



THE BOSUN'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



NAT EDITION FEB 2026

VOL: 6 NO: 01

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY



ADF Pipes and Drums prepare for Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Brisbane

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REVIEW OF THE NAA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the National Council of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA), the Council approved the establishment of a Sub-committee to **review and modernise the NAA Constitution and By-laws**. The sub-committee is made up of the following members of the association:

Russell Pettis (Chair)	- Victoria Section
Bruce Kafer	- New South Wales Section
Gordon Fuller	- Tasmania Section
Cheryl Fittock	- South Australia Section
Kaye Morgan	- Queensland Section
Lorraine Grey	- New South Wales Section

The sub-committee held its inaugural meeting on 21 October 2025. It was agreed at that meeting that the group's first action would be:

- Advise all NAA members that the Constitution Review has commenced, and
- Seek input from all members regarding their opinions of the current constitution, its strengths and weaknesses, where it can be improved or where it should be reduced in content or coverage.

The consultation period will last until the end of February 2026. The sub-committee would appreciate comments from all elements of the NAA – Section Executive Committees, Sub-section Executive Committees and individual members. Feedback should be sent to the State Section Secretaries for collation and submission to the Constitution Review Sub-committee.

Russell Pettis

Chair, NAA Constitution Review Sub-committee

Once Navy, Always Navy

GUARDIAN-CLASS PATROL BOAT DELIVERED TO MARSHALL ISLANDS



Guardian-class Patrol Boat, RMIS Jelmae



Flag of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Republic of the Marshall Islands has taken delivery of a new Guardian-class Patrol Boat, RMIS Jelmae, in a ceremony at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia.

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kalani Kaneko, received the vessel on behalf of the Government of the Marshall Islands.

Australia and the Marshall Islands share a strong partnership, underpinned by a shared focus on maritime security.

The vessel will strengthen the Marshall Islands' maritime capability and assist in responding to national and regional priorities.

The vessel will replace Pacific Patrol Boat, RMIS Lomor 03, which was delivered to the Marshall Islands by Australia in 1991. RMIS Lomor 03 was the longest-serving Pacific Patrol Boat, operating for almost 35 years.

RMIS Jelmae is the 23rd vessel delivered under Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program – a 30-year commitment with our

Pacific partners to support a stable, prosperous and secure region.

This milestone marks the final delivery of a Guardian-class Patrol Boat to a Pacific partner nation under the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

"Through our partnership with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, we are increasing regional maritime security and will be more effective in tackling our shared regional challenges together," commented Susan Bodell, First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Division.

"The Pacific Maritime Security Program is empowering protection of the Pacific, by the Pacific – by delivering enduring sovereign capability that is underpinned by through-life sustainment, training and regional coordination."

The Australian Government continues to partner with the Pacific on our shared regional maritime security, through the \$5.9 billion invested into the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

HMAS MELBOURNE

February 1959

At the start of 1959, Melbourne spent four days in her namesake city, where she was used for the filming of *On The Beach*, based on Nevil Shute's post-apocalyptic novel of the same name



HMAS Melbourne (II)

The RAN gave considerable support to this project. The aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne and the submarine HMS Andrew were used in the film, and several scenes were shot at Williamstown over a four day period, with RAN personnel being used as extras.

After filming concluded, the carrier participated in a demonstration exercise off the coast of Sydney before embarking on a Far East Strategic Reserve deployment from March until May. The rest of the year was spent visiting Australian and New Zealand ports.



Cast and crew at work on the deck of HMS Andrew during filming of the Stanley Kramer motion picture 'On The Beach' at Williamstown Naval Dockyard.



Gregory Peck during filming of "On The Beach" at Frankston Station.

In 1964, World War III has devastated the Northern Hemisphere, killing all humans there. According to dialogue at the opening of the film, the cobalt bomb was developed and deployed into widespread usage within nuclear arsenals in the near future, which heightened the intensity of the fallout compared to atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs. Air currents are slowly carrying the fallout to the Southern Hemisphere, where Melbourne, Australia will be the last major city on Earth to perish. Romantic interests form a key subplot throughout the film along with the existential crises individuals face given impending nuclear annihilation.

The film was nominated for multiple awards, including at the Oscars for film editing and score. It was awarded a Japanese Blue Ribbon Award and a "United Nations Award" at the British Academy Film Awards. Ernest Gold's score won the 1960 Golden Globe.



The Pipes and Drums of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) came together in November 2025 to hone their skills ahead of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's first-ever Brisbane show, running from Feb 12 to 15.

Highly skilled ADF musicians will take part in a performance rich in history and national pride, and will also provide ceremonial support to the historic 75th Anniversary Tour of the Tattoo in 'The Heroes Who Made Us' show.

Held at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium, the Tattoo's milestone 'The Heroes Who Made Us', features Scottish bagpipes, stirring anthems, massed military bands, dancers and international performers from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

More than 240 ADF personnel will participate in the Brisbane Tattoo, with a smaller contingent taking part in the New Zealand Tattoo on February 19 and 21.

Wearing the distinctive Australian Defence Force Academy tartan, the Pipes and Drums of the ADF will feature in the event.

Australia's Federation Guard and the combined military bands of the ADF will also feature prominently in the show, displaying precision drill and contemporary music repertoire.

Air Marshal (retd) Mel Hupfeld said the gathering of ADF musicians in Melbourne in November ahead of the Tattoo helped fine-tune future performances.

"It is our first gathering of all the pipes and drums players from across the ADF," Air Marshal (retd) Hupfeld said.

"We have come together to learn the tunes, play together as a band and get to know each other."

The Tattoo features more than 1000 of the world's finest performers, led by the magnificent, massed pipes and drums from United Kingdom military regiments.

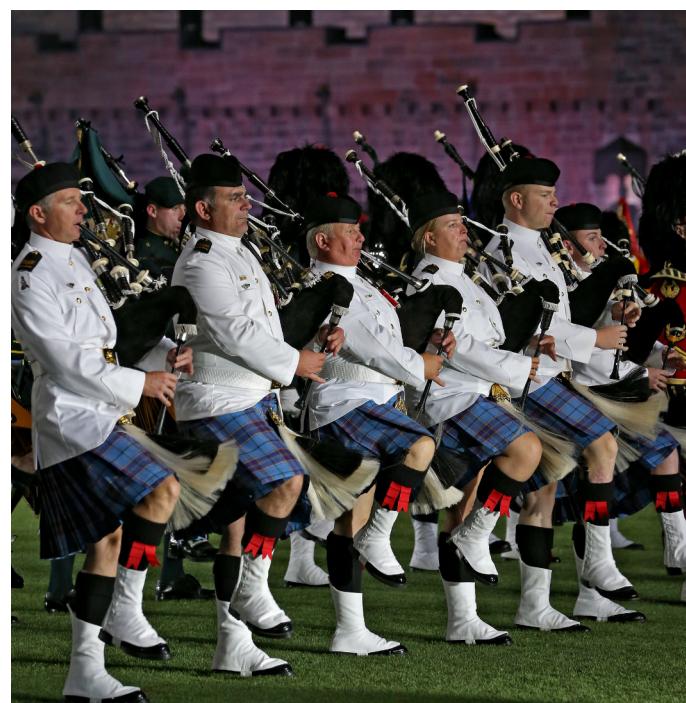
It promotes the importance of armed forces in society and the talent of military musicians from around the world.

Participation in the Tattoo allows Australia to promote the important relationships it holds with each of the participating nations.

Lance Corporal Kate Moyle said the pipe band scene in Australia was strong.

"I haven't had the opportunity to travel to Edinburgh just yet," Lance Corporal Moyle said.

"It is incredible that the Tattoo has come to Australia and I get the opportunity to represent the ADF at this iconic event."



75 YEARS ON

ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the commencement of the 1951 National Service Scheme.

On 14 February 2026, we will commemorate this milestone with a national commemorative service in the Great Hall at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra on National Servicemen's Day, honouring the more than 280,000 Australian men who were called up for national service in the 1951–1959 and 1965–1972 schemes.

National servicemen, also known as 'Nashos', were an integral part of our armed forces during the 1950s, 60s and 70s, serving in Australia, Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam and in the waters off the Korean peninsula.

Whether their service included deployment overseas, or on home soil, each and every national serviceman contributed to the defence of our nation and we acknowledge their dedication to duty and commitment to serve.

On National Servicemen's Day, we invite veterans, families and community members to come together and attend the national commemorative service in Canberra.

The service will be broadcast live on ABC iView for those unable to attend in person.

Whether you're attending the national commemorative service in Canberra, watching at home, or taking part in local community events, we encourage you to honour the service and sacrifice of national servicemen in a way that is personal to you.

A unique way you can share in the commemorative spirit is through a personal reflection to our Wall of Remembrance. The 'Wall' is a living, evolving, community-led tribute for all Australians to share a reflection or memory of a loved one connected to the Australian Defence Force. As National Servicemen's Day approaches, we invite you to share yours.

For more information about the national commemorative service, including accessibility and transport options, and to register your attendance (for free), please visit dva.gov.au/Nashos75



REGISTRATION FOR TICKETS TO INTERNATIONAL ANZAC DAY SERVICES NOW OPEN

Since the first Anzac Day was observed in 1916, 25 April is a time for all Australians to recognise the more than 1.5 million service men and women who have served our country in all conflicts, wars and peacekeeping operations.

Attending an international Anzac Day Dawn Service is a meaningful opportunity for Australians to come together and commemorate Australia's wartime history on the very lands where these events took place.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery.

In France, the Dawn Service will be held at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux. An Australian Service will be held later in the afternoon at the 'Digger' Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt.

Those planning to attend the international Anzac Day Dawn Services in Türkiye or France will need to register for an attendance pass for entry. It's free and now available online at commemorations.teg.com.au.

DVA also supports Anzac Day Dawn Services in Sandakan (Malaysia), Hellfire Pass (Thailand) and Isurava on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea.

Those not attending an international Anzac Day Dawn Service in person can share in the commemorative spirit by watching the live ABC broadcast of the Türkiye and France services.

We encourage Australians travelling overseas to become familiar with the entry requirements for each country and stay up to date with the latest travel advice via smartraveller.gov.au.

More information on all overseas services is available at dva.gov.au.





Veterans Cards

If you have served in the ADF, you can apply for the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant (the Covenant). The Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families.

The Covenant

The Covenant is a way we show respect and recognise your military service.

Through the Covenant you may get:

- a Veteran Card
- a Lapel Pin
- the Oath

You can apply for the Covenant if you served in the ADF as a:

- permanent member, or
- reservist

You may be able to get some or all of the Covenant items depending on your service type.

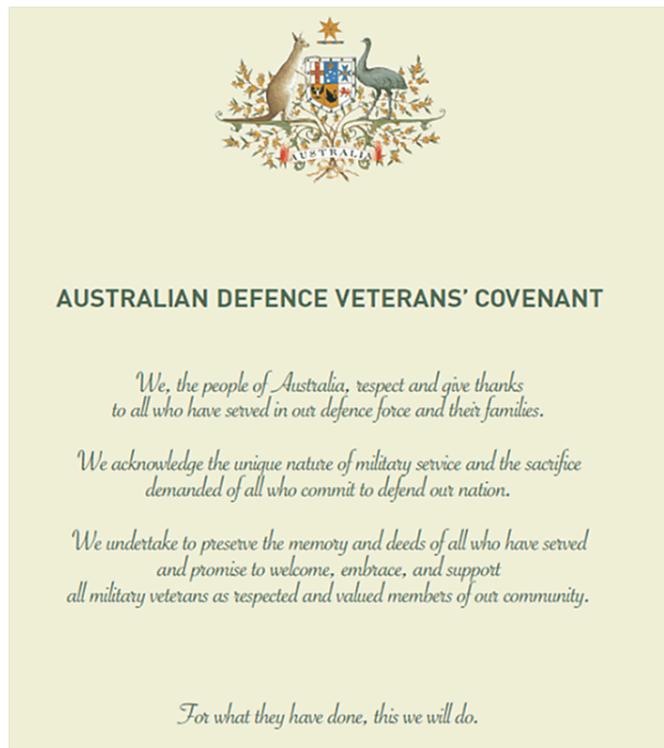
Community support for the Covenant

Community groups and businesses may support the Covenant in different ways:

- businesses may offer discounts
- employers may promote the recognition of the professional skills and experience of veterans when hiring
- community groups and ex-service organisations may provide support to veterans



Lapel Pin



Oath



Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs

DVA Contact Numbers

Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: 1300 550 017

Provider enquiries: 1800 550 457

Transport bookings: 1800 550 455

Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC): 1800 552 580

Hearing or speech impairment assistance

If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

Talk To You (TTY) users phone 1800 555 677 then ask for 1800 838 372

Speak and Listen users phone 1800 555 727 then ask for 1800 838 372

Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 1800 838 372

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 and Territories are listed below:

TELEPHONE: 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

INTERNATIONAL CALLERS: +61 2 6289 1133

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Health Approvals & Home Care Section

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

CLAIM ENQUIRIES: 1300 550 017 (Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- Step 1: Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- Step 2: Supply the documents you need to;
- Step 3: Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

CLAIMS PROGRESS

As at 31 October 2025, DVA had 89,597 claims on hand, comprised of 22,820 unallocated claims and 66,777 claims being processed.

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

DVA received 39,032 claims

DVA made 36,099 determinations

For all claims on hand including older claims being processed the average TTTP for MRCA IL was 333 days, up from 304 days in the previous FYTD. The median TTTP was 271 days.

There have already been some significant improvements in processing timeframes for new IL claims received and determined within the last 12 months.

For claims received within the last 12 months, the average TTTP for MRCA IL was 110 days. The median TTTP was 96 days.

OPEN ARMS

Veterans & Families Counselling

Open Arms provides mental health and wellbeing support to anyone who has served at least one day of continuous fulltime service in the ADF and their immediate families.

1800 011 046



SAFE ZONE SUPPORT

Free and anonymous counselling line for all current and ex-serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

1800 142 072

DEFENCE FAMILY HELPLINE

Available 24/7 or online at www.defence.gov.au/members-families/defence-helpline.asp. Staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

1800 628 036

DEFENCE ALL HOURS SUPPORT LINE

24/7 confidential telephone service for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families to facilitate access to ADF or civilian mental health services.

1800 628 036