



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

July 2025



*RNZN CPOCD monitors RAN and RNZACDs as they undergo a hull inspection of HMAS Canberra before departing Fleet Base East, Sydney, for Wellington New Zealand*

*Photo: Defence*

Cooperation between Anzac forces charted new depths when members of the Royal New Zealand Navy Clearance Diving Team linked up with Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team One across the ditch.

The combined team of divers first united in Sydney ahead of HMAS *Canberra*'s port visit to Wellington, New Zealand, as part of an interchangeability experience in which they conducted a hull inspection of the ship.

The team sailed in *Canberra*, where personnel built on their bonds, joining in a range of activities as part of the ship's crew.

Australian Navy clearance diver Petty Officer Matthew Ryan, who led the combined team, praised the group on their enthusiasm and efforts to enhance the capability.

The Australian and New Zealand team also linked up with the New Zealand Police divers while in Wellington as part of a knowledge-sharing activity.

## Events coming up

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1 Jul  | 83 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of Montevideo Maru       |
| 3 Jul  | Christmas in July Easlakes Football Club Gungahlin 1200              |
| 27 Jul | 72 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice             |
| 9 Aug  | HMAS Canberra Memorial Service Kings Park Memorial near the Carillon |



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the  
**Naval Association of Australia**

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

**Naval Association of Australia  
ACT Section  
Founded 1 July 1944**

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Treasurer	Alaric O'Neill;	

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**General Meetings  
Dates and Locations  
Programme**

**2025**

7 Aug Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Sep Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Oct Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

**Tables are normally booked for drinks and lunch in the host club from 1200 prior to the meeting.**



Please join us for the  
**Annual**

**NAA (ACT)  
Christmas in July  
Lunch**

to be held at  
**Eastlakes Club  
Gungahlin**

commencing  
at 1200 on

**Committee meeting  
Eastlakes Gungahlin  
1100 Thursday 7 August 2025**

## DVA—Claim processing times

**Last updated** 13 June 2025

DVA remains focused on actioning the recommendations of the [Royal Commission's Final Report](#) and processing outstanding claims as quickly as possible to reduce the amount of time it takes for determinations to be made for our veterans.

May 2025 was a record month for output, with over 10,500 determinations completed and delivered to veterans.

Where things are at

The last of the unallocated claims backlogs was cleared at the end of February 2024, ahead of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's 31 March 2024 deadline.

Of the 41,799 backlog of claims, identified in the Royal Commission's interim report, as at 31 May 2025, 99.8 per cent have now been completed.

The Government's previous commitment to fund additional ongoing staff has allowed DVA to clear the backlog and now operate in a new business-as-usual (BAU) environment. This commitment has been extended in the 2024-25 Budget to maintain DVA's capacity to finalise claims and reduce time

taken to process.

DVA receives around 4,000 claims every two weeks, and in this BAU environment it aims to register, screen and allocate new claims to an officer for processing within two weeks of receipt.

DVA recognises that many veterans have been waiting too long for their claims to be processed. While clearing the backlog of unallocated claims is an important first step, DVA is focused on improving claims processing timeframes and outcomes for veterans and families.

As at 31 May 2025, DVA had 82,166 claims on hand, comprised of 12,347 unallocated claims and 69,819 claims being processed.

In the financial year to date (FYTD) (1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025):

- DVA received 92,061 claims
- DVA made 93,579 determinations
- the average time taken to process MRCA Initial Liability (IL) claims was 311 days, a decrease of 59 days (or 15.9%), compared to the previous FYTD.

## Defence of Sydney 31 May 1942 Remembered



Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, and senior Australian Defence Force personnel commemorated the Defence of Sydney anniversary at North Head in Sydney on Friday, 06 June 2025. Australian Army Reserve soldiers from 2nd/17th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment, formed a catalque party for the commemoration, and local Australian Army Cadets also attended.

On 31st May 1942, World War II came to Sydney when three Japanese midget submarines conducted a brazen attack on Sydney Harbour, resulting in

the torpedoing of the Royal Australian Navy depot ship *HMAS Kuttabul* and deaths of 21 sailors on board (19 Australian and two British sailors).

The Defence of Sydney monument on North Head was laid by Sir Roden Cutler, VC, on 27 May 1995. On 18 November 1995 the monument was dedicated to "the memory of the men and women of the Armed Services of Australia, her Allies, and those who served in the Civilian Services and Volunteer Organisations who worked to protect the Port of Sydney throughout the Second World War" by His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC, Governor of NSW



## Last Post Ceremony AWM and 75th Anniversary of the Korean War



ADF Chief of Joint Capabilities, Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, AM, CSC, DSM and Commander US Space Command, General Stephen Whiting (front row second and third respectively from the left) attend the Last Post Ceremony, at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 22 June 2025  
Photo: Nicole Mankowski

Chief of Joint Capabilities, Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, AM, CSC, DSM hosted the Commander US Space Command, General Stephen Whiting in Canberra continuing the well-established collaboration between the ADF and USSPACECOM.

LTGEN Coyle and General Whiting commenced the visit by attending the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony where they laid wreaths of remembrance. General Whiting met with Chief of

the Defence Force ADML David Johnston AC RAN, Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman, AO CSC and Chief of Joint Operations, VADM Justin Jones AO, CSC, RAN.

ACT Section VP Alex McGown at right hand end of the front row in the photo laid a wreath in memory of Leading Stoker Rupert A Taylor who was lost with HMAS Sydney on 20 November 1942



Left: Chief of the Defence Force ADML David Johnston, AC, RAN, lays a wreath at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra on 25 June 2025

Photo: Defence

To mark the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Korean War, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, held a National Commemorative Service at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra on 25 June 2025. More than 18,000 Australians served during the Korean War and post-armistice ceasefire monitoring. 340 Australians lost their lives, more than 1,200 were wounded, and 30 were taken prisoner. Of those who lost their lives, 42 have no known grave. Another 16 Australians died serving in South Korea with the ceasefire monitoring force in 1953-57, and 11 died serving in Japan with base units of British Commonwealth Forces Korea.

NAA National President David Manolas laid a wreath on behalf of the NAA



## STS *Young Endeavour* 's future

**The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme announced earlier this year that a new three-masted, barquentine rig, sail training ship accommodating 42 youth crew will be built in Australia to replace STS *Young Endeavour***



Above: STS *Young Endeavour*



Left: Members of the youth crew, Australian Army Cadets and Downs Syndrome NT onboard Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* while alongside HMAS Coonawarra, Northern Territory.

Below: Royal Australian Navy Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* sails into Darwin Harbour during her current circumnavigation of Australia last visited in 2016

Photos: Defence

**Noakes Group will act as an industry partner for the STS *Young Endeavour* tall ship under a new contract with the Royal Australian Navy.**

The NSW marine company will service *Young Endeavour* until the end of its service life, in the awarded two-year contract, with extension options for a further three years after a competitive tender process on 17 March.

The company will maintain the Navy's *Young Endeavour* at HMAS *Waterhen* and provide support to its crew during operations away from their home port in Sydney.

*Young Endeavour* was originally given to Australia as a gift to celebrate Australian Bicentenary by the British government in 1988, and has since hosted more than 14,000 young Australians in the Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* program delivered by Navy staff crew.

The ship has so far sailed more than 400,000 nautical miles, including two world voyages and four circumnavigations of Australia

Head Maritime Sustainment Rear Admiral Steven Tiffen said the contract would ensure *Young Endeavour* was operationally available to serve the youth of Australia where and when needed.

"Noakes has been instrumental in providing maintenance, engineering, supply and operating services to *Young Endeavour* for the past 30 years and is well suited to ensure the vessel is kept in a reliable and safe state to deliver youth development activities," Rear Admiral Tiffen said.

"This contract will ensure all necessary support is given to *Young Endeavour* until a replacement vessel is made available, continuing the proud history that began in 1988 when the ship was handed to Australia from the United Kingdom to mark the bicentenary."

"Navy has entrusted the complete care and maintenance of its beautiful Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* to Noakes as prime contractor for the past 30 years," said an online statement by Noakes Group.

"One of the world's most complex modern square-riggers, she was Great Britain's bicentennial gift to Australia.

"Noakes provides *Young Endeavour* with all





## Exercise Carlsbad at RAAF Base Tindal in April 2025



*Above: A MQ-28A Ghost Bat on the tarmac as an F-35A Lightning II taxis after a sortie during Exercise Carlsbad at RAAF Base Tindal.*

*Left: A MQ-28A Ghost Bat on the taxiway as an F-35A Lightning II prepares to land during Exercise Carlsbad at RAAF Base Tindal.*

.The successful completion of Exercise Carlsbad at RAAF Base Tindal in April 2025 represents significant progress for the MQ-28A Ghost Bat capability - a collaboration between Boeing Defence Australia and the Royal Australian Air Force to develop a Collaborative Combat Aircraft. Defence continues to assess the MQ-28A Ghost Bat through systematic testing in both live and digital environments, and remains focused on demonstrating MQ-28A plat-

*Below: HMAS Sydney with HMS Spey In the South China Sea. Australia routinely operates with partners, including the United Kingdom, while undertaking regional deployments*

*Photos: Defence*

HMAS Sydney conducted exercises consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in company with HMS Spey, around the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. This was a bilateral activity involving the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Navy.





## HMAS Sydney—Regional Presence Deployment 25-2



The Royal Australian Navy is undertaking its second Regional Presence Deployment for 2025. From late March until early July, HMAS Sydney will sail throughout the Indo-Pacific to conduct training, exercises and other engagements with regional navies. Regional Presence Deployments play a vital role in Australia's long-term security and prosperity by protecting our interests, upholding the rules-based international order, enhancing cooperation and

*Right: HMAS Sydney conducts a cross deck and manoeuvres with the Royal Navy's HMS Spey while at sea on Regional Presence Deployment 25-2*

*Photo: Royal Navy*

*Above: (L-R) Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS Haguro and HMAS Sydney conduct a light line transfer during Regional Presence Deployment 25-2.*

*Photo: LSIS David Cox*



*Left: Royal Navy Lieutenant Hannah Beckett is greeted onboard HMAS Sydney during Regional Presence Deployment 25-2.*

*Photo: LSIS David Cox*



## HMAS Canberra visits Wellington New Zealand



31 May 2025

HMAS Canberra will conduct a port visit to Wellington, New Zealand, the sister city to Canberra, Australia, in support of city-to-city and Navy-to-Navy international engagement activities. The visit highlights the strength and importance of the Australia/New Zealand alliance and the commitment to continued close Navy-to-Navy cooperation and coordination with our ally; enhancing interoperability, interchangeability and building sovereign capability.

### History

No. 6 Squadron was re-formed in 2005 to take over No.3 Squadron's role in operating the Royal New Zealand Navy's air element. No. 6 Squadron operates New Zealand's eight SH-2G(I) Seasprite helicopters. The squadron was re-established on 31 October 2005 by separating the Naval Support Flight from No. 3 Squadron RNZAF. The squadron is based at RNZAF Base Auckland.

6 Squadron is manned by Royal New Zealand Navy observers, pilots and helicopter loadmasters. Navy aircrew are trained by the RNZAF. The aircraft are maintained by RNZAF engineers, technicians and suppliers. RNZAF aircrew can also sometimes be posted to the squadron if required.

### Future

The Royal New Zealand Navy acquired ten SH-2G (I) Seasprites that replaced the existing SH-2G(NZ) aircraft in April 2005. Eight of the helicopters have entered active service representing a marked increase in capability while the other two are kept as



*Top: HMAS Canberra's embarked MH-60 Romeo Helicopter 'Siren' conducts flying operations as part of their transit to Wellington, New Zealand.*

*Photo; POIS Jarad Mulvihill*

*Above; Royal Australian Navy Pilot, Lieutenant Joel Bulley trades patches with Sub-Lieutenant Walkie Wang during a visit to New Zealand Defence Force 6 Squadron in Auckland during the ships visit to Wellington, New Zealand to share knowledge on the MH-60 Romeo platform.*

spares.

The Seasprites are due to be replaced by 2027 as part of the 2015 Defence White Paper review. Helicopters such as the NFH-90, MH-60R Seahawk, AgustaWestland AW101, and the Agusta Westland Wildcat are being considered to replace the Seasprites.

In May 2025, Defence Minister Judith Collins announced that NZ\$2 billion had been set aside to replace the Seasprites.



## HMAS Canberra receives Freedom of Entry into the City of Wellington New Zealand

HMAS Canberra conducted a port visit to Wellington, New Zealand, the sister city to Canberra, Australia, in support of city-to-city and Navy-to-Navy international engagement activities. The visit highlighted the strength and importance of the Australia / New Zealand alliance and the commitment to continued close Navy-to-Navy cooperation and coordination with our ally; enhancing interoperability, working towards interchangea-



Above: Commanding Officer HMAS Canberra, Captain David McPherson receives the Freedom of Entry Charter from the Mayor of Wellington, Mayor Tory Whanau, at a reception held during HMAS Canberra's port visit to Wellington,



Left: Ship's company of HMAS Canberra exercise their Freedom of Entry through the streets of Wellington,.

Photos: POIS Jarrod Mulvihill

Right: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, RAN, speaks at HMAS Canberra's Official Reception, during the



Left: HMAS Canberra holds an Official Reception, during the ship's port visit to Wellington



**YOU TUBE -SPOT THE DIFERENCE—AT LEAST FOUR**

**King's/President's Birthday  
Monday 10 June 2025**



**Spot the difference      London Washington**



## Fleet News



HMAS *Parramatta* undocked on 20 May 2025, having undergone the Anzac Midlife Capability Assurance Program, a major Anzac-class frigate (FFH) upgrade initiative to support capability enhancement in order to continually respond to the changing security environment while the Hunter-class frigate is brought into service.

*Above: HMAS Parramatta is moved towards the lift during the Ships undocking at the BAE Systems shipyard in Henderson, WA*

This is the final ship to complete the AMCAP project and will mark one major milestone towards the completion of this project that commenced in 2018.



On 23 June 2025 LCDR Sherrie Reilly, RAN handed over the weight of command of HMAS *Supply* to CMDR Kylie Turnbull, RAN on board HMAS *Supply* whilst alongside Fleet Base East in Sydney,

## Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 5 June 2025

**Meeting started** at 1337 with the Odes recited by the President.

**Present:** 13 members and 3 visitors were present.

**Apologies:** Alan Masters, Glenn McNamara, J. Small, M Hardwick, B. Joce

**Minutes of May meeting.** The minutes of the May General meeting appeared in the June 2025 Bosun's Call.

*Motion: The minutes of the 1 May 2025 General Meeting be accepted.*

*Moved: Harry. Beardsell, Seconded: Graeme Quinn. Carried*

### Reports:

#### President's Report.

- Preparations are underway for the upcoming National Executive AGM to be held in Canberra from 18-20 June at Dickson Tradies (any members welcome to attend on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June).
- Information received from DVA regarding the establishment of an Advocates Institution for training, education and support of Advocates.
- Has had discussions with the Director of the Australian War Memorial regarding the expansion program for the Memorial (and personally was very impressed with the new Southern Entrance).
- Looking forward to the RAN 125 year anniversary for which is planned an International Fleet Review (in March of 2026).
- Will be having discussions with the Australian Navy Cadets in the hope of getting some formal clarification of the role of the NAA with ANC and interactions moving forward.

#### Vice President's Report.

- Advised dates for Last Post Ceremonies at AWM.
- KOC will be hosting an information presentation at LDK Greenway on 2 July at 10.30am. Topics will include My Aged Care, DVA & Harwell Home Care.
- KOC have announced that the Veteran's Lounge at The Canberra Hospital will officially open on 12 July at 10.30am. 6 Coffee Mugs (branded with NAA & KOC) have been donated by NAA (ACT) for use in the lounge.

**Secretary.** Preparations are underway for the HMAS Canberra Memorial (to be held on 8 August commencing at 10.00am).

**Treasurer.** Met with the President of the Canberra Services Club who have expanded their remit to include First Responders / Police / AFP etc. The facilities and Function Rooms have been updated and there are plans for further

redevelopments. Another incentive that the Club is exploring is partnering with similar Associations and Organisations to encourage engagement. As a result, 50% of profits from the Club will be shared with these "Member Organisations".

**Welfare.** Bev Joce is currently in Hospital but is now out of ICU. Expected to return home tomorrow.

**Membership.** We currently have: 46 Financial Members (the report of 48 Financial Members last meeting was an error)  
7 Unfinancial members  
9 Honorary members  
1 Club member  
3 Honorary Life members

*Motion: The reports be received.*

*Moved: Pauline Gribble. Seconded: Alex McGown. Carried*

#### General Business.

- The Hyde Park Inn (owned and operated by RSL NSW) is reopening where "veterans can book accommodation at this prime CBD location at discounted rates – right now you can also take advantage of an additional 10% discount for all accommodation booked direct before the end of June, for stays through to the end of winter. " For information and bookings email [enquiries@hydeparkinn.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hydeparkinn.com.au)
- The updating of the NAA Website is continuing and now has had the missing issues of the White Ensign Magazine added. Also available online are the ACT and Nation editions of the Bosun's Call.

**Next Gathering** will be the Christmas in July lunch on Thursday, 3 July 2025 at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club (in lieu of a General Meeting).

## Notes from Committee Meeting 5 June 2025

**Present:** David Manolas, Alex McGown, Darren Rush, Alaric O'Neill, Peter Cooke-Russell, Dennis Lyons

**Discussions** were about matters relating to the General and AGM meetings.

**Next meeting** On 7 August 2025 at usual venue (due to 3 July being the Christmas in July lunch).

Darren Rush

Secretary - NAA (ACT)



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### \$40 for 2026

Action to renew membership for 2026 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2026 is \$40

1. **Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section).** Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 . Account Number 162 834 097** *Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.*
2. Payment using the mail system. Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.
3. Direct payment to Treasurer. The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS SUCH AS HOME ADDRESS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGIS-

### *Social Program*

Fish 'n Chips is on the program, Snapper has reopened . Sun will shine.

2025

3 Jul	Xmas in July East lake Footy Club 1200
17 Jul	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
21 Aug	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
18 Sep	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
16 Oct	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
20 Nov	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
4 Dec	Christmas Lunch

Bev Joce

**Social Secretary**

## DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

### PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:

[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

### POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs  
GPO Box 9998  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

### DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:  
[health.approval@dva.gov.au](mailto:health.approval@dva.gov.au)

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

### CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit:



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**A Happy Birthday to you  
July 2025**

Richard Hobbs  
Kiwi Rooks  
Glen McNamara  
Darren Rush

## Legal Aid for Veterans

### Have you or your partner:

- Served in the Australian Defence Force?
- Served overseas in a Australian Government sponsored Peacekeeping role?
- Have a medical condition related to this service?

Legal Aid ACT can help veterans and their partners seek entitlements and lodge claims with The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

### We can help you with:

- Rights and entitlements under Commonwealth laws relating to veterans and families
- Completing claim forms, questionnaires and writing statements in support of claims
- Your dealings with DVA and, if necessary, review tribunals.

Legal Aid ACT advice services are free, confidential and independent of the DVA and Department of Defence



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4 McEachern Crescent  
MELBA ACT 2615

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The Bosun's Call Vol 30 No 6

**CHRISTMAS**  
*in July*

**NAA (ACT) Christmas in July Lunch**  
to be held at Eastlakes Club Gungahlin  
Commencing at 1200 on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July