



The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 4

Once Navy, Always Navy

May 2025



Alex McGown (right) receives Life Membership of the Naval Association of Australia from David Manolas
NAA ACT Section President

Photo: Peter Cooke-Russell

Alex joined the ACT Section of the Naval Association of Australia on 5 June 1991 and has been a financial member ever since and one of the mainstays of the Section. In 2009 he was elected to the Section Committee and since then he has fulfilled the duties of Section Vice President and President very effectively ensuring that the ACT Section was represented in ESO activities in the ACT. He had a break in 2020 which was one of the side effects of the COVID 19 epidemic.

Events coming up

22 Jun	Last Post Ceremony Ldg Stoker Rupert A. Taylor HMAS SydneyII
25 Jun	75 th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War
1 Jul	83 rd Anniversary of the sinking of Montevideo Maru
27 Jul	72 nd Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice



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

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

Office Bearers 2025– 2026

President	David Manolas	0427 504 564
Vice President	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
Secretary	Darren Rush	0435 911 607
Treasurer	Alaric O'Neill;	

Committee Members

Welfare	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
Membership	Peter Cooke-Russell	0412 757 505
	Heather Millward	
	Tiger Lyons	02 6254 3453
	Pauline Gribble	

Editor BC	Peter Cooke-Russell	0412 757 505
Social Sec	Bev Joce	

Contact Details

The President ACT Section
0427 504 564
stbdstayportgiveway@gmail.com

The Secretary ACT Section
secretary.naa.act@gmail.com
Tel 02 6281 5630

Membership Registrar/BC Editor
peter.cookerussell@gmail.com
0412 757 505

General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

2025

3 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Apr AGM Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1400
1 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 Jun Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
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.

If you need assistance getting to the meeting and/or functions, call Alan Masters on 6281 5630 who will try to organise transport for you.

**Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 1 May 2025**



Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, attend during the 110th Dawn Service held at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Türkiye.

Caption: Defence Images Gallery

Photo: LSIS Susan Mossop

ANZAC Day Memorial March and Service Canberra 2025



Above: NAA ACT Section contingent marching past and at right; forming up to commence the march past

Photos: Debbie and Alex McGown

Photos of the ACT Section did not make the AWM Flickr Album this year. The usual wreath laying part of the ceremony was omitted from this year's service.



Left: HMAS Sydney' contingent made the Flickr Album as well as the Navy Communications contingent.

Photo: Flickr

RAN Sydney Band - Amiens Cathedral France

Photos: CPL Nicole Dorrett



Members of the RAN Band Sydney pay tribute to the ANZACs by performing a special concert at Amiens Cathedral in France for members of the public after Anzac Day was marked in Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt in 2025.



Left: Director of Music, CMDR Cassandra Mohapp introduces AB Francis to the congregation at Amiens Cathedral during the Anzac Day 2025 concert in France, as the band prepares to play an original composition by AB Piccin titled "Never Forget Australia".

New AWM Main Entrance Opened

Photos and text: AWM



Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia was welcomed and introduced by Director of the Australian War Memorial, Matt Anderson PSM to The Main Entrance Opening Reception.

This is a milestone in the continuing journey of the Memorial and is our first opportunity to showcase the main entrance,

The southern entrance is part of the Development program at the Australian War Memorial, sitting beneath the heritage entrance of the 83-year-old building. In the midst of the new southern entrance sits the Ocu-



lus, through which visitors will see the Australian War Memorial Hall of Memory dome beyond.

The shape of the Oculus is an inversion of that dome, and the space below will orientate visitors, providing views up to the dome and main building. Cast into the floor beneath the Oculus are the 15 values from the stained glass windows in the Hall of Memory.

Construction is progressing across the site and we remain on-track for completion by 30 June 2028

DVA Rates of Payment effective 17 April 2025

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,144.40	\$1,149.00	\$4.60
Couples (each)	\$862.60	\$866.10	\$3.50
Single person - transitional	\$941.10	\$944.80	\$3.70
Couples (each) - transitional	\$759.30	\$762.30	\$3.00
WAR WIDOWS (total amount)			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,165.30	\$1,170.00	\$4.70
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$346.20	\$347.60	\$1.40
DISABILITY Compensation Payment			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,805.30	\$1,812.50	\$7.20
Intermediate rate	\$1,196.80	\$1,201.60	\$4.80
EDA	\$974.20	\$978.10	\$3.90
100 per cent (inc ES)	\$626.70	\$629.20	\$2.50
10 per cent (inc ES)	\$69.60	\$69.85	\$0.25
VETERAN PAYMENT			
Single person	\$1,242.20	\$1,247.30	\$5.10
Couples (each)	\$968.70	\$972.80	\$4.10
MRCA			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,165.30	\$1,170.00	\$4.70
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,805.30	\$1,812.50	\$7.20

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. These rates came into effect on 20 March 2025 and the first full payment at these rates is the payday of 17 April.

First Enlisted Royal Australian Navy Sailors Graduate U.S. Navy Nuke School

The first enlisted Australian sailors that could eventually crew American and Australian nuclear attack submarines graduated from the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power Training Unit, the service announced.

Eight Royal Australian Navy sailors graduated from the six-month course on April 18 and are now qualified to handle the reactors and other associated systems on the nuclear attack boats that Canberra is set to receive under the 2021 Australia, United Kingdom and United States trilateral security agreement. The training, which began in the fall of 2024, included courses on mathematics, nuclear physics, reactor principles, and nuclear reactor technology.

"Having naval nuclear power-qualified officers, and now sailors, is critical in meeting our goal of operating conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines," RAN Commodore Daniel Sutherland, commander RAN Submarine Force.

AUKUS, signed in 2021, formalized in 2023 and described by the Navy release as a "strategic initiative to re-establish deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region," is set to provide the Royal Australian Navy with three Virginia-class boats, two Bloc IVs and one future Bloc VII, in the 2030s as a stop-gap measure. Five SSN-AUKUS, a new class of five nuclear attack submarines, are set to enter Australian service starting in the 2040s. Canberra will have the option of obtaining an additional two Virginias if this planned class falls behind schedule.

While five officers also completed their naval nuclear power training, they were preceded by two batches of three graduates each from 2023. After additional training in Connecticut, these officers were slated to embark on Hawaii-based Virginia-class nuclear attack boats to gain further operational experience.

"Six officers previously completed prototype training, each performing exceptionally well. I fully expect these recent graduates, especially our first enlisted

personnel, will excel in the fleet," said Capt. Robert Rose, Commander, NPTU Charleston, in a press release on the milestone event.

Nuclear power training was described as "the missing piece of the puzzle" by Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, a career submariner and the chief of the RAN, in his remarks to reporters last year at HMAS Stirling. Canberra's existing fleet of Collins-class attack boats utilizes the same combat systems and weapons as the Virginias, but the sailors on the conventionally-powered boats have no experience with their reactors.

Training cooperation between U.S. and Australian submariners in the Indo-Pacific has ramped up in recent years. USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39), one of two tenders capable of supporting submarines in the Navy's fleet, received 37 Australian sailors last Spring in Guam to gain maintenance and experience knowledge from their American counterparts. This was ahead of the arrival of USS *Hawaii* (SSN -776) at HMAS Stirling, the Royal Australian Navy's primary submarine base, and other activities designed to acclimate Australian sailors to their future platforms.

"These Royal Australian Navy sailors will now transition to our submarines to continue their training and qualifications in operating naval nuclear propulsion plants," stated Master Chief Ed Jackson, Engineering Department Master Chief for Naval Reactors in a press release.

By Arron Matthew Lariosia

22 April 2025

US Naval Institute News

Right:

Royal Australian Navy sailors graduate the United States Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU) in the hangar bay of USS Yorktown (CV-10), April 18, 2025.

US Navy Photo

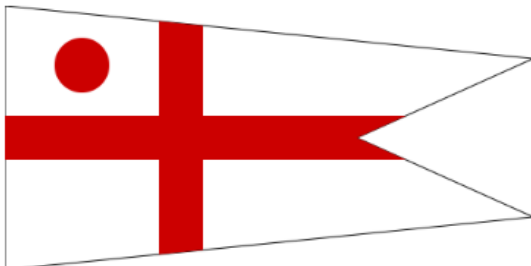


Naval Emerging Leaders' Forum



Above: Commodore Ray Leggatt, AM, CSC, RAN (right) hands the weight to Commodore Anita Williams, RAN

Photo Defence



Outgoing Deputy Fleet Commander (DFC), CDRE Ray Leggatt, AM, CSC, RAN handed over the role to incoming DFC, CDRE Anita Williams, in a small ceremony in Fleet Headquarters on the morning of 10 Apr 25.

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



Call us: 1300 654 314

Email: civil@legalaidact.org.au

Legal Aid ACT



Australian Government

Defence

Transition from the ADF

Joint Transition Authority

At some point in your military career, and preferably as early as possible, you will need to start thinking about transitioning to civilian life.

Transition is a normal part of every ADF member's career and Defence's ADF transition programs are here to help you and your family plan for civilian life.

Participating in the transition process is mandatory for all ADF members, regardless of the reason for leaving.

Transition Support Officers

Transition Support Officers are your main point of contact for the duration of your transition.

They provide one-on-one support and work with you and your family to develop an individualised transition plan to support you through the process, and for up to 24 months afterwards.

ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars

You and your family can attend a seminar at any time in your career. It is recommended that you attend one every four years. It is mandatory for members to attend a seminar within 12 months of their transition date.

Defence Force Transition Program

The Defence Force Transition Program (DFTP) provides access to specialist advice, paid leave and training to support the transition to civilian life.

A Transition Support Officer will provide access to these programs..

Defence Force Transition Programs

- **Job Search Preparation Workshop**

An online workshop covering all aspects of managing your career, building a resume to capture your military skills, applying for jobs and selling your skills and experience. It is accessible to all permanent ADF members at any point during their career as well as family members.

- **Career Transition Coaching (CTC)**

Specialist one-on-one coaching to help you identify your motivators, skills, and career options, develop an employment plan and interview skills, build a competitive resume, learn effective job-hunting skills, and adjust to the civilian environment.

- **Career Transition Training (CTT)**

Access to vocational education and training to support your employment or meaningful engagement goals after you transition. Limited support may also be provided to help you with travel to attend training.

- **Transition for Meaningful Engagement (T4ME)**

Long-term vocational, career and meaningful engagement support to medically transitioning members with complex circumstances.



www.defence.gov.au/transition



transition.support@defence.gov.au



1800 624 608



Australian Government Defence

Transition from the ADF

Joint Transition Authority

- **Personalised Career & Employment Program (PCEP)**

Intensive job search support for members at risk of not securing employment prior to or soon after transition, particularly where a member's financial security and ability to meet their basic needs may be compromised as a result of unemployment.

- **Financial Advice**

A contribution towards professional financial advice to assist in planning for your financial security after transition.

- **Transition Absence**

Leave for transition-related activities, including house hunting, job interviews, appointments and on-the-job experience.

- **Post-transition follow-up**

Defence will maintain contact with you for 24 months post-transition which enables you to reach back for further support if your circumstances change.

- **Partner Employment Assistance Program**

Funding for initiatives to assist ADF partners with employment when they are relocated on posting, or if their member is medically transitioning.

What else do you need to know?

- **Skills recognition — Australian Defence College**

The ADF Civil Recognition and Transition Project facilitates national recognition of competencies and qualifications obtained as a result of a member's professional military education and training.

- **Leaving with documentation**

Every member is supported to leave with appropriate documentation related to their Defence service, including medical, dental, service and training records, leave and pay summaries and ADF will (if applicable).

- **Connection with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)**

Connecting with DVA is a critical part of your transition. Register with DVA via MyService and connect with a veteran support officer.

- **Comprehensive health assessment**

Every transitioning member must undergo a comprehensive health assessment prior to transition.

This provides an accurate assessment and record of health, including psychological status, Medical Employment Classification, and any ongoing health care. You will be provided with a clinical summary, which can be given to your chosen civilian general practitioner.



www.defence.gov.au/transition



transition.support@defence.gov.au



1800 624 608

Media Release: Veterans Seek Pre-Election Answers to 22 Questions

8 Apr 2025

ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS



Lead veteran's organisation the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) has written to the Government and Opposition, and to all political parties and key independent MP's seeking a 'yes or no' answer on what action they will take in Government on 22 issues of vital concern to veterans and their families.

Amidst a national cost of living crisis, the first group of question asks for three independent judicial reviews, one into a fairer and adequate military superannuation system, a second into an improved veterans and families compensation and rehabilitation system and finally, an inquiry into an extension of health and pension entitlements to veterans who so served on three long standing forms of dangerous operational service, and the families of those who died or were seriously injured, by recognising these deployments as 'qualifying service'.

A second line of questions seeks reform of the military justice system, seek a 'put up or wind up' date of the \$300m Office of the Special Prosecutor which is looking without much success into unsubstantiated Afghanistan war crime allegations, and a commitment to withdraw our nation from the International Criminal Court and the 2002 Rome Statute so that our ANZACs are governed by Australian law without qualification!

In a third raft of questions, veterans seek a review of the broken Honors and Awards system which is leaving some battlefield heroes unrecognised while removing medals for distinguished service from courageous leaders earned in battle, as a form of group punishment without due process. The final questions deal with improved and independent veterans governance and better stakeholder engagement.

Much has been achieved in recent years to reduce the backlog of veteran's claims, to support the Department of Veterans Affairs, on law reform and to deal with suicide prevention and physical and mental health of veterans and their families. But glaring challenges remain. ADSO awaits a response from each of the political parties.



Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith
ADSO Media Spokesperson
spokesperson@adso.org.au
0408 854 707

7th April 2025

Ex-Service Organisations Round Table Meeting—Extract from DVA Update The Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) met on Tuesday, 25 March 2025.

DVA Critical Initiatives

Update on the consultation and co-design process for the establishment of a new agency to focus on veteran wellbeing and an ESO Peak Body

On 2 December 2024, the Government released its response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission, agreeing to most of the recommendations. **As part of the response, the Government provided \$4.5 million to DVA to undertake consultation on transition and wellbeing supports, including the co design of a new agency focused on wellbeing within the Department, and separately, to continue to consult on the development of a national peak body** (Recommendations 80, 87 and 89). The Department has engaged some external expertise to support it in its consultation and co-design approach. A range of inputs such as submissions and co-design forums will inform proposals to be presented to government for consideration.

Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 3 April 2025

Meeting started at 1320 with the Odes recited by the President.

Present: 12 members and two visitors were present.

Apologies: Joe and Mary Slaats, M. Hardwick, R. Ridgeway, J. Small, G. Quinn, A. Vickers

Minutes of March meeting. The minutes of the March General meeting appeared in the March 2025 Bosun's Call.

Motion: The minutes of the 6 March 2025 General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell, Seconded: Harry Berdsell. Carried

Reports:

Prior to the reports being delivered, the President announced Alex McGown was being awarded Life Membership of the NAA.

President's Report. His report would be delivered at the AGM.

Vice President's Report.

- Last Post ceremonies including lost navy personnel will occur in May, June, July and September. Volunteers to lay the wreath welcomed.
- KOC advised at their 2 April meeting, the lounge at the Canberra Hospital would be open from 5 July with a liaison officer in attendance.
- The Veterans' HUB in Queanbeyan is now open.

Secretary. Business as usual.

Treasurer. Funds continue to remain financially sound.

Membership. We have 44 members but with restricted and honorary members and expected renewal our numbers would increase to 66.

Motion: The reports be received.

Moved. Darren Rush. Seconded. Alex McGown. Carried

General Business.

- The President advised the NAA is a member of ADSO.
- Members capable of marching on ANZAC day are encouraged to support the Section contingent.
- The President attended the AWM Main Entrance exhibition.

Next Meeting will be on Thursday, 1 May 2025 at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

Close of Meeting at 1345.

Alan Masters
Secretary
NAA (ACT)

Notes from Committee Meeting 3 April 2025

Present: David Manolas, Alex McGown, Alan Masters, Alaric O'Neill, Peter Cooke-Russell, Dennis Lyons

Discussions were about matters relating to the General and AGM meetings.
Next meeting On 1 May 2025 at usual venue.

Alan Masters
Secretary
NAA (ACT)



Members of Australia's Federation Guard, the Royal Australian Navy Band, French Armed Forces, veterans and members of the public march down the streets of Bullecourt for Anzac Day 2025 in France.

Photo: CPL Nicole Dorrett

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 for 2025

Action to renew membership for 2025 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 2025 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 REGISTRAR.

Social Program

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

2025

15 May	Fish 'n Chips	CYC 1200
19 Jun	Fish 'n Chips	CYC 1200
3 Jul	Xmas in July	Place to be advised
17 Jul	Fish 'n Chips	CYC 1200

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

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:
www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you
May 2025**

Brian Warren

Stewart Gordon

Alex McGown

Tiger Lyons

Lofty Greig

Alan Masters



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4 McEachern Crescent
MELBA ACT 2615

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