

The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 7 Once Navy, Always Navy

August 2025



Exercise Talisman

Sabre 2025 is being conducted across Australia from 13 July to 04 August. More than 40,000 military personnel from 19 nations will participate in Talisman Sabre 2025, primarily in Queensland but also in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, and for the first time, offshore activities will be conducted in Papua New Guinea. Talisman Sabre is the largest Australia-US bilaterally planned, multilaterally conducted exercise and a key opportunity to work with likeminded partners from across the region and around the world. Canada, France, Fiji, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand,

(Continued on page 5)

A RAAF C-27J Spartan makes a Maritime Air Delivery (MAD) to HMNZS Te Kaha off the coast of Queensland, Australia during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.

Photos: PO Isaac Inwood-Reardon

Events coming up

8 Aug HMAS Canberra Memorial Service Kings Park Memorial near the Carillion
18 Aug Last Post AWM LCDR Patrick Vikers Vietnam 22 February 1968
29 Aug Last Post AWM Ord Sea Bernard Gay HMAS Armidale 8 Dec 1942
2 Sep Last Post AWM 80th Anniversary End of WWII



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

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Naval Association of Australia ACT Section Founded 1, July 1944

Founded 1 July 1944

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

2025

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

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

President's Note

Members will be aware we have our HMAS Canberra (I)
Memorial Service on Friday 08
August 2025, at the memorial in King's Park (near the Carillon) commencing at 1100.

Details will be provided at our August Section Meeting (Thursday 07 Aug 25) as to the lengthy deliberations with the National Capital Authority (NCA) as to the funding requirements of an unforeseen and unprecedented requirement for the services of an ACT accredited Traffic Controller and Signage near and in the vicinity of our 2025 Service.

All has been resolved for this year but it has been very challenging. This year we will have 20 Midshipmen from ADFA attending the Service so I would hope as many of you as possible will be there to represent our NAA Section.

David Manolas
President
ACT Section NAA

Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 7 August 2025

King's Crown approved for RAN Badge

Defence has begun updating digital images, brand marks and logos bearing Queen Elizabeth II's St Edward's Crown after service chiefs approved new versions featuring King Charles III's Tudor Crown.

The new pattern comes into effect from August 1. Digital uses, including website, intranet pages, social media platforms, Microsoft Office templates, Outlook signatures and brand guidelines, will be among the first to be updated.

The rollout will occur in phases across Defence groups and services, aligning with the King's wish to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

Uniform updates will occur gradually, as stock runs out and opportunities arise, and will be aligned with the evolving design for each uniform type.

Most units are expected to receive the updated branding within the year.

The last change to Defence's royal symbol occurred in 1952, following Queen Elizabeth II's accession, with the St Edward's Crown

incorporated into Navy's Ceremonial Badge on December 3, 1957.

Chief of Navy Vice-Admiral Mark Hammond approved the updated Navy Badge, featuring the Tudor Crown.

Manager Navy Badges Paul Burnett said both versions of the Monarch's crowns were endorsed royal symbols, and the St Edward's Crown was a valid symbol of Navy's royal warrant until replaced.

Mr Burnett said the design was a chance to revise the placement of the Navy Badge and Navy brand within the wider Defence environment.

He said it offered a chance to refresh promotional materials and corporate templates, and reflected the ongoing refocusing of Navy directions and intents.

Badges for inactive units will continue to reflect the pattern in use at the time of disbanding.

Veterans can earn more before pensions affected

21 July 2025

The veteran's guide to living in an aged care home is designed to assist and support veterans and families living in an aged care home.

The guide and related resources describe the support available for clients and their families through DVA, ex-service organisations and other advocacy services to enable them to live well when living in an aged care home.

The focus is on recognition, the importance of lifestyle, accessing clinically needed supports and remaining connected to friends, family and community when living in an aged care facility.

The guide and related resources include:

- information on developing care plans with your aged care provider
- accessing DVA supports and services that meet the client's needs

- resources to help aged care staff gain a better understanding of the veteran's or war widow(er)'s life experience
- a set of recognition products with a poppy motif that DVA clients can choose to display in their residential aged care home.

Designed in collaboration with aged care providers, peak bodies and those with lived experience, the guide is easy to read, informative and tailored specifically for the use of veterans, families and their carers

In addition to the veteran's guide, DVA has also published resources to help residential aged care providers, and their teams better understand the unique needs of DVA clients, and the additional support that may be available to them.

The veterans guide will be mailed out to DVA Veteran Gold Card and Veteran White Card Holders living in residential aged care, along with a letter from the Repatriation Commissioner.

Veterans can earn more before pensions affected

1 July 2025

From 1 July 2025, veterans can earn more, and the value of their assets can be higher, before their pension payments are affected.

The rise in income and asset amounts is in line with the annual indexation process and the income free areas and asset value limits that are used to calculate rates of income support pensions.

Different limits may apply for veterans who are assessed under transitional rules. Disability compensation payments and war widow(er)'s pensions are not subject to the income and assets tests.

Related to these thresholds increasing, some recipients of the service pension, income support supplement, veteran payment and social security age pension may see an increase to their payments.

Permanent impairment payments, eligible young person payments and the limits for household services and attendant care under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) have increased.

Pensioners don't need to do anything to receive the increase.

The table below outlines the new limits and thresholds for income support payments and new MRCA and DRCA rates. For more information, including a summary of the new income and asset thresholds, pension rates and allowances please visit the DVA payment rates page.

DVA

| New maximum limits and thresholds from 1 July 2025 | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Amount of income an income support recipient may receive before their pension is reduced | Single rate (fortnightly) | Couples rate - combined (fortnightly) |
| Service or Age Pension | \$ 218.00 | \$ 380.00 |
| Income Support Supplement (War Widow(er)'s Pension is included in these amounts)* | \$ 1,792.60 | \$ 2,411.60 |
| Maximum value of assets a person can have before their pension is affected | | |
| Service or Age Pension | | |
| Homeowner | \$ 321,500.00 | \$ 481,500.00 |
| Non-homeowner | \$ 579,500.00 | \$ 739,500.00 |
| Income Support Supplement* | | |
| Homeowner | \$ 584,000.00 | \$ 820,500.00 |
| Non-homeowner | \$ 842,000.00 | \$ 1,078,500.00 |
| Deeming threshold | \$ 64,200.00 | \$ 106,200.00 |
| MRCA rates | New Rate (Weekly) | |
| Maximum Permanent Impairment amount | \$ 431.84 | |
| Maximum rate of Household Services | \$ 611.46 | |
| Maximum rate of Attendant Care | \$ 611.46 | |
| Dependent eligible young person | \$ 184.90 | |
| DRCA rates | New Rate (Lump Sum) | |
| Maximum lump sum permanent impairment | \$ 323,722.77 | |
| | New Rate (Weekly) | |
| Maximum household services | \$ 588.55 | |
| Maximum attendant care service | \$ 588.55 | |
| Death dependent child | \$ 182.68 | |

12 July 2025

Exercise Talisman Sabre is the largest exercise conducted in Australia. Talisman Sabre is bilaterally designed between Australia and the United States, and is a multilaterally planned and conducted exercise.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25) will be the 11th and largest iteration of the exercise. It will consist of a live fire exercise, and field training exercises incorporating force preparation activities, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, and air combat and maritime operations.

Forces will be moving into Australian training areas from mid-July 2025.

Participants

Exercise Talisman Sabre continues to grow, with 19 nations invited to participate in this iteration. The exercise is a key opportunity to work with partners from across the region and around the globe.

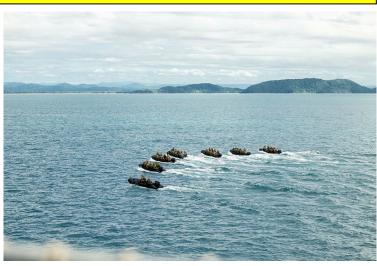
The exact number of personnel and types of equipment are still being planned, but it is expected the exercise will be similar to past iterations in scale and complexity.

Locations

TS25 will utilise a number of locations, including both Defence and non-Defence training areas. These locations provide a realistic test of how a

Above and below: Personnel from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment depart the vehicle deck of HMAS Choules to conduct amphibious operations as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.

Photo: LSIS Lauren Pugsley



large military force should function in a broad area of operations. TS25 will leverage locations and ranges for all domains of military operations: air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace. Exact locations are still being planned and will be updated as they become available.

Community engagement

Defence consults with local governments, land owners and emergency services to help plan all field training exercises, including TS25. This engagement will occur with dedicated Defence liaison officers on location to ensure community communication.

Some community impacts expected during TS25 are:

- Large military vehicle convoys will be on public roads, including major highways and country roads.
- RAAF Bases will experience increased military air traffic during TS25. Notices of flying dates and timeframes will be published publicly.
- Closures of waters and airspace in vicinity of (Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 1)

Tonga, and the United Kingdom are all participating in Talisman Sabre 2025.

Occurring every two years, Talisman Sabre reflects the closeness of our alliance and strength of our enduring military relationship with the United States and also our commitment to working with likeminded partners in the region. Now in its eleventh iteration, Talisman Sabre provides an opportunity to exercise our combined capabilities to conduct high-end, multi-domain warfare, to build and affirm our military-to-military ties and interoperability, and strengthen our strategic partnerships.

(Continued from page 5)

training areas (including non-Defence Training Areas) will be communicated via notices to mariners and notices to airmen respectively. Temporary restrictions to airspace will apply for some activities. Yachts, fishing vessels and aircraft operating are asked to heed these notices and maintain a safe distance from military training.

In non-Defence Training Areas, TS25 will involve the use of weapons and blank ammunition. Public safety is of utmost importance, and all required risk reduction measures will be taken. The public should not handle weapons or touch ammunition and ordnance.

Safety management

Defence conducts site surveys to plan TS25 activities in a safe way that maximises training objectives and minimises possible impacts.

The management and control measures to restrict public access to the training areas used throughout

TS25 are designed to keep the community and exercise participants safe.

Defence will work with local communities to ensure access around training areas is clearly marked and easily identified.

Environmental management

Defence will protect threatened species, migratory species and marine mammals through a comprehensive framework of risk mitigation procedures ensuring compliance with relevant legislation.

An environmental management group will be on location throughout TS25 to ensure incident management and resolution occurs.

All foreign equipment, stores and ammunition being brought into Australia will be subject to biosecurity inspection.

Economic contributions

TS25 is expected to have a positive economic impact on local communities with Defence actively employing multiple local service providers injecting millions of dollars into communities nationally.





The ADF has expanded its naval rearmament capability in Northern Australia, rearming a Canadian warship. This is the second rearmament of a Canadian warship in Northern Australia, and the first in Darwin. HMCS Ville de Québec was rearmed with conventional munitions while supporting Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS 25). This 2025 rearmament activity was conducted with the aid of the Royal Australian Air Force, Australian Army, Australian and Canadian ammunition -loading experts,

Left: An RGM-84 Harpoon missile is manoeuvered aboard HMCS Ville de Québec in Darwin

Photo: CPL Brendan Gamache

Dog watch on board HMAS Canberra

20 July 2025

Charlie, an explosive detection dog with the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, and his handler Sapper Brandon Subloo, have embarked on *Canberra* for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025. It is the first time the pair have been on board a warship and they are excited to be here.

"I'm really liking it on a ship and it's really nice how happy people are to see a dog and how we can bring up the mood by just walking around," Sapper Subloo said.

He and Charlie have the opportunity to work domestically and internationally to support the ADF and civilian agencies in detection of improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance.

"Basically, we are a rapid and independent capability that attaches to help engineers and the infantry in expedited searches of areas, buildings, routes and vehicles," he said.

For Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, Charlie and Sapper Subloo are participating in amphibious assault operations in the Cowley Beach Training Area in Queensland to clear unexploded ordnance for the successive waves of Australian troops and Japanese marines.

Charlie and Sapper Subloo have been together for two years; Charlie will retire from service at the end of the year and his handler will receive a new partner.

'I was a normal combat engineer before I specialised as a dog handler. It took me two years, and it was the best thing I ever did.'

The good news is that Charlie will enjoy retirement

at home with Sapper Subloo.

Reflecting on the totality of his time in Army, Sapper Subloo said being a dog handler was the pinnacle.

"I was a normal combat engineer before I specialised as a dog handler. It took me two years, and it was the best thing I ever did," he said.

"I don't think a lot of people realise you spend every living moment with your dog in this role, and when you're having a bad day your dog is always there for you to bring your mood up.

"It will be a challenge having a new dog. But it will also be rewarding as there's something new every day which I like."

For training dogs, Sapper Subloo recommends mealtime as the dogs are hungry and they will do what they can for rewards.

But on *Canberra*, the question everyone has been asking is: where does Charlie go to the bathroom?

"Charlie has a spot on the forecastle, on command, on a little mat," Sapper Subloo explained, adding that he was also responsible for carrying all of Charlie's food, water and first aid kit.

Sapper Subloo wryly commented that no one remembered his name, only Charlie's, but he was

Below: A Republic of Korea Navy officer plays with Australian Army Explosive Detection Dog Charlie during a equipment showcase on board HMAS Canberra off the coast of Queensland during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025

Photo: LSIS Connor Morrison



Multinational Task Group sea power display

23 July 2025

Combined Task Group 628.1 (CTG628) has completed force preparation in anticipation of the next stage of Exercise Talisman Sabre 25.

Thirteen warships conducted intricate officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres as they positioned the extensive force of the amphibious assault ships, escorting frig-

ates and destroyers into a close 'arrowhead formation' to conduct an aerial PHOTEX (photo exercise).

In a dominant display of amphibious sea power, CTG 628.1 presents a formidable force capable of rapidly deploying to deal with any of the multiple potential challenges in our region.

The battlegroups are comprised of two amphibious task groups and two escort groups, consisting of over six thousand sailors, soldiers and aviators.

The Combined Task Group has now completed an extensive preparation phase including amphibious wet and dry environmental rehearsals, maritime geospatial and mine counter measures, surface warfare serials, anti-submarine warfare exercises with HMAS *Farncomb*, naval gun fire support and air defence exercises with the Royal Australian Air Force.

CTG628.1 now pivots in anticipation of increased tempo of high-end warfighting and complex amphibious operations in the coming days.

'We are highly capable in all forms of maritime warfare. We are deeply knowledgeable in our craft. We are practised, we are lethal, and we are ready.'



Commander Australian Amphibious Task Force Captain Chris Doherty said he was extremely pleased with the progressive integration with our multinational partners.

"Amphibious Task Group 1 is a critical part of CTG 628.1 and comprises the amphibious platforms ROKS *Marado*, HMAS *Canberra* and HMAS *Choules*; supported by our escort group of USS *Higgins*, ROKS *Geok* and FNS *Vendemiaire*," Captain Doherty said.

"We are highly capable in all forms of maritime warfare. We are deeply knowledgeable in our craft. We are practised, we are lethal, and we are ready."

Commander Landing Forces, Colonel Judd Finger, agreed Amphibious Task Group 1 was poised ready to strike.

"Navigating language, doctrine and cultural challenges, the force has worked incredibly hard to combine our skills, increase our knowledge, and find innovative solutions to the problems that invariably confront us," Colonel Judd said.

And with high-end amphibious warfighting just over the horizon, these Battle Groups are now ready for the next stage of the Exercise.



Above: Ships front to back: Norwegian warship HNoMS Roald Amundsen, HMS Prince of Wales, Australian warship HMAS Sydney, with an F-35B taking off from HMS Prince of Wales.

Left: HMAS Sydney transits as part of the double carrier formation, UK Carrier Strike Group, led by HMS Prince of Wales and US Navy's George Washington Carrier Strike Group,

Photos: Defence

UK shows off military might as Carrier Strike Group arrives in Darwin

22 July 2025

The UK's Carrier Strike Group has arrived in Darwin as it undergoes an eight-month deployment to showcase its commitment to the security of the Indo-Pacific.

Ahead of the fleet's arrival Britain's new High Commissioner Dame Sarah MacIntosh talked up the UK-Australia partnership as an "anchor relationship in a dangerous world".

The prosperity and stability of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions were "indivisible," she said.

"We are in an era of radical uncertainty, to be navigated with agility, speed and clarity."

Operation Highmast, led by Royal Navy flagship HMS Prince of Wales, embarked on its mission to the Pacific and Australia in late April as a signal of the British Government's intent to maintain a presence in the Indo-Pacific despite the war in Ukraine on Europe's doorstep.

The international Task Group is made up of five core ships, 24 F-35 fighter jets, and 17 helicopters, centred around the UK's flagship aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales.

Its deployment follows a British Government commitment to hike defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2027, raising it well above Australia's projected target of 2.33 per cent by 2033.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer went even further in June, pledging to boost Britain's overall defence and security spending to five per cent of economic output by 2035 to meet a NATO target – the highest level since the Cold War.

Australia's Government has so far refused to follow its UK ally to lift its spending any higher, deferring to a defence review next year and a "needs-based" approach despite pressure from the Trump administration to pour 3.5 per cent of GDP into defence spending.

Nicola Smith
THE NIGHTLY

Politics

16 Jul 2025

The participation of the UK's Carrier Strike Group in Australia's multinational exercise Talisman Sabre comes alongside Britain's renewed commitment to the \$368 billion trilateral AUKUS program to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia.

British AUKUS envoy Sir Stephen Lovegrove told the Australian Strategic Policy Institute earlier this month that London viewed AUKUS as a "momentous collaboration" between three allies, playing down fears about an ongoing Pentagon review of the landmark project.

More than 3,000 UK personnel are taking part in Talisman Sabre, the largest military exercise Australia has ever hosted, with the participation of 19 countries in total, including the United States.



Above: RN F-35B Lightning fighter Below: HMS Prince of Wales berthing at HMAS Coonawarra . Darwin



Right Three Australian Army High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launch rockets at Shoalwater Bay Training Area

Photos: Defence





Above: A German Air Force (Luftwaffe) pilot waves from the flight deck of an A400M Altas, as it taxis on the flight line at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland, prior to the commencement of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025.

Right: A United States Coast Guard vessel heads out on patrol from HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin





Above: HMAS Canberra assigned to the Australian Amphibious Force - Amphibious Task Group 1 (ATG-1) in the Cowley Beach Training Area off the coast of Queensland

Below: A United States Air Force KC-46 Pegasus tanker taxis at RAAF Base Darwin during Exercise Talisman Sabre 25



HMAS Sydney—Regional Presence Deployment 25-2.

The Royal Australian Navy is undertaking its second regional presence deployment for 2025. From late March until early July, HMAS Sydney will sail throughout the Indo-Pacific to conduct training, exercises and other engagements with regional navies. Regional presence deployments play a vital role in Australia's long-term security and prosperity by protecting our interests, preserving a rule-based international order, enhancing cooperation and relationships with partners and allies, and developing capability and interoperability

Right: Officers and sailors on board HMAS Sydney in Darwin Harbour after completing their overseas Regional Presence Deployment.

Below: (L-R) HMAS Sydney and Spanish Navy frigate Mendez Nunez conduct officer of the watch manoeuvres during Regional Presence Deployment 25-2.

Photos: Defence





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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR.

Social Program

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

2025

21 Aug Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
18 Sep Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
16 Oct Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
20 Nov Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
4 Dec Christmas Lunch

Bev Joce

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

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

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

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

DVA email for prior financial authorisation: health.approval@dva.gov.au

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

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim





A Happy Birthday to you August 2025

Joe Slaats

Jim Quick

Toby Selby

Oliver Jurd

Legal Aid for Veterans

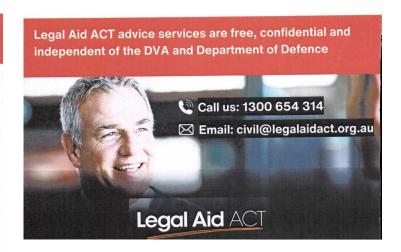
Have you or your partner:

- · 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.

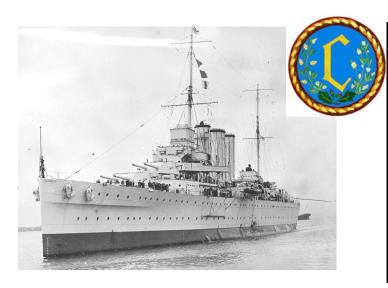




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The Bosun's Call Vol 30 No 7



HMAS Canberra (I)
Memorial Service

Friday 8 August 2025 near Kings Park Carillion

Commencing 1100