



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 9

Once Navy, Always Navy

October 2025

## Loss of HMAS Canberra (I) I Remembered



Members gathered with Chief of Navy VADM Mark Hammond AO RAN at the conclusion of the Memorial Service for the loss of HMAS Canberra (I). The ACT Government was represented by Ms Leanne Castley, MLA Opposition Leader ACT, Minister Suzanna Orr, MLA Minister for Veterans' Affairs ACT. (either side of CN)

A group of 30 Midshipmen and ADFA Staff Cadets came to the service. HMAS Harman provided excel-

lent support. The lead singer and brass quintet was provided by the RAN Sydney Band.

Surprisingly, vehicle control had to be provided by a private contractor as directed by the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC). On reflection of the late notice and expense of this requirement NCDC paid the contractor on this occasion

*Photo : Defence*

### Events coming up

- 9 Oct SBLT Neville S. Faulks RAN HMS *Implacable*
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day
- 19 Nov HMAS *Sydney (II)* lost Stoker Eric P. Beattie
- 26 Nov AB Stafford T. W. Dowsett HMAS *Parramatta* (1)
- 4 Dec Christmas Lunch



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	<b>Darren Rush</b>	<b>0435 911 607</b>
Treasurer	<b>Alaric O'Neill;</b>	

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### General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

#### 2025

2 Oct	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Nov	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

#### 2026

5 Feb	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 Mar	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Apr	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 May	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Jun	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Aug	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

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

### Editor's Note

*It would appear that the introduction of the amendment to the Defence Act of 1903 was not widely known in the Ex Service Organisations community..*

'The Bill seeks to remedy these issues and modernise the arrangements for review by the Tribunal, better aligning it with arrangements governing contemporary review bodies. The intent of the Bill is to ensure the Tribunal focuses on reviewing decisions about contemporary actions, protecting the integrity of the Defence honours and awards system by removing the risk of decisions being made when it is difficult, if not impossible, to refer to objective and independent evidence'

### List of current Full Members who have already paid their subs for 2026

Jack Aaron  
Peter Cooke-Russell LM  
Harry Beardsell  
Mike Doyle  
Robert Drew  
Ian Holmes  
Viv Littlewood  
David Manolas  
Peter McNay LM  
Glen McNamara  
Toby Selby  
Mike Taylor

**Committee meeting  
Eastlakes Gungahlin  
1100 Thursday 2 October 2025**

**Message from the NAA ACT Section President:**

I expect it was not widely known within our membership that a draft Bill (16pp) was put before Parliament on 28 August 2025, by the Minister for Defence Personnel, the Honourable Matt Keogh MP. Details of the proposed Bill can be found at: [https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/bd/bd2526/26bd014#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20Defence,Awards%20Appeals%20Tribunal%20for%20defence](https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/bd/bd2526/26bd014#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20Defence,Awards%20Appeals%20Tribunal%20for%20defence)

The intent of the Bill is to enable Defence to fetter (i.e: shackle/restrict) retrospective medallic applications "for a period of 20 years from when the service occurred or when the relevant operation ceased;" The NAA understands that the proposals for changes in the draft Bill were put forward by the Department of Defence in a submission (September 2024) to an earlier Inquiry by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee in relation to the Defence Honours and Awards System. The Bill which was passed by the House of Representatives on 4 September 2025, and has now been referred to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee for inquiry and report by 30 October 2025.

We in the NAA National Executive (NX) did not learn of these proposed amendments until the latter half of September 2025, whereupon work began immediately in formulating an NAA position on the Government's proposals. Nor did we know anyone wishing to submit a proposal in this matter is to do so by 01 Oct 25. In the limited time available I felt it necessary to act

as a matter of priority. In presenting a submission addressing concerns over the proposed changes I have reached out to a colleague from within the Alliance of Defence Service Organizations (ADSO) Mr Noel McLaughlin, who is a lawyer and our own NAA ACT Section legal advisor Mr Allan Joyce, for their considered advice. Both are well versed in formulating such submissions and I am much indebted to them.

I also acknowledge the assistance and guidance received from representatives within the NAA NX and the Rules Committee, and Mr Peter Cooke-Russell of the ACT Section for the historical background he has provided. In the limited time available it has not been possible to canvas opinion and to seek advice more widely within the Association, as I would have wished. In due course advice as to the document to be submitted to this Committee will be distributed widely within the NAA.

As to the approach being taken; it is suffice to say that on reviewing the Government's proposed amendments it is seen that they deliberately deny every Defence veteran who rendered service outside the statute of limitations from seeking and being awarded, the relevant form of recognition be it for gallantry or military service through eligible Defence service, operational, hazardous or peacekeeping service and this is deemed to be an unwarranted and disagreeable denial of fairness and transparency.

David Manolas  
President ACT Section NAA

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**Extracts from the Explanatory Memorandum forwarded to the  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
are on pages 4 to 7**

**Extracts from the Consideration of a Bill in the Parliament of Australia**

# Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025

**Committee:** [Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee](#)

**Date referred:** 4 September 2025

**Submissions close:** 1 October 2025

**Reporting date:** 30 October 2025

On 4 September 2025 the Senate referred the provisions of the [Defence Amendment \(Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal\) Bill 2025](#) to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by **30 October 2025**.

Submissions are sought by **1 October 2025**.

Committee Secretariat contact:

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PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
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**2025**

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### DEFENCE AMENDMENT (DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS APPEALS TRIBUNAL) BILL 2025

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the authority of the  
Minister for Defence Personnel, the Honourable Matthew James Keogh MP)

#### GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations and acronyms are used throughout this Explanatory Memorandum.

Abbreviation	Definition
ADF	Australian Defence Force
Amendment Act	<i>Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Act 2025</i>
Bill	Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025
Defence Act	<i>Defence Act 1903</i>
Tribunal	Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

#### DEFENCE AMENDMENT (DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS APPEALS TRIBUNAL) BILL 2025

#### GENERAL OUTLINE

Purpose of the Bill

1. The Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025 (the Bill) amends the arrangements for review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the

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## Extracts from the Consideration of a Bill in the Parliament of Australia

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Tribunal) of decisions relating to defence honours, defence awards and foreign awards, as set out in Part VIIIC of the *Defence Act 1903* (Defence Act).

2. In summary, the Bill amends the Defence Act through the insertion of provisions which:
  - a. amend the definitions of **defence award** and **defence honour** to clarify that decisions about clasps, bars, accumulated service devices, ribbons or other insignia or decorations associated with defence honours and defence awards are reviewable decisions;
  - b. amend the definition of **foreign award** to align with the definitions of **defence honour** and **defence award** by enabling regulations to specify the foreign awards that are reviewable;
  - c. redefine the relevant time periods in relation to reviewable decisions as follows
    - I. for a decision relating to a defence honour, operational service award or foreign award - 20 years from the relevant operation ending or service being rendered;
    - II. for a decision relating to a length of service award - where the person who was recommended for the award has not reached more than 100 years of age (or, if the person is deceased, would not have reached more than 100 years of age) at the time of the application to recommend the person;
  - d. provide that a decision regarding a previously cancelled defence honour, defence award or foreign award is not a reviewable decision;
  - e. redefine who can apply to the Tribunal for a review;
  - f. require an application for review to be made to the Tribunal within six months of a reviewable decision being made by Defence, unless exceptional circumstances exist;
  - g. clarify the scope of recommendations that the Tribunal may make to the Minister in a review;
  - h. require the Tribunal, each financial year, to prepare and give to the Minister a report on the operations of the Tribunal during the financial year to be tabled in Parliament; and
  - i. enable regulations to be made in relation to administrative and operational matters affecting the Tribunal's operation, reviews and inquiries.

### Policy background

3. The Tribunal is an independent statutory body established in 2011 under Part VIIIC of the Defence Act to consider Defence honours and awards matters. Individuals are able to apply to the Tribunal for review of a Defence decision regarding eligibility for a defence honour, defence award or foreign award. The Government is also able to refer general eligibility issues to the Tribunal for inquiry and recommendation.
4. Current provisions of Part VIIIC of the Defence Act, which govern the operation of the Tribunal, are very broad and permit the review of a decision made by Defence regarding defence honours, defence awards and foreign awards since 3 September 1939. This period includes Imperial awards and cases where the person under consideration and the decision makers of the day are no longer alive to explain how or why an honour or award was not given. Both Defence and the Tribunal have identified issues with sourcing appropriate evidence when witnesses and the commanders of the day are no longer available to establish a definitive record of what took place.
5. The scope of who can apply for a review is also very broad. Currently, anyone can apply to Defence for any defence honour or award to be issued in respect of any service by any Australian Defence Force (ADF) member. Any unsuccessful applicant can then apply at any time to the Tribunal for review of a decision refusing to recommend the ADF member concerned, where the service was rendered on or after 3 September 1939. In many cases, applicants have had no relationship with the affected person under consideration, or the affected person's family.
6. The Bill seeks to remedy these issues and modernise the arrangements for review by the Tribunal, better aligning it with arrangements governing contemporary review bodies. The intent of the Bill is to ensure the Tribunal focuses on reviewing decisions about contemporary actions, protecting the integrity of the Defence honours and awards system by removing the risk of decisions being made when it is difficult, if not impossible, to refer to objective and independent evidence.
7. Importantly, the Bill will not impact the Government's ability to recognise anyone with a defence honour, defence award or foreign award if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria. Rather, this Bill

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## Extracts from the Consideration of a Bill in the Parliament of Australia

(Continued from page 5)

will provide for the continuation of a proud tradition of recognising Defence members for their service while ensuring the process is transparent and justifiable before an independent Tribunal.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

8. Any financial impact will be met within existing departmental resources.

### STATEMENT OF COMPATABILITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

9. The Bill is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.
10. The full statement of compatibility with human rights is attached to this explanatory memorandum.

***The information above has been downloaded from the Australian Parliament website. The clauses in the Bill have been commented upon individually. One aspect has been included below.***

Subsection 110V(2) provides that a decision is not a **reviewable decision** if:

- a. the decision is a refusal to recommend a person or group of persons for a defence honour; and
- b. the defence honour relates to a particular operation that has an end date; and
- c. the end date was more than 20 years (or such lesser period as is prescribed by the regulations) before the day the application referred to in paragraph 110V(1)(c) was made.

34. In effect, this means that in order for a refusal decision regarding a defence honour that relates to a particular operation with an end date to be a **reviewable decision**, the application needs to be made to Defence within 20 years of the operation ending, or within a shorter period as prescribed by the regulations.

35. For example, if Defence made a refusal decision to award a Medal for Gallantry for actions that occurred on Operation SLIPPER, which ended on 31 December 2014, that decision would be a **reviewable decision** if the application was made to Defence on or before 31 December 2034. If, however, Defence were to make a refusal decision to award a Medal for Gallantry for actions that occurred on Operation WARDEN, which ended on 10 April 2000, and the application was made in 2025, it would not be a **reviewable decision**, as the end date was more than 20 years before the day the original application was made.

36. Both examples above meet the criteria in subsection 110V(1), i.e. it was a refusal to recommend a person for a defence honour, the decision was made by a Defence official, and the decision was made in response to an application. However, the Bill provides that a reviewable decision is also subject to new subsections 110V(2) to (9). Relevantly, new subsection 110V(2) provides that an application for a defence honour also needs to be made to Defence within 20 years of the operation ending in order for it to be a **reviewable decision**.

37. Subsection 110V(2) relates to operations with known end dates, which are provided for in the relevant legislative instruments. An example is the medal instrument for each award that prescribes the relevant operations for which the award applies. In the example above, the end date for Operation SLIPPER is published in the *Australian Active Service Medal (International Coalition Against Terrorism) Instrument 2015* signed by the Governor-General on 13 April 2015 and made under the *Australian Active Service Medal Regulations*. Medal instruments are publicly available and can be accessed on the Defence Honours and Awards website and the Governor-General's website.

38. A period of 20 years from the end of an operation is considered sufficient and fair. Access to records, eyewitnesses and commanding officers are more likely to be available to assist the Tribunal within this time period.

39. The 20-year period also seeks to address issues with reviewing decisions relating to earlier conflicts such as World War II or the Vietnam War, for which Imperial honours and awards could be issued that are no longer available to be issued today. Currently, a veteran who served in Vietnam can apply for a retrospective honour for their actions 60 years ago. When appealing the reviewable decision, the Tribunal is unable to consider Imperial awards, rather they are bound to the more contemporary honours, such as Australian Gallantry Decorations, Distinguished Service Decorations and Conspicuous Service Decorations, that were not available to be considered for actions during the Vietnam War. A consequence of this situation is that veterans such as those above could be bestowed an additional category of modern defence honour that was not available to their peers,

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## Extracts from the Consideration of a Bill in the Parliament of Australia

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which could be considered unfair.

40. When considering a relevant and appropriate period for review, 20 years from the end of an operation provides a balance between a generous period of time for a defence honour to be considered, and not so long as to perpetuate historical problems previously experienced. It also ensures that refusal decisions relating to recent operations, including in Afghanistan, remain subject to review for a reasonable period of time.
41. An advantage of a 20-year period is that eyewitnesses and decision makers of the day are more likely to be available to provide assistance to the Tribunal. This provides a more fulsome review.
42. Some examples of how the 20-year period would work for operations with an end date are as follows:

Operation	End date	Review available if original application is made by
SLIPPER	31 Dec 2014	31 Dec 2034
PALATE II	14 Mar 2017	14 Mar 2037
CATALYST	31 Jul 2009	31 Jul 2029
RIVERBANK	14 Dec 2013	14 Dec 2033

43. Subsection 110V(2) also enables regulations to be made which prescribe a period of time less than 20 years. This subsection provides that the Governor-General, on recommendation from the Minister, may make regulations prescribing a shorter period of time than 20 years. Similar regulation-making powers are also included in subsections 110V(3) to (7). The intent is to provide flexibility in prescribing a shorter period for review of defence honours, defence awards and foreign awards if required, while also establishing a clear maximum timeframe in the Act. This will enable the Tribunal's reviews to focus on specific, contemporary periods as required.
44. Subsection 110V(3) provides that a decision is not a **reviewable decision** if:
- the decision is a refusal to recommend a person or group of persons for a defence honour; and
  - the defence honour:
    - does not relate to a particular operation; or
    - relates to a particular operation that does not have an end date; and
  - all of the eligible service to which the decision relates was rendered more than 20 years (or such lesser period as is prescribed by the regulations) before the day the application referred to in paragraph 110V(1)(c) was made.
45. In effect, this means that in order for a refusal decision regarding a defence honour that does not relate to a particular operation, or if the operation does not have an end date, to be a **reviewable decision**, the application needs to be made to Defence within 20 years of the eligible service being rendered.
46. This reflects that some operations are enduring and have no end date. An example of such an operation is Operation MAZURKA in the Sinai, which began in 1993. Service that does not relate to a particular operation could mean normal service duty, not in an operational context, for which a person can be awarded a defence honour.

### Comment

*The Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025 amends the arrangements for review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) of decisions relating to defence honours, defence awards and foreign awards, as set out in Part VIIIC of the Defence Act 1903.*

*Had the amendment been a part of the Defence Act over the last 30 years the following retrospective awards might not have been achieved:*

- *Teddy Sheen receiving a posthumous Victoria Cross. It took 80 years*
- *Members of the RAN would not have been awarded the Naval General Service Medal 1915-62 for FESR Service. It took over 40 years*
- *Vung Tau Ferry and escorts crews awarded the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal. Took 22 years*



## Memorial Service HMAS CANBERRA (I)

### **Wreath layers;**

*Right: Chief of Navy VADM Nark Hammond lays a wreath*

*Below: Chief of Air Force's representative*

*Bottom: US Naval Attaché*

*Marking the loss of the ship and 84 members of her crew and the loss of 1200 members of the US Navy in the Battle of Sunda Strait*



*Above: A calm sea and fine day set the scene.*

*Photos: Defence*



## Other memorial Services in ther ACT held recently



Above: Held on Rond Terrace, it marked the 75th anniversary of the declaration that the Malayan Emergency had ceased on 31st August 1960

Photo: DVA



Left and below: David Manolas represented the NAA, at both services, the other marking the begining of the Battle for Australia and World War II on 3rd September 1939

Photos: AWM





## September 2025 General Meeting Summary

**Time:** 13.30 PM

**Location:** Eastlakes

### Opening and Formalities

- **Meeting opened.**
- **Odes:** Naval Ode, Ode to the Naval Veteran and Ode of Remembrance were recited. Members stood as able.

**Attendance:** Sizable turnout with notable apologies.

### Attendance and Apologies

#### Attendance

H Millward, G McNamara, H Beardsell, P Cullinan, B Joce, A Masters

#### Visitors

D McGown, L Beardsell, L Cullinan

#### Apologies

Numerous members were unable to attend, with reasons noted:

- **Health:** Pauline Gribble (flu); Tiger and Sue Lyons (flu); Joe Slaats (pacemaker); Tony Vickers (dentist)
- **Family Commitments:** Alex McGowan (family business in Queensland).
- **Other:** John Small, Mike Hardwick, Jeff Walford, Mary Slaats, Ray Horne.

#### Birthdays

- Recognized September birthdays: Mike Hardwick, Bob Kendall, Steve Yule, John Combe, Harry Bearsel, Mike Taylor, Ian Holmes.
- No additional birthdays identified.

#### Acknowledgment

**Peter** thanked for the September Bosun's Call.

#### Main Topics Discussed

##### 1. Bosun's Call and Monthly Documentation

- **Pages 2-3:** Upcoming meeting dates and a feature article on Des Jones Stoker (last survivor of HMAS Canberra II, recently deceased following attendance at key memorials as recent as two years prior).
- **Page 6:** Navy's new accommodation project for serving personnel aimed at retention. Details unclear; possible state-of-the-art base improvements.
- **Page 7:** Sydney visit of the training ship "Armada de Chile Esmeralda."
- **Page 8:** Changes to Royal Navy Hydrographic Service ("The Droggies"). Shift from hydrographic ships (war footing) to smaller hydrographic boats. Anticipated RAN will/will have followed suit.
- **Pages 9-10:** August meeting minutes.

- **Page 11:** Social calendar.

##### 2. Acceptance of Minutes – August 2025

- No major corrections; minor clarification over membership date error, now rectified.

Minutes moved (Alaric), seconded (Alan), and carried.

##### 3. Committee Member Reports

###### President (David)

- Attended multiple commemorative services including:
- **75th Anniversaries:** Vietnam and Korea
- **Far East Strategic Reserve of the Malay Emergency:** Sunday prior
- **Battle for Australia Ceremony:** Day before meeting at War Memorial, with significant schoolchildren involvement (choir, wreath arrangements, and targeted commemorative aims).

###### Vice-President

**Alex's absence noted;** nothing of significance to report.

###### Secretary (Darren)

- No report.

**AI Usage:** Darren now utilising AI to assist in recording minutes and preparation, streamlining his workload.

###### Treasurer (Alaric)

- Noted several **expenditures** this month.
- Further outgoings anticipated for **capitation return** (forthcoming).
- Plans to **collate information** for DVA funding application for the next Canberra Memorial service.

**Membership subs:** Advanced payments for subs (2026–2028) discouraged; strategy to hold only single-year advance payments due to member age and contingencies.

###### Membership Registrar (Peter)

###### Current stats:

- 47 full financial members (with a few paid far ahead, now discouraged).
- 6 unfinancial members (unlikely to return).
- 53 full members in total, plus:
- 14 other members (9 honorary, 1 club, 3 honorary for life).

Membership figures clarified and up to date.

###### Members' Welfare

- No major updates beyond apologies.
- Note: **Wendy Small's** condition has deteriorat-

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## September 2025 General Meeting Summary

(Continued from page 10)

ed; unsuccessful attempts at home visitation.

**Peter McNay (life member):** Now **legally blind**; largely housebound, but otherwise active in daily living (~92-94 yrs).

### Social Calendar (Bev)

- **Hospital stay recounted;** enjoying being back.
- **Missed Christmas in July;** last fish & chips event saw only 4 attendees—urged greater participation.
- **Fish & Chips lunch:** First Thursday of the month, Southern Cross Club at the Lake; improved parking (first two hours free, no membership ticket required).

No new events to add.

### 4. General Meeting Reports

Minutes moved (Harry), seconded (Glen), and carried.

### 5. General Business

#### A. HMAS Canberra Memorial Service – Future

- **Loss of last survivor:** Group debated whether to continue annual commemoration.
  - ◊ **Consensus:** Continue the ceremony, format/style may evolve.
- **Recognition:** Praise for event organizers and favourable weather; enhanced by Chief of Navy presence.
- **Financial Challenge:** \$1,000+ traffic control imposed by ACT Government; previously absorbed by ACC/NCDA last year.

**Action:** Plan to apply to DVA for event funding (especially traffic management).

#### B. VIP and Public Relations Engagement

- Successes and challenges in inviting VIPs (British High Commission, Kiwis, Canadians, Americans); better process now in place.
- Plan to send invitations months earlier for 2026, targeting service chiefs, politicians, and international representatives.

Executive satisfied with 2025 execution; to improve scheduling and outreach.

#### C. Attendance Concerns

- Chronic low member turnout for commemorative events (average 5, rarely more than 10).

Embarrassment for organizers; need to reconsider expectations and possibly reformat for broader appeal.

#### D. DVA Grants and Memorial Funding

- Outlined grant processes and types (commemorative, plaques, etc.).

Commitment to apply for DVA funding (early in

2026) for memorial service and required logistics. Possibility for future memorial plaques discussed.

#### E. White Ensign Magazine Distribution

Confirmed distribution; members to update address/format preferences.

#### F. Honours and Awards Campaign (HMAS Yarra II)

- **Dr. John Carroll's campaign:** Detailed submission for posthumous Victoria Cross for Lt Cdr. Rankin and LS Taylor; hopeful for positive response, not yet denied.
- **G. Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial Project**
  - Update from Peter on War Memorial committee work:
  - Down to four shortlisted sculpture proposals (costs from \$250,000–\$500,000).
  - Varied designs: mother/daughter with sailor, reflective mirror piece, fabric-based bronze & brick wall.
  - War Memorial concerned about overlap with existing memorials; committee continues to consult.
  - Process ongoing for two years; final decision months away, Peter to provide updates.

Reflects 1955–1972 conflict period; Navy's recognition hard-won.

#### 6. Other General Business

- No additional matters raised.

#### 7. Next Meeting

- **Date/Time:** 1330 PM, Thursday, October 2, 2025
- **Venue:** Eastlakes

Meeting declared **closed** and transitioned to raffle.

#### Action Items

##### 1. DVA Funding Applications:

- Darren and Alec to initiate DVA grant application (traffic control and event expenses for 2026 Canberra Memorial).
- Early action to secure funds; confirm most suitable grant (e.g., \$1,500 level).
- **2026 Memorial Service Planning:**
  - Begin outreach and invitation process months ahead (by April).
  - Update and maintain VIP/contact lists (including new contacts at British High Commission, Kiwis, Canadians, Americans).
  - Document procedures for future years for event

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## September 2025 General Meeting Summary

(Continued from page 11)

continuity.

### Member Engagement:

- Renew calls for greater member attendance at commemorative and social events (e.g., monthly fish & chips).
- Monitor and encourage participation at memorials to avoid poor representation.

### Wide Ensign Magazine:

- Update member distribution records; ensure accurate, preferred delivery method for all.

### #Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial:

- Peter to provide progress updates from the War Memorial committee as shortlisting and approvals proceed.
- Potential to seek further member input when final designs are closer.

### • Potential Plaque for the Memorial:

Consider, at a later date, DVA plaque application to formally mark the Association's custodianship of the Canberra Memorial.

### Follow-up Points

- **Monitoring Dr. Carroll's Campaign:** Await further news from honours and awards regarding the posthumous VC nominations (Rankin & Taylor).
- **Update on SSA Memorial Project:** Stand by for future design selection and War Memorial approval process for Far East Strategic Reserve memorial.

**Next Meeting:** 12:00 PM, October 2, 2025, at Eastlakes. Members reminded to attend.

Darrel Rush

e

Secretary ACT Section NAA

## September 2025 Committee Meeting

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Eastlakes Football Club Gungahlin

### Attendees

David Manolas, Alaric O'Neil, Darren Rush, Peter Cooke-Russell.

### Apologies

Apologies noted from: Tiger Lyons (flu).

### Main Topics Discussed

#### 1. Recent Memorial Ceremonies & Representations

##### a. Vietnam Memorial Service (Monday, 18th August)

- ACT Section represented the ACT Section President David Manolas.
- Ceremony featured options for attendees to bring either a wreath or a book, with several participants, including the representative, choosing the book option for donation.
- Books were collected for distribution to local schools by the Vietnam Veterans Organization.
  - ◇ The book purchased for \$96: "Vietnam Anzacs, Australians and New Zealanders in the Vietnam War" (from the Australian War Me-

morial shop due to lack of alternatives elsewhere).

- ◇ The preferred book, "Voyages to Vietnam" (focused on Navy), was unavailable.
- Reimbursement for the \$96 expense sought; no objections from the group.
- ◇ Suggestions for sourcing military books more cost-effectively next time (for example Dymocks in the city).

#### b. Battle for Australia Commemorative Ceremony

- Event heavily focused on involvement of school children—a tradition from the ceremony's origins.
- Choir from St. Mary MacKillop Catholic College participated.
- David Hurley led the commemorative activities.
- Unique features included students building the commemorative wattle wreath with individual sprigs of wattle.
- Open-air format commended; positive remarks on the inclusiveness and educational focus.
- No active role for the group at this event.

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## September 2025 Committee Meeting

*(Continued from page 12)*

### c. Malayan Emergency Service (Foreshore, end of Anzac Parade)

- Well-conducted service attended by some members.
  - ◊ Mention of discussions at the Australian War Memorial regarding a potential FESR (Far East Strategic Reserve) memorial; location proposed in the paddock near the old administration building, not Anzac Parade.

### d. HMAS Queenborough & Related Naval Memorials

- Discussions about the representation and documentation of the Navy in memorial ceremonies and artifacts.
- Specific disappointment at lack of Navy imagery in official materials.
  - ◊ Reference to a 38-page pamphlet with limited naval representation; suggestion to write to Navy leadership or War Memorial advisors for better representation.

## 2. Publications, Membership & Communications

### a. White Ensign Publication

- Transition to lighter weight paper has made a saving in costs and reduce postage.
  - ◊ Distribution noted; variation in delivery times mentioned due to Australia Post schedules.

### b. Member Updates

- Updates on members' health and activity status provided.
  - ◊ Joe having a pacemaker inserted.
  - ◊ Several members residing in or moving to various retirement villages; need to update address lists.
- Birthday acknowledgements for several members

### c. Membership Dues & Communication

- Ongoing challenge with members unsure of payment status.
- Decision to publish names of members who are "in credit" (paid years in advance) to inform and avoid unnecessary payments.
- Concern about privacy acknowledged but considered minor given the small number listed (approx. 4 people through 2027).
- Process agreed to personalize communications

regarding dues and remind only those unfinancial.

## 3. Memorial/Fundraising Initiatives

### a. Annual Commemoration for Canberra

- Discussion around continuing the annual commemoration ceremony following the passing of the last Canberra crew member; consensus that the ceremony is now even more important as a national act of remembrance.
- Ongoing need for external funding to support the ~\$900 cost; research into applying for Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) funding is underway.
- Plan to move decision-making earlier in the year to allow six months' notice for dignitaries and key attendees.
  - ◊ Timeline: Start preparations and scheduling process at the February meeting, aiming to send invitations by April for the August event.

### b. FESR Memorial Progress

- Four design options for a new FEZA memorial considered by the War Memorial; costs range from \$250,000 to \$500,000.
- Designs include:
  - ◊ "Brick Blockhouse" (associated with strategic reserve/fire look and heavily built)
  - ◊ A reflective mirror installation (reminiscent of funhouse mirrors)
  - ◊ A bronze with imprints of uniform materials, belt buckles, and army insignias
  - ◊ Two-figure statue: a mother nursing a child & an exhausted man on rocks (most expensive, potential overlap with existing sculpture)
- Main issue is the lack of public understanding and recognition of what FESR represents.
- Funding for the memorial likely to rely on donations/fundraising.
- Continued updates to be provided in future meetings as the project progresses.

## 4. Last Post Ceremonies and Recognition Practices

- Concerns raised about inconsistent representation of the Navy in Last Post ceremonies, both in person and photographically.
  - ◊ Difficulty finding photographic documentation of Navy commemorations.
  - ◊ Issue with selection of symbols and images

*(Continued on page 14)*

## September 2025 Committee Meeting

*(Continued from page 13)*

representing fallen Navy members (ANF vs. AWE).

- ◇ Discussion about the process and availability of Naval personnel to participate due to operational demands.
- Positive feedback on recent ceremonies, noting continuation of traditions and engagement with community groups (e.g., police pipe bands).
- ◇ Suggestion to continue dialogue with the Australian War Memorial and related bodies to improve Navy representation at commemorative events.

### 5. Initiatives for Engagement & Membership Growth

- Distribution of pamphlets to RSL offices, retirement villages, and specific veterans' events to raise group visibility and membership.
  - ◇ Noted strong Navy presence in ACT RSL compared to other branches.
  - ◇ Collaboration with RSL branches and distributing information in retirement communities (LDK, Greenway, Dixon, etc.).
  - ◇ Tracking and updating contact details for members as they move to new addresses.
- Discussion of competitive elements at community events (e.g., RSL vs. Girl Guide recruitment).

### 6. Service Conditions and Allowances (Navy Focus)

- Extended discussion on pay structure, group pay, and allowances:
  - ◇ Notable evolution from equal rank-based pay to group pay based on role complexity and years of sea service.
  - ◇ Historical context: resistance and mutiny-like walkouts in response to group pay implementation.
  - ◇ Ongoing issues about perceptions of fairness, entitlement culture, and differentiation between allowances and pay.
  - ◇ Noted that ship type (major war vessel vs. patrol boat) impacts allowances.
  - ◇ Frustration with administration and adjustment to new pay paradigms.
- Reference to successful submission to the remuneration tribunal to upgrade steward pay grades.

### Action Items Reimbursement:

- Process payment of \$96 for book contributed to the Vietnam Memorial Service.

- **Funding Research:** Investigate best channels and processes to secure DVA funding for annual Canberra commemoration.
- **Communication:** Draft a minute/letter for David's signature regarding DVA funding, after gathering additional background information.
- **Timelines:** Begin substantive annual event preparations in February; target sending invitations by April for August ceremony.
- **Address Updates:** Verify and update address details for members who have recently moved (notably Harry Beardsell and others in retirement villages).
- **Membership Communication:** Publish list of members paid in advance (in credit) in next newsletter; review privacy implications.
- **FESR Memorial:** Continue updates on FESR memorial; reach out to relevant contacts (including Amy Jefferson) as planned.
- **Naval Representation:** Consider formal communication to Navy leadership/Australian War Memorial to advocate for improved Navy representation in official materials and ceremonies.
- **Pamphlet Distribution:** Continue distributing group pamphlets to RSL, veteran groups, and retirement facilities.

### Follow-up Points / Next Meetings

- Update on DVA funding process at next meeting.
- FESR memorial developments to be reported at general business section in subsequent meetings.
- Confirm outcome and feedback on publishing "in credit" member list.
- Status of member health and address updates.
- Feedback and adjustment on timing for annual commemoration notices.
- Review impact and reactions to adjustments in publication/distribution format and paper quality.
- Response from Navy leadership/War Memorial on representation concerns, if formal approach undertaken.

Meeting closed at 1215.

Next meeting will be held 2 October 2025 at 1100 uim the Eastlakes Football Club Gungahlin

Darren Rush

Secretary ACT Section NAA



## 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 REGISTRAR.

### Social Program

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

#### 2025

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

#### 2026

15 Jan Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200  
19 Feb Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200  
19 Mar Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200  
16 Apr 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:1800838372)

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:  
[www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you  
October 2025**

Pauline Gribble

Bob Drew

David Bowditch

Tony Vickers

# 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



If undeliverable return to  
NAA ACT Section  
4 McEachern Crescent  
MELBA ACT 2615

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