



The Bosun's Call



Vol 23 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

August 2018

Chief of Navy Handover

Vice Admiral Tim Barrett has formally ended his term as Chief of Navy, following a handover ceremony at Blamey Square in Canberra. VADM Barrett ended his Permanent Navy career in style, with an honour guard and fly past in his honour.

Several hundred Navy personnel from across the region braved a blustery Canberra morning to attend the ceremony. VADM Barrett told the gathering, his time as Chief has seen significant change to the RAN, thanks to hard work and dedication by Navy members.

"The considerable successes that Navy has enjoyed during my tenure is due to that important and valuable work undertaken by uniformed and civilian people ashore as much as they are due to the outstanding efforts of our sailors and officers both at sea and ashore, whether permanent or reserve," he said.

"Our people are more resilient and innovative, and they are getting the job done safely. Our workforce better reflects the diversity of the Australian community, demonstrating a bias for action, and seeking to continuously improve to way we do business.

"And, despite some reports, the vast majority are upholding Navy's Values and living Navy's Signature Behaviours, on duty and off duty, in uniform or out of it, at sea and ashore."



Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, AO, CSC, RAN handed over command of the Royal Australian Navy to Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN during a ceremonial parade at Blamey Square at Russell in Canberra.

VADM Barrett's time as CN has indeed been one of significant change. He has guided the decisions to acquire the Offshore Patrol Vessels, Navy's next generation of Replenishment Ships, Future Submarines, and the Hunter Class Frigates along with the associated infrastructure investments. VADM Barrett has also overseen the introduction into service of the Landing Helicopter Docks Ships, HMAS Canberra and Adelaide, the MH60R Seahawk helicopters, and the first of Navy's new destroyers, HMAS Hobart. These

(Continued on page 4)

Events coming up

- 2 Aug Lunch at Kaleen Sports Club 1200 prior to meeting
- 10 Aug HMAS Canberra Memorial Service 1100 Kings Park near the Carillion followed by lunch in Poppy's Café at the AWM
- 16 Aug Fish 'n Chips Snapper Southern Cross Yacht Club 1200
- 18 Aug Last Post Ceremony PO O'Brian Phillips RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

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Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

Office Bearers 2018

President	Alex McGown	
Vice President	David Manolas	0427 504 564
Secretary	Alan Masters	02 6281 5630
Treasurer	Alan Masters	02 6281 5630

Committee Members

Welfare	Alex. McGown	02 6258 6167
Membership	Peter Cooke-Russell	02 6223 2364
	John Small	02 6258 1216
	JJ Harrison	02 6258 4512
	Rex Kendall	02 6255 7515
	Tiger Lyons	02 6254 3453
Editor BC	Peter Cooke-Russell	02 6223 2364
Social Sec	Bev Joce	0412 732 768

Charitable Fund

Chairman Harry Beardsell

Contact Details

The President ACT Section
02 6258 6167
amcgown@bigpond.net.au

The Secretary ACT Section

NAA ACT Section
26 Nelson Place,
CURTIN ACT 2605.

secretary.naa.act@gmail.com
Tel 02 6281 5630

Membership Registrar

peter.cookerussell@gmail.com
02 6223 2364

General Meeting & AGM Dates and Locations

Programme

2018	
2 Aug Kaleen Sports Club	1330
6 Sep Kaleen Sports Club	1330
4 Oct Kaleen Sports Club	1330
1 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
2019	
1 Feb Kaleen Sports Club	1330
7 Mar Kaleen Sports Club	1330
7 Mar Kaleen Sports Club	AGM On Completion GM
4 Apr Kaleen Sports Club	1330

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

President's Note

It is good to see that the days are getting a bit longer although the mornings are still a little chilly. Thirteen members and partners attended the luncheon at the Ainslie Club in July. It was good to see Tim Holt. All had a good time. The fish and chips gathering at Snappers on Thursday was attended by nine members.

The HMAS Canberra ceremony is upon us just after the August meeting. One hopes that the weather is as kind to us as last year. There will be a new Master of Ceremonies.

Congratulations to Shipmate John Harrison who was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queens Birthday Awards. He still answers to JJ.

The Last Post Ceremony on 18th August (Vietnam Veterans' Day) is in remembrance of PO O'Brien (Darky) Phillips RAN Helicopter Flight. He was KIA on 21st August 1968.

See you at the August Meeting.

Yours Aye

Alex



**Committee meeting
Kaleen Sports Club
1130 Thursday
2 Aug 2018**

New Practitioner Support Service to assist in veteran mental health treatment

27 July 2018

VETERANS in rural and remote areas will have improved access to mental health experts through a Federal Government initiative.

A new Practitioner Support Service (PSS) that will provide expert advice and consultation to doctors and agencies around Australia who are supporting and treating veterans with mental health issues, was launched today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester.

Mr Chester said that these professionals when working with veterans who have complex issues will now be able to gain access to a panel of highly experienced veteran and military mental health specialists.

"This initiative will strengthen the ability of health professionals and ex-service organisations across Australia to provide appropriate support to veterans in need," Mr Chester said.

"The service can be accessed by calling 1800 VET777 or through the Phoenix Australia website which also provides links to best practice and professional development.

"A general practitioner, for example working with an individual veteran, in a rural or remote setting will be able to get expert specialist advice on how to best treat and support an individual with complex PTSD, pain or other mental health issues.

In 2016, the Australian Government provided \$6 million to Phoenix Australia to establish the Centenary of Anzac Centre (the Centre) to target early intervention for mental health treatment for veterans. The Centre comprises a Treatment Research Centre and a PSS.

The Centre will investigate and test new treatments for PTSD and other mental health conditions and provide expert advice and support to mental health practitioners.

"The PSS is the second arm of the Centre and aims to provide a multidisciplinary focus and guidance on the treatment of complex mental health problems in veterans and military personnel.

"The PSS will engage with a network of clinical experts and other leaders in the field to ensure specific advice is matched to practitioners' needs and will use a variety of communication methods to ensure the service is available to all practitioners.

"Phoenix Australia has been an international leader in veteran and military posttraumatic mental health for over 20 years, and through the Centre, will greatly assist DVA and the Government in developing innovative policy, programs and services to improve mental health services provided to veterans and their families."

Nation thanks veterans on 65th Korean War Armistice anniversary

27 July 2018

In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, Australian veterans will be honoured at a national commemoration today.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the nation would reflect with gratitude on the service and sacrifice of some 18,000 Australians, including Army and Royal Australian Air Force nurses, who served in the Korean War and post-Armistice period.

"All three of Australia's armed services took part in the Korean War, which started in June 1950 when North Korea invaded the south," Mr Chester said.

"The invasion prompted the beginning of a war that pitted the Cold War powers of communist China and the Soviet Union against the United States and its allies, fighting under United Nations' auspices, in a massive military confrontation.

"Of the some 18,000 Australian personnel who served, Australia suffered some 1,500 casualties, including more than 350 who lost their lives and 30 who were taken prisoner. More than 40 Australians are still listed as missing in action."

Twenty-one nations provided military personnel, medical support or other assets to the United Nations effort in Korea, despite most still recovering from the impact of the Second World War.

"Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses made an important contribution to this international endeavour, with Australian service personnel earning widespread respect for their courage and endurance," Mr Chester said.

"The Armistice, signed on 27 July 1953, ended three years of fighting on the Korean peninsula. Australians remained in Korea, in a peacekeeping capacity, until 1957."

A commemorative service will be held at the Australian National Korean War Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, at 11am when Australians will stop to remember the service and sacrifice of Korean War veterans.

The service will be broadcast live on the Department of Veterans' Affairs Facebook page and YouTube channel.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Whil Prendergast: 02 6277 7820

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon. Darren Chester MP,

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546). VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam veterans.

Chief of Navy Handover

(Continued from page 1)

new capabilities, combined with the Navy wide reforms driven by Plan Pelorus, have enabled Navy to generate and deploy maritime task groups capable of accomplishing the full spectrum of maritime security. VADM Barrett's time as CN has indeed been one of significant change. He has guided the decisions to acquire the Offshore Patrol Vessels, Navy's next generation of Replenishment Ships, Future Submarines, and the Hunter Class Frigates along with the associated infrastructure investments. VADM Barrett has also overseen the introduction into service of the Landing Helicopter Docks Ships, HMAS Canberra and Adelaide, the MH60R Seahawk helicopters, and the first of Navy's new destroyers, HMAS Hobart. These new capabilities, combined with the Navy wide reforms driven by Plan Pelorus, have enabled Navy to generate and deploy maritime task groups capable of accomplishing the full spectrum of maritime security operations.

Incoming Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan

told the gathering, history will consider Vice Admiral Barrett to be 'the father of Australia's 21st century Navy.'

"His commitment and dedication has been both extraordinary and selfless, and over the last four years as the Chief of Navy, he has set our Navy on a new course," he said.

VADM Noonan told the gathering, he intends to lead a Navy which is operationally ready thanks to committed, well trained men and women, capable of deploying nationally, regionally and internationally in support of Australia's national interests, during uncertain times.

'To achieve these outcomes we need to think like a Fighting Navy, and fight like a Thinking Navy,' he said.

Following the formal speeches, VADM Barrett's flag was hauled down and VADM Noonan's flag raised; a flypast by members of the Fleet Air Arm paying tribute to Navy's most senior aviator as VADM Barrett formally 'passed the weight' to his



Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1984, trained as a seaman officer and then subsequently completed Principal Warfare Officers course and specialised in Air Direction and Above Water Warfare.

Throughout his career, he had experience in a wide range of Navy and ADF operations through various sea and shore posting and operational roles. Highlights have included deployments to the Middle East, Southern Ocean and being the Commissioning Commanding Officer of the Anzac class frigate HMAS *Parramatta*.

He has fulfilled leadership positions at all levels of the Australian Defence Force, with senior positions including the Director of Military Strategic Commitments, Director General of Operations at HQJOC, Command of Maritime Border Command and Deputy Chief of Navy.

In June 2018, he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his distinguished service in significant senior ADF command roles.

Vice Admiral Noonan assumed command of the Royal Australian Navy on 7 July 2018

Five Minute Quizz

1. In which decade was the Victoria Cross first awarded?
2. What is a knar?
3. Nyctophobia is an irrational fear of what?
4. The now extinct dodo bird was native to which island?
5. What is the oldest British warship still afloat?
6. Which city is further east, Liverpool or Edinburgh?
7. In Scotland, what is trick or treating known as?
8. What is bog moss?
9. What is the opposite of nocturnal?
10. The name of which European capital city was formed by combining the names of two towns

Answers are on Page 13



NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Letter to Members—National President #7/2018

The White Ensign Magazine is the primary means of communication with members and wider afield. The magazine has been rejuvenated with a new management team dedicated to making this stream of information relevant to new and old Veterans and the wider Defence Community. Every member is encouraged to think about drafting some worthy commentary that will enrich the magazine. Well done to the Editor and team for their considerable effort to create a creditable level of information and interest aimed at emphasising the outcomes of the Naval Association of Australia.

The four pillars are now embedded in the Constitution, they are simple pathways designed to channel our effort. Each provides an opportunity for members to contribute to the well-being of service and ex-service members, or non-members should the need arise. The purpose of focusing on the four pillars is primarily to recognise we have a responsibility to uphold the intent of our forebears. Care relates to our support of those in need. The benefits assigned to Veterans, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs are the consequence of years of bidding by Ex-Service Organisations. Our Association was one of the national organisations responsible for the existing benefits. Past effort is be applauded, however, it is our responsibility to continue supporting veterans and their families by whatever means at our disposal.

Navy history also deserves attention. Many milestone events merit commemora-

tion, occasions where a shipmate has made the supreme sacrifice. The immediate focus needs to be the HMAS *Canberra* Commemoration Service in August. The specific date is 9th August 1942 when *Canberra* was sunk with 193 casualties. Recognition of the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam with a Unit Gallantry award recently is an occasion that highlights the service and sacrifice of men and women in the Navy. They were individuals, working as team players that made a courageous effort. One of their team, Leading Seaman Noel Shipp as a gunner in his helicopter, made the supreme sacrifice whilst doing his duty. A 50 year wait is disheartening, hopefully future bravery within the ranks of the Navy will be recognised expeditiously.

The Association has a range of rules designed to maintain uniformity across the Association. Our thoughts need to be focused on proper governance, sharing information about activities supporting the four pillars, continuous improvement at all levels with the focus being on relevance to the Navy family and above all be welcoming to existing and in particular new members

Yours Aye

Terry Makings

5 July 2018

Once Navy, Always Navy
www.navalassoc.org.au

Getting the most out of your Seniors Card

- using public transport

Did you know Seniors Card holders are eligible for concessional - or free - travel?

Travelling in Canberra

ACT Seniors Card holders can access free travel on the ACTION Bus Network during off peak times (between 9am and 4:30pm M-F and all day on weekends and public holidays). You must use your ACT Seniors/MyWay card (with a positive balance) to access these entitlements.

ACT Seniors Card holders aged over 70 receive free bus travel at all times on the ACTION bus network.

Read more information here: <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/news-and-events/items/december-2016/free-senior-and-concession-off-peak-bus-travel-starts-saturday-14-january-2017>.

Travel on the NSW Opal network

ACT is the first jurisdiction to link with NSW Opal card to automatically validate your eligibility for a Gold Opal card. Your ACT Seniors Card number is uniquely linked to your NSW Opal Card which allows ACT Seniors Card holders access to **concessional fares in NSW on the Opal network**.

ACT seniors no longer have to apply using paper-based application forms for a Gold Opal Card. You can apply by visiting: <https://www.opal.com.au/ordercard/?execution=e1s1> or call Opal on 13 67 25.

Please note: When replacing a lost or damaged ACT Seniors Card it is also necessary to reapply for a NSW Opal Card as your Seniors Card number will change.

Travel in other states and territories

Information on Senior's transport concessions in other States and Territories around Australia can be found on the following websites:

- [Opal card NSW](#)

- [Trains and coaches NSW](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Perth, WA](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)

Other transport options

Transport Canberra run the Flexible Bus Service. This is a free service that operates mini buses for those who are socially isolated because of lack of transport options or mobility. This service picks commuters up from their closest stop or homes and transports them to their local shops or hospital. Commuters are then returned to their homes with a pickup service from a designated spot. This is a great way to meet other people in your community and we have been advised that many friendships have been formed on these buses.

Bookings can be made on 6205 3555 and must be made two days prior to travel.

The Canberra Hospital has introduced a courtesy bus that provides free transport across the hospital campus for patients, visitors and staff.

The Courtesy Bus operates between 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except public holidays. The bus operates on a continuous loop every 15 minutes. You can track the current location of the bus, in real time, or get a map of the route by going to the Canberra Hospital website at <http://health.act.gov.au/our-services/canberra-hospital-campus/courtesy-bus>.

The Courtesy Bus stops are located at the

- Emergency Department,
- Canberra Region Cancer Centre,
- Bateson Road (Southern Car Park),
- Outpatient Services (Building

Getting the most out of your Seniors Card

15),

- Canberra Hospital's main entrance and the
- Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.

Look for pick up/drop off signage that will help you easily navigate from one point to another.

Seniors Card

Eligibility Requirements

Are you eligible for a Seniors Card?

To be eligible for an ACT Seniors Card, you must be over 61 years of age, a permanent resident of the ACT and not being in paid employment of more than 20 hours a week.

Note: As of 1 July 2017, eligibility requirements for ACT Seniors Cards changed and applicants need to be 61 years to apply for an ACT Seniors Card.

How do I get a Seniors Card?

Applications for a Seniors Card are available from Government Service Centres: (Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Woden, Gungahlin). ACT Public Libraries (Belconnen, Civic, Dickson, Erindale, Gungahlin, Kippax, Tuggeranong, Woden) or the Council on the Ageing Office, Hughes Community Centre, Hughes.

New discounts available to ACT Seniors Card holders

The following new businesses have signed up to be part of the ACT Seniors Card Scheme. Please check out our website www.actseniorscard.org.au to view their discounts:

- Japan Explorer
- Taqwa Painting
- Dendy Cinemas
- Franklin Dental Care
- Natural Beauty Centre
- Showground Dental
- Myhomephone
- Quickwills
- Buy A Safe
- Easy Travel Insurance

Free Sessions for Seniors

COTA ACT is currently hosting the following free services (by appointment) at the Hughes Community Centre, please contact 6282 3777 for booking times:-

Tax Help for Seniors

Get assistance to complete your tax return with a qualified accountant.

You are eligible for Tax Help if you have a myGov account linked to the ATO, if your annual income is \$60,000 or less and you did not:

- work as a contractor, for example a contract cleaner or taxi driver
- run a business, including as a sole trader
- have partnership or trust matters
- sell shares or an investment property
- own a rental property
- receive capital gains tax (CGT)
- receive royalties
- receive distributions from a trust, other than a managed fund
- receive foreign income, other than a foreign pension or annuity.

Call 6282 3777 to discuss and book a session.

Advanced Care Planning Drop-in Sessions

Navy Clearance Diving Team 3 receives US Commendation

Members of the Royal Australian Navy's Clearance Diving Team 3 (AUSCDT 3) were awarded a United States (US) Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service in the 1991 Gulf War at a ceremony at HMAS Penguin today.

In 1992, the Acting Secretary of the US Navy awarded a US Unit Commendation to units involved in the 1991 multinational Desert Storm Task Group.

Australian guidelines at the time prevented Clearance Diving Team 3 personnel from accepting the US award. Following later revision of the guidelines, the US has been progressively reviewing records to ensure all entitled personnel receive their awards.

Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead, presented the commendation to the original teammates, many of whom are still serving.

"The award of the US Unit Commendation was a reminder of the significant achievement of Clearance Diving Team 3 during the First Gulf War," Rear Admiral Mead said.

"Under the command of then Lieutenant Commander John Griffith, the team was initially involved in the preparations for a possible amphibious assault of Iraqi occupied Kuwait.

"As the requirement for an amphibious operation receded, the team's primary mission became the explosive ordnance clearance of Kuwaiti ports in support of the US Navy's Coastal Warfare and Port Recovery operations.

"The members distinguished themselves and earned their branch an international reputation for

courage, skill, professionalism, flexibility, and adaptability."

Former Executive Officer of AUSCDT 3 and current Head of Clearance Diving, Captain Stephen O'Brien, said the commendation was welcome recognition for a deployment that was both challenging and rewarding.

"The experience and the lessons learnt from the team's time in the First Gulf War helped us in later deployments and are still part of the way we operate today," Captain O'Brien said.

The events in Kuwait in 1990 resulted in the international community responding swiftly with a large multinational task force.

AUSCDT 3 cleared four ports, searched 2,157,200 square metres of sea bed, surveyed 32 wrecks, dealt with 60 mines, cleared 234,986 pieces of ordnance, cleared seven ships and secured countless buildings, ports and oil facilities.

The operational recovery of these ports provided the Government of Kuwait and supporting coalition forces with their most important means to resupply the beleaguered Kuwaiti populace so they could rebuild their nation.

During that time, HMA Ships Adelaide, Darwin and Success also deployed to the region, followed at the end of 1990 by HMA Ships Brisbane and Sydney.

Ms Linda Daetwyler, US Consul General, and representatives from across Defence attended the special event.

Warramunga returns from



More than a thousand people have lined the wharf at Garden Island, Sydney to welcome HMAS Warramunga back to her homeport after a nine-month deployment.

The new Chief of Navy Australia, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan joined Minister for Defence, the Honourable Marise Payne to congratulate the

HMAS Warramunga Boarding Party member, Able Seaman Combat Systems Operator Corey Bartlett numbers parcels of seized narcotics on the upper decks of a vessel during a narcotics interdiction operation.

Defence takes control of NUSHIP Brisbane

The Department of Defence Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group accepted delivery of the second Hobart Class destroyer NUSHIP *Brisbane* at an official ceremony in Adelaide on Friday.

The ceremony, attended by Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP and Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, included the presentation of the ship's bell rope and battle honour board to *Brisbane*'s Commanding Officer Commander Josh Wilson.

Minister Pyne said *Brisbane* is the second of three ships being delivered by the Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance.

"*Brisbane* will enter into service later this year and with her sister ships, they will be the most potent warships ever operated by the Royal Australian Navy," Minister Pyne

"By using a combination of Australian and globally proven technologies, these highly capable warships will contribute directly to our maritime security and allow us to work even closer with our allies."

Vice Admiral Noonan noted the significance of the occasion, for the Navy and Australia.

"This is major step in the construction of the *Brisbane*, and she will be one of the most capable warships in the world, and it is a reflection of how Navy's modern warfighting has evolved," Vice Admiral Noonan said.

"She has the world's first complete combat man-

agement system, which integrates powerful computers, radars and weapon systems to provide simultaneous defence against advanced air, surface and subsurface threats, allowing the Royal Australian Navy to think, fight and win."

This is the final milestone for *Brisbane*, and she will transition from Adelaide to Sydney in September where she will be commissioned into service.

In April, *Brisbane* successfully completed her second phase of sea trials off the coast of South Australia. This phase of trials, known as Category 5 (CAT 5) Sea Acceptance Trials, ran over a three week period, and included some 30 platform tests and 38 combat system tests, comprising of over 120 other test activities.

The Hobart Class destroyers will provide air defence for accompanying ships in addition to land forces and infrastructure in coastal areas, and for self-protection against missiles and aircraft.



The Chief of Navy Australia VADM Mike Noonan, and Commanding Officer NUSHIP Brisbane CMDR Josh Wilson take possession of the ship's new bell rope from former sailor and rope maker David Morse in Adelaide.

record breaking Middle East mission

ship's company on a record breaking deployment.

While deployed, Warramunga made a significant impact on terrorist and criminal organisations by denying them approximately AUD\$2.17 billion in funding from illegal narcotics. The ANZAC Class frigate seized around 31.8 tonnes of hashish and two tonnes of heroin while deployed on Operation MANITOU.

Warramunga maintained a high tempo during the deployment. The Anzac Class Frigate travelled 43,995.9 nautical miles, operated with 27 international ships and conducted 12 port visits.

Commanding Officer, Commander Luke Ryan said the ship also conducted a number of flag verification boardings and air sorties.

"Warramunga conducted 32 flag verification board-

ings, 19 escort taskings and 15 replenishments at sea," he said.

"The MH-60R flew 182 sorties and spent almost 520 hours in the sky.

"This deployment has been busy for all the men and women in Warramunga. Their commitment and dedication has made the mission a success," Commander Ryan said.

Warramunga sailed with a ship's company of 190 in October 2017 and spent Christmas at sea patrolling the waters of the Middle East.

This was Warramunga's third deployment to the Middle East Region and the 66th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Unit to the region since late 1990.

WRAN No 1

Frances Betty Provan (1911-1963), naval officer and businesswoman, was born on 17 November 1911 at Spring Hill, Brisbane, second daughter of Queensland-born parents Donald McCallum Provan, bookseller, and his wife Frances Mary Walpole, née Boyd. Her mother was descended from the Walpole family in England. Frances was educated at Toowoomba, at the Glennie Preparatory School, Fairholme Presbyterian Girls' College, and the Glennie Memorial School. Margaret Brown, the headmistress of GMS, stressed moral behaviour and told her pupils: 'Remember, you are a Glennie Girl, and there is nothing a Glennie Girl cannot do'. After Frances' father died during her final year at school, she worked in turn as a trainee-teacher, nurse and governess. About 1939 she moved to Sydney. Five foot 6 1/2 inches (169 cm) tall, with brown hair, large brown eyes, a fair complexion and classical features, she was a smart, slightly built, well-groomed young woman - a 'darling' and 'tremendous fun' according to her younger sister.

Believing war to be imminent, Provan began training with the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps

which had been founded in Sydney by Florence McKenzie. By 1941 the RAN needed more wireless telegraphists. The availability of women who had learned these skills in the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps led to a decision to recruit twelve female telegraphists as the initial members of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS). Enlisting as a telegraphist on 28 April 1941, Provan was given the official number WR/1 and posted to HMAS Harman, the communications station in Canberra. She and her colleagues relayed messages to the fleet and maintained contact with many wireless-stations around the world. The number of female telegraphists increased rapidly, and women were recruited to serve in other branches of the Navy. By 1945 there were 2590 WRANS working in shore establishments throughout Australia.

Promoted Leading Telegraphist (September 1941) and Petty Officer Telegraphist (December 1942), Provan attended the first WRANS officers' training course at Flinders Naval Depot, Westernport, Victoria. She was appointed Third Officer on 15 Feb-



Senior WRANS from HMAS Harman Naval Wireless Station at the fourth birthday of the service. Left to right, back row: Daphne Wright, Frances Provan (WRAN No. 1), Shirley Drew, Joan Cade; Front row: Third Officers Joan Hodges, Billee Thompson, Jess Prain. Canberra, ACT, circa 1945. (Australian War Memorial Collection)

WRAN No 1



WR/1 Telegraphist Frances Betty Provan (right) and WR/21 Telegraphist Heather Stella Dunshea are proud of their badges, identical to those worn by male naval telegraphists, circa 1941. (Australian War Memorial Collection)

ruary 1943 and returned to Harman in August. In June 1945 she was posted as officer-in-charge of the only draft of WRANS to serve in an operational zone, in Darwin: her standards of behaviour and appearance led her contingent to be referred to as 'Miss Provan's Academy for Young Ladies'. She served briefly at bases in New South Wales and Queensland before being demobilised from the Navy in October 1946 in Melbourne.

Miss Provan travelled to England where she was employed by a meat-importing firm. In the late 1950s her ability and competence won her the post of manager of the London office of Jackson's United Meat Co Pty Ltd, a business based at Footscray, Melbourne. In 1963 she returned to Melbourne, met the firm's Australian directors, and flew to Brisbane, planning to visit her mother.

She died suddenly of heart disease on 21 June that year in a taxi enroute from Eagle Farm to Camp Hill.



'On watch since 1943'

Navy people of the nation's capital have taken to the streets of nearby Queanbeyan for a Freedom of Entry march to mark a significant milestone.

In a strong display of community spirit, officers and sailors of HMAS *Harman* assembled for the march from Moore Park to Queen Elizabeth II Park in celebration of Harman's 75th commissioning anniversary. Staying true to Navy tradition, the event featured the parade through the centre of town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and band playing.

The granting of Freedom of Entry is the highest accolade a town or city can bestow upon a military unit. The tradition originated in medieval times, when a city would show its trust in a group of men-at-arms by allowing them to enter their walls without being disarmed. In modern times, it is a demonstration of the positive links between military units and the communities they represent.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Harman*, Commander David Luck was presented with the ceremonial scroll from the Mayor of Queanbeyan, Councillor Tim Overall and said it was an honour for *Harman* to be granted the Freedom of Entry.

"Many of *Harman's* ship's company live in the local area and it was great to march through the familiar streets of Queanbeyan today," Commander Luck said.

"We're grateful to everyone who turned out to support us and celebrate the 75th commissioning anniversary milestone.

"HMAS *Harman* has a rich history of service to the nation and it was a very proud moment," he said.

Early in its history, the base played a fundamental role in enabling the first women to undertake service in the Australian Defence Force. The Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) was formed in 1941, with the pioneer servicewomen performing roles as telegraphers during Second World War.

In 2018, *Harman* continues to provide communication services to the fleet through the Defence Network Operations Centre (DNOC) as well as facilitating administrative and personnel support to Navy members and several Reserve and Cadet units.

75 YEARS

Visiting the Australian Remembrance Trail

TWO significant initiatives encouraging Australians to visit the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front, and learn more about Australia's First World War history, were launched in France today.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester unveiled the *Australian Remembrance Trail – A Traveller's Guide*, which is a practical guide to the Western Front battlefields.

"The guide is a key resource for travellers, not only from Australia but other countries, so they can make the most of their visit along the trail," Mr Chester said.

"More than 295,000 Australians served on the Western Front and deaths here accounted for around 75 per cent of all Australians in the First World War. In terms of our history, this is one of the most significant regions in the world and an important one for Australians to experience first-hand."

The second initiative is the addition of Naours Caves to the Australian Remembrance Trail. This small, yet significant site, is also featured in the new traveller's guide. The caves are a three-

kilometre long complex of tunnels which were visited by soldiers.

"During the First World War the caves became a tourist attraction for soldiers in the area, and the tunnels features more than 2,000 individual inscriptions made by Allied soldiers," Mr Chester said.

"In addition to the initial Australian Government contribution to protect the 'graffiti' in the caves, I have asked the Department of Veterans' Affairs to work closely with the local authorities in Naours to scope out a management strategy and bring forward a business case to help secure and preserve this important part of Australia's history."

The Naours Caves are in close proximity to the former Somme battlefields, approximately two hours north of Paris, and only a short drive from the newly opened Sir John Monash Centre—an ideal point for visitors to commence or finish their visit along the Australian Remembrance Trail.

The *Australian Remembrance Trail – A Traveller's Guide* can be accessed digitally on the [Sir John Monash Centre website](#).



Social Programme

August 2nd Lunch prior to Meeting at Kaleen Sports Club

10th Coffee/lunch at Poppys AWM after HMAS Canberra Service

16th Fish & Chips at 12 noon Snappers Southern Cross Yacht Club

September 6th Lunch prior to Meeting at Kaleen Sports Club

20th Fish & Chips at 12 noon Snappers Southern Cross Yacht Club

October 4th Lunch prior to Meeting at Kaleen Sports Club

18th Fish & Chips at 12 noon Snappers Southern Cross Yacht Club

November 1st Lunch prior to Meeting at Kaleen Sports Club

15th Fish & Chips at 12 noon Snappers Southern Cross Yacht Club

December 6th Christmas Lunch in lieu of meeting at The Lakes Gungahlin Golf Club

Bev Joce
Social Secretary



- Please note that all lunches are scheduled for 12 noon until approx 2pm you may stay later if you prefer
- We have recently been advised that if we sit on concrete area or indoors at the Yacht Club we are not to BYO our drinks. To have our own BYO we must sit out at the

picnic tables on the grass area... or sit on the grass if you prefer????

- If you have any suggestions for other outings throughout the year please mention them to Bev or Alex



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A Happy Birthday to you in August 2018

Peter Launder

Ian Guest

Jim Quick

David Campbell

John Perrett

Toby Selby

Trish Dollission, and

Peter Guy

Answers to Five Minute Quiz:

11. 1850s; 2. A knot on a tree or in wood; 3. Darkness or night-time; 4. Mauritius; 5. HMS Trincomalee; 6. Liverpool; 7. Guising; 8. Sphagnum; 9. Diurnal; 10. Budapest (Buda + Pest)



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