

THE LIFE OF MELBOURNE

Vesta Junior's Mirror of the Day

TUESDAY NIGHT

When our friends of the RN leave Melbourne on Thursday there will be many sighs of regret, for the friendships that have been made are many and legion. Melbourne citizens have rallied nobly to the call to help entertain officers and ratings of the visiting aircraft carriers, and many firm friendships have been made.

Hospitality in Ships

To return the hospitality received in Melbourne, officers of the aircraft-carriers *Indefatigable*, *Implacable*, and *Glory* entertained their Melbourne friends at late afternoon gatherings in the ships today. I spent most of my time in *HMS Indefatigable*, where I noticed Admiral Sir Philip Vian in conversation with Mrs Chester Guest, who was one of those wearing a "baby bonnet" hat, hers being of white straw, with a bow of moire ribbon for decoration. Among others I noticed at this party, many of whom were going on to other parties, was Mrs Marchant Penfold, who was wearing a black lace frock, with red roses on the bodice. She told me that after visiting several of the parties she was returning to her home, where she was giving hospitality to Indian Army and RN officers before taking them on to Claridge's to dance. Miss Vivienne Betty Stephens, who is still serving with Australian Red Cross Field Force at 2/2 AGH, Darley, was there. She had driven down tonight, bringing with her a party of ex 2/2 Pioneer Battalion POW's, who wanted to be present at a party which the 2/2 Pioneer women's auxiliary was giving at the Melbourne Town Hall. She expected to get them home about 2am!

Also Present

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Also present were Miss Valerie Palmer, hatless, and wearing a suit of ice-blue crepe; Miss Mary Guy Smith, in a floral frock, with flowers in her hair; Mrs J. V. Fairbairn, who was one of many who wore a wide bandeau of ribbon, with bunches of blue flowers behind either ear; Mrs Dudley Brueton, in black, with a winged black straw hat; Mrs Roy Chambers, in pale blue, with a white hat, accompanied by her debutante daughter, Helen; and Mrs David Wood, the former

Valre Wilkinson, wearing one of the fashionable feathered caps in pale blue.

Fountain and Flowers

HMS Implacable had converted its upper hangar deck into a realistic garden setting with potted shrubs, trees, and flowers, with an artificial fountain playing in the middle of a pond illuminated by coloured lights. Sun umbrellas reminiscent of summer garden parties on green English turf were disposed about the hangar deck. Admiral Sir Philip Vian mingled with guests at this party also.

Among the Men

It's not often that I happen upon a party "for men only." I was interested tonight to learn that Mr Everard, MLA, entertained his cousin, Commander Michael Everard, RN, of *HMS Implacable*, at luncheon at Parliament House today. Guests included Sir Clifden Eager, President of the Legislative Council; Sir William Angliss, MLC, who was celebrating his 81st birthday; and Flight-Lieut John Shallard, son-in-law of the host. Commander Everard was formerly captain of

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HMS *Susser*.

University Reawakens

This afternoon I wandered up to the University to have a chat to Mr J. F. Foster, registrar, who returned to work today after a holiday at Mornington. The registrar's office is a busy place these days. Applications for admittance to the University must be in by January 31 (except in the case of servicemen awaiting release, in which case the end of February is deadline), so there are all kinds of students darting around with forms to be filled in, or asking long and involved questions about groups of subjects and practical work and equipment, and at the windowsills or on the counters of the office bewildered-looking young men read the handbook of the University, the syllabus for such-and-such a subject. Outside in the sunshine, in the cloisters, lean young men with brown faces and still wearing Army or Air Force uniforms scan the time-tables and notifications of closing dates for travelling scholarships. Mr Foster tells me that the Army huts springing up so rapidly in the University grounds will provide extra office accommodation and annexes to buildings to help with the problem of surplus students. About 6,000 students, representing a 50% increase on wartime numbers and 25% on peacetime records, is no small thing! 7

Felicity at the Seaside

Even university registrars are human, and Mr Foster beamed with pride when I asked after his three children, who are called by the names of Elizabeth Anne, Christopher, and Felicity. They returned from Mornington with their parents yesterday, but not before Felicity, aged 4, had astonished everyone by really swimming. All the holiday she had splashed and had patiently tried to swim, and yesterday—the last day, too—she really found she could swim. This is always a great moment at no matter what age.

2/2nd Pioneers Celebrate

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to help the boys away at the war, the 2/2nd Pioneer Women's Auxiliary organised a gala dance in Melbourne Town Hall tonight, and, as you can imagine, its success was assured from the beginning. Actually the 2/2nd Pioneers' auxiliary raised about £2,700 during war years, and always they kept £700 in the bank to ensure that the boys would be given the magnificent welcome home that they deserved. All the novelties of the victory dance were obtained—whistles, funny face masks, and funny noses. There were Monte Carlos and spot dances, and even a streamer dance, which consisted of a waltz and streamers, the latter being thrown from the balcony of the Town Hall, mauve from one side, white from the other, streaming upon the dancers below. These colours are those of the 2/2nd.

VESTA JUNIOR