

# WORLD SHIP SOCIETY VICTORIA BRANCH



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The Victoria branch of the World Ship Society meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Port Education Centre in Lorimer St Port Melbourne. Visitors are welcome. Membership enquiries can be made with our Secretary at PO Box 5038 Middle Park, Victoria 3206 or at our website [www.wss-vic.org.au](http://www.wss-vic.org.au)

## UNCLE SAM DROPS IN FOR A VISIT



The *USS Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6) / USS Warship 6 is seen departing Port Phillip Bay after a six day visit to Melbourne where she was berthed at Station Pier over the 28/8 – 3/9. Prior to Melbourne she participated in Exercise Talisman Saber in Queensland that included 33,000 Australian and US troops and involved around 20 other ships and over 200 aircraft - sadly three servicemen were lost when an Osprey crashed into the sea near Airlie Beach. She is classed as a WASP class amphibious assault ship and is the third US Navy ship to bear that name. She is named in honor of John Paul Jones' famous frigate of which an inset picture is attached of her fighting the *HMS Serapis* in 1779 during the American Revolution. Her motto is 'I have not begun to fight' after the captain of the *Serapis* demanded her surrender. She was ordered in 1992, launched in 1997 and commissioned in 1998 at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula / Mississippi. She is home ported in Sasebo / Japan and in 257m length overall, 32m in beam and has a displacement of 40,500 tons. She a speed of 20 knots, a crew of over 2,500, has all sorts of armament as well as 42 Sea Knight helicopters / 5 Harrier attack planes and 6 ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) helicopters. Over her lifetime she has assisted in Operation Iraqi Freedom and relief efforts stemming from the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake. Currently she is the flagship for Expeditionary Strike Group Seven. By Peter Grunberg.