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# HMAS Castlemaine

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## Location

Gem Pier WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 162167

Property Number

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## 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/>*