hong Kong as the war ended. The *Castlemaine* had steamed 117 000 miles and had 13 000 hours under way on war service. She was paid off in 1945 and later used for training

purposes at HMAS *Cerberus* until the 1970s.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>