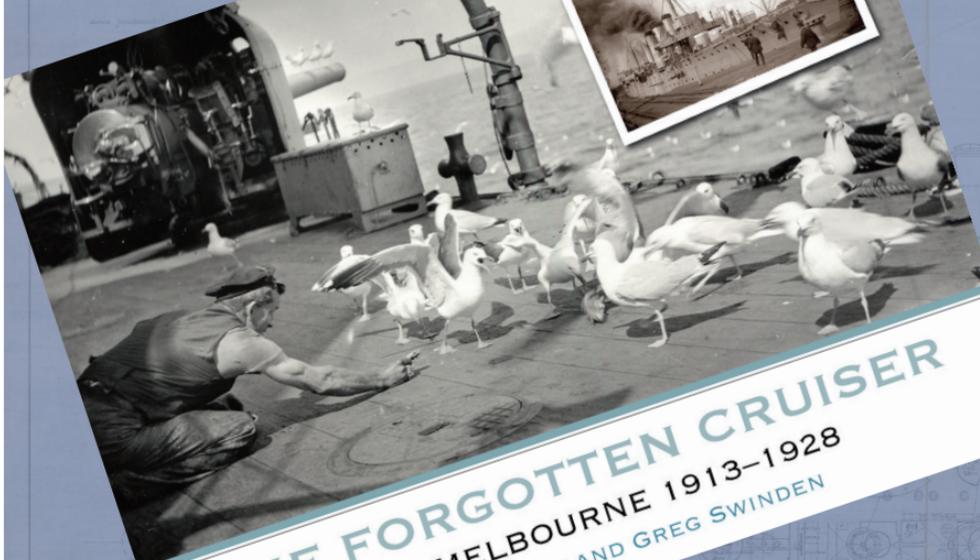


H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE.

PROFILE, BOAT & FOCLE DE

1/16 SCALE ARRANG



THE FORGOTTEN CRUISER
HMAS MELBOURNE 1913-1928
ANDREW KILSBY AND GREG SWINDEN

The story of Australia's first cruiser. HMAS Melbourne



Australia's first cruiser, HMAS *Melbourne*, was launched in Birkenhead, England in 1912, and commissioned on 18 January 1913. Upon arrival in Australia *Melbourne* was an object of great curiosity and pride – she was a symbol of Australia's new navy and a potent member of the growing Australian Fleet.

For the next fifteen years, *Melbourne* was crewed by a mixture of Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) sailors and officers and served her country and the RAN in peace and war, before being decommissioned in 1928. For her service in World War One she was granted the battle honours Rabaul 1914 and North Sea 1916-1918. Often overshadowed by

Sydney, and with many years away from Australian waters, *Melbourne* toiled at unspectacular but strategically vital war work as well as showing the flag in the region during peacetime – including as RAN flagship on several occasions. In January 1922 *Melbourne's* moment of glory came with a dangerous and heroic rescue of the crew of a sinking American schooner at the height of a gale.

Authors **Andrew Kilsby** and **Greg Swinden** bring to life not only the story of the 'forgotten cruiser' *Melbourne*, but also of those who served as members of the ship's company – ten of whom paid the supreme sacrifice during World War One.

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