



The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 1

Once Navy, Always Navy

February 2025

President's Message

6.00pm 24 December 2024

Colleagues,

On Christmas eve it is my heartfelt hope that we will all enjoy a Festive Season of joy and thanksgiving together with our loved-ones and friends. Merry Christmas to you all and may the New Year bring us all kindred fellowship and good fortune in our shared endeavours in the service of our members.

With my very best wishes,

David



Season's

Greetings



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

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

Office Bearers 2024

President	David Manolas	0427 504 564
Vice President	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
Secretary	Alan Masters	02 6281 5630
Treasurer	Alaric O'Neill;	

Committee Members

Welfare	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
Membership	Peter Cooke-Russell	0412 757 505
	John Small	02 6258 1216
	Tiger Lyons	02 6254 3453
	Pauline Gribble	

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

Contact Details

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

The Secretary ACT Section

NAA ACT Section
26 Nelson Place,
CURTIN ACT 2605.

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

Membership Registrar/BC Editor

peter.cookerussell@gmail.com
0412 757 505

General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

2025

6 Feb Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Mar Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Mar AGM Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1400
3 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
1 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 Jun Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Aug Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Sep Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Oct Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

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

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

Vale

Merle Joyce Burn

23 June 1933 – 31 December 2024

Honorary Member for Life

Editor's Note

My sincere apologies for the absence of the Bosun's Call issue for December/January 2024/5.

Unfortunately I fell over in the car park at the Florey shops on the 23 November and wound up in the Cardiac section of North Canberra Hospital (Calvary). I underwent heart surgery in mid December in the Macquarie University Hospital in Sydney and have been in the recovery mode since then.

In retrospect it was a lucky day, Had I reached my car and driven out of the car park, having a black out whilst driving could have led to a very different result.

Best wishes to you all for 2025.

Peter

**Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 6 February 2025**

Government's response to the Royal Commission's Final Report

2 December 2024

Overview

On 2 December 2024, the Government provided its response to the [Royal Commission's Final Report](#), which was tabled by the Government on 9 September. The Report marked the culmination of the most comprehensive inquiry ever conducted into suicide and suicidality in the Defence and veteran communities.

The Government has accepted the overwhelming majority of the Final Report's recommendations and will address the issues identified by the Royal Commission through a wide-ranging and substantial program of reform.

At the outset, the Government has highlighted the central importance of establishing a new statutory oversight body to drive system reform in response to recommendation 122, and work will begin immediately.

- It will provide independent oversight and evidence-based advice to improve suicide prevention and drive better outcomes for serving and ex-serving ADF personnel.
- As an independent statutory body, its work will be ongoing.

The Government will establish a Taskforce within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to ensure the implementation of the Government's reform package. The Taskforce will prioritise actions to ensure the immediate health and safety of Defence personnel and veterans, including the implementation of recommendations to address sexual misconduct and unacceptable behaviour. It will draw on expertise from across Government.

Importantly, the Government has funded DVA to begin consultation with the veteran community on the establishment of a new DVA agency with a focus on wellbeing, and the establishment of a peak body for ex-service organisations.

The Government's response does not mark the end of the work that must be done to drive down veteran suicide. Rather, it marks the beginning of a substantial and long-term program of reform across Defence, DVA and the veteran support system more broadly.

We will continue to work in partnership with Defence, other agencies and the veteran community to make the most of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to achieve meaningful change.

Some of the recommendations are large, complex and intersecting.

Reform will take time, and this is the start of a reform process however we are committed to moving forward with the Government Response.

DVA is committed to listening to feedback and suggestions from the veteran community to ensure we get this reform right.

We will share more information as the implementation process moves forward.

We thank everyone who bravely told their story and came forward to give their evidence to the Royal Commission. Their courage made a difference and will continue to do so.

We also thank the Commissioners for their work.

[Australian Government Response](#)

Cyclone Tracy—Book Review

CYCLONE WARRIORS: THE ARMED FORCES AND CYCLONE TRACY DECEMBER 1974-JUNE 1975

By **DR TOM LEWIS** *Avonmore Books*; \$39.95

BEYOND OFFICIAL REPORTS, this story of the ADF's role in saving Darwin has never been told as a well-researched narrative. *Cyclone Warriors* redresses that oversight. The author, Tom Lewis, lived in Darwin while still serving in the Navy and remained as resident for many years afterwards. His body of work on the bombing of Darwin in 1942 is complemented by *Cyclone Warriors* which reminds those who remember Cyclone Tracy, and reveals to those who do not, the scale of the destruction wrought on an unprepared town and its residents about to celebrate Christmas in 1974.

The three separate services, RAN, Army and RAAF, would not be badged collectively as the ADF until 1976, but they operated effectively as a joint command in the first days and weeks of this civil emergency. They were subordinate to the newly formed and very small Federal National Disasters Organisation, not under martial law but as military aid to the civil power.

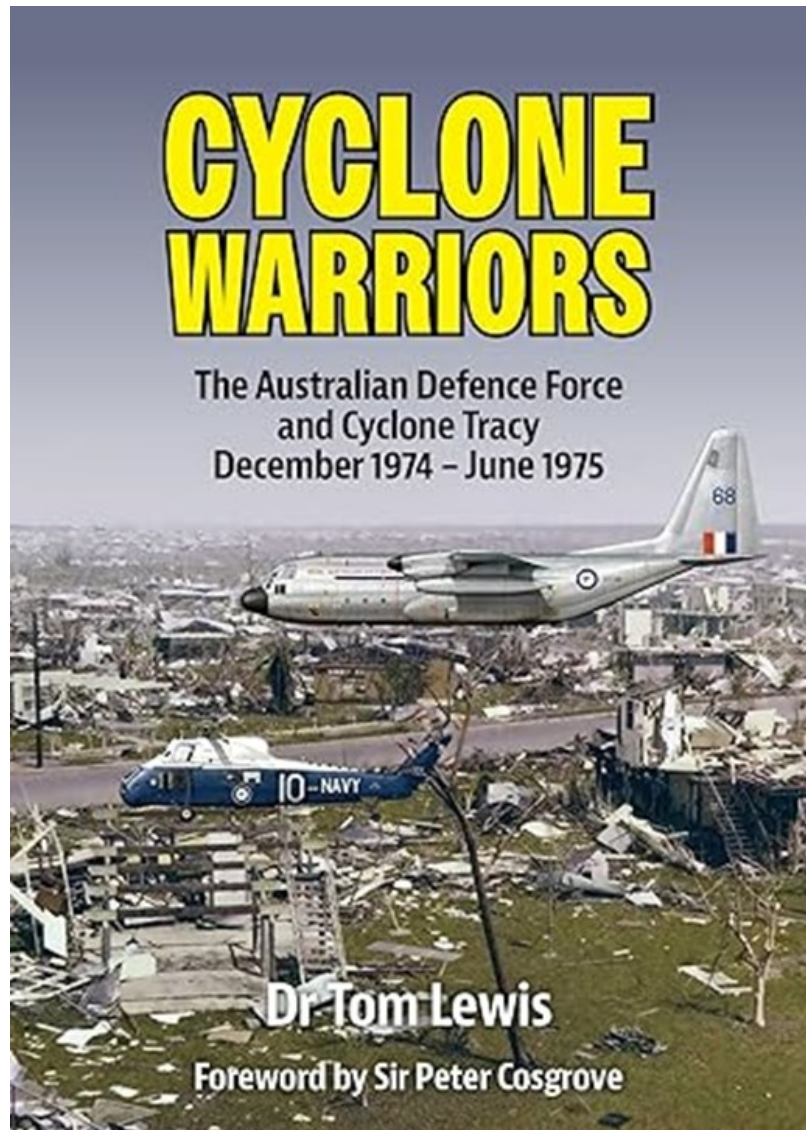
Cyclone Warriors concentrates on the first intense period of rescue in January and February 1975, but also points out that the Army stayed on undertaking infrastructure recovery until May, and did a superb job of reconstruction that enabled civilian contractors to rebuild the much more resilient Darwin that exists today.

Cyclone Warriors is a good social history and a reminder that, on this island continent, in an age of climate change, we can expect severe and unpredictable natural events which will test the limits of the state and federal agencies, including the ADF. They will no doubt be expected to emulate in skill, hardihood and endurance those who responded when Tracy blew in, just in time for Christmas, half a century ago.

Review By LCDR Des Woods RAN Rtd

Utube

[Home | Cyclone Warriors](#)



Editor's Note

The back cover of the book states in part:

"Cyclone Tracy was one of the most damaging disasters to ever impact Australia. The story of the terrible night ... has been told before, but the involvement of the Australian Defence Force has been under-emphasised."

"The book argues strongly that the National Emergency Medal should be bestowed on all uniformed people involved, including civilian such as police, and that a prominent and fitting memorial be established in Darwin"

In 2022 the Naval Association supported a group of naval veterans who sought recognition for their contribution to the relief of Darwin immediately after it was hit by Cyclone Tracy. The proposal was supported by the Northern Territory's Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles in June 2022, A letter was sent in August 2022 to the Northern Territory's member of the House of Representatives for the electorate of Solomon, the Hon Luke Gosling OAM . A reply was not received.



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT.. 0008
Chief.minister@NT.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801
Telephone 08
Facsimile 08 89

Mr Russell Pettis
Editor
White Ensign Magazine
Naval Association of Australia
21 Centenary Avenue
MELTON VIC 3337

Dear Mr Pettis

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting support in recognising the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel who worked in Darwin during Operation Navy Help 1975, by way of retrospectively awarding the National Emergency Medal

Remaining until 31 January 1975, the RAN provided up to 1200 personnel every day to assist in restoring infrastructure and rebuilding the city. It is therefore not inconsequential that the Lord Mayor of Darwin, Mr Harry Tiger Brennan later said: "We owe the Navy the greatest debt of .all,"

There is no doubt that without the significant contribution of Navy personnel during Cyclone Tracy and in the clean up after the devastation, the recovery of civilian order and hope for the future for Territorians may have taken a longer time to achieve.

In considering your request for support, I understand that in order to achieve your aspiration of having Cyclone Tracy recognised as a nationally significant emergency, amendment to the National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011 (the Regulations) is required.

The appropriate authority to achieve this action lies with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. In response to your request for support, I have written to the Prime Minister advocating a reconsideration of the Regulations governing the eligibility criteria for the National Emergency Medal.

I understand that you have engaged with Mr Luke Gosling MP, Member for Solomon, who is an ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) member and as such, a keen advocate for ADF personnel recognition, where appropriate. I believe that Mr Gosling will be an enthusiastic and key stakeholder in your plan to achieve this recognition.

I wish you every success in your endeavours.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natasha".

NATASHA FYLES-

9 Jun 2022



THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL

Patron in Chief Her Majesty the Queen

Patron: His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC FTSE

2 August 2022

The Honourable Luke Gosling OAM MP
Member for Solomon
House of Representatives
PO Box 43300
Casuarina NT 0810

Dear Mr Gosling,

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

The Naval Association of Australia (NAA) has supported a campaign by naval veterans ,who participated in Operation Darwin Navy Help in 1975 to assist Darwin to recover after the devastation of Cyclone Tracy, to be officially recognised by the Australian Government for their contribution. The promulgation of the National Emergency Medal (NEM) in 2011 has created the ideal vehicle to provide that recognition. However as the naval veterans group have approached Government Agencies and some politicians to seek their support, they have been greeted with a range of negative responses including:

- The matter was too long ago (1975) for action now.
- The NEM was promulgated in 2011 and is not a retrospective award.
- It requires political sponsorship as the Act covering the NEM - *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011*-needs to be amended in the Federal Parliament. There was a reluctance to be involved.

The impact of Cyclone Tracy was devastating and as a Temtorian, I am sure you are aware of the pain and suffering the damage caused to both people and property was horrendous. As the Chief Minister mentions in her letter (attached), the City of Darwin owes the Navy the greatest debt of all I have attached papers describing the work done by all ADF Agencies in supporting the immediate aftermath of the Cyclone and we believe there is a clear case to award the NEM or equivalent to all parties involved in the Operation Navy Darwin Help in 1975.

It is the request of the NAA that consideration be actively pursued to amend the NEM Regulations to facilitate the award of the NEM to all those ADF and civilian service personnel who actively participated in the recovery operation , based on eligibility criteria to be established. We are asking your office to work with us to facilitate passage of the amendments necessary through the Federal Parliament to allow special circumstances to be considered and subject to parliamentary approval.

The 50th anniversary of the Cyclone Tracy disaster will occur in December 2025 and the NAA feels it would be a fitting tribute, from a grateful nation , to award the NEM to those personnel who answered the call for help, during the annual Christmas leave period. They returned to their ships and crash sailed for Darwin from Sydney, via Brisbane and Townsville with only a few hours preparation. Upon arrival they were confronted with the horrific aftermath of the Cyclone and subsequently spent weeks securing and making Darwin safe.

I think you would agree that it is a very worthwhile cause and we are seeking your full support for the campaign. It is noteworthy that Captain Bob Dagworthy RAN Rtd. is a current member of the NM and he was the Commanding Officer of HMAS ARROW , the Patrol Boat sunk in Darwin Harbour during the cyclone with sadly, the loss of life.

On behalf of more than 3000 people, the NM is keen to find a positive outcome for this most deserving situation. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Whilst the NM does not have an active organisation in Darwin at the moment . our National President resides in the Greater Canberra area and would be happy to meet with you when you are next in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

D Manolas
National President

R Pettis
National Secretary

Defence

Remembering Cyclone Tracy 50 years on

It has been 50 years since Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974. The Category 4 cyclone, with winds over 217km/h, damaged 70 per cent of Darwin's homes, leaving 41,000 people homeless.

Almost the entire city was uninhabitable.

The event resulted in 66 fatalities, including two Navy personnel from HMAS *Arrow* – Petty Officer Leslie Catton and Able Seaman Ian Rennie – and four Naval dependents (two wives and two children who were killed in the married quarters while their loved ones were on duty). About 145 people were seriously injured and more than 500 left with minor injuries.

Survivors of *Arrow* told of the Darwin Harbour conditions when Tracy struck, of mountainous seas whipped up by 170-knot winds into “crashing dumpers” and ships sinking all around them.

Australia's armed forces soon rallied from around the country, reporting to their place of duty, often without orders.

Australia's Navy launched its largest peacetime disaster relief operation, involving 13 ships and 11 aircraft.

Then Defence Minister Lance Barnard said Navy had capacity to provide a skilled workforce in Darwin without imposing on the city's limited facilities.

“Because of this, the Navy has been chosen for the major task of restoring Darwin's essential services and clearing up the worst hit suburbs,” he said.

Australia's armed forces soon rallied from around the country, reporting to their place of duty, often without orders.

The first Navy asset to reach Darwin was an HS748 aircraft on December 26, delivering medical equipment and Red Cross workers. Additional ships and aircraft quickly followed.

HS748 aircraft ferried personnel and stores to Darwin and evacuees south.

The task force undertook massive relief efforts, clearing debris, repairing homes and restoring essential services.

Helicopters transported 7832 passengers and 110,912kg of freight, and made 2505 landings.

Air Force's Squadron Leader Bill Fewster and his team were the first C-130 crew to depart Richmond for Darwin on Christmas Day.

On board was a medical team and emergency supplies but, while en route, the C-130E crew overheard radio transmissions indicating the BAC-111 carrying retired Major General Alan Stretton was unexpectedly in Mount Isa.

Given the importance of getting the operational commander to the disaster site, Squadron Leader Fewster diverted to Mount Isa and picked up Stretton.

The C-130E crew then flew to a darkened Darwin where none of the runway lights or navigation aids were working. The aircraft was guided to the runway using an airborne radar approach.

On the morning of December 26, Group Captain Hitchens and his Army and Navy peers in Headquarters Operational Command intended to evacuate all ADF personnel.

Major General Stretton, of the Natural Disasters Organisation, made sure supplies and skilled labour made it in to Darwin, at the same time moving citizens out so emergency workers could restore essential services. In total, more than 30,000 residents were evacuated. Of these, 18,853 were accommodated by Army in Queensland, NSW, South Australia and Western Australia.

At the time of the cyclone, Army had 160 personnel in six units in Darwin and assisted with refugee evacuations, provision of personnel, medical assistance, assistance to police, aerial mapping, constructed Bailey bridges, and conducted clearance and restoration.

With personnel being recalled from Christmas leave, one of Australia's biggest humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations was under way.

Elements of 2 Field Engineering Regiment delivered pumping and purification equipment to Darwin, accompanied by plumbers, refrigerator mechanics, electricians, plant operators, mechanics and fitters.

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Disaster relief flights to and from Darwin continued sporadically until mid-February, with the last RAAF C-130 mission occurring on February 15, 1975.

These flights were supplemented by support from Royal New Zealand Air Force, Royal Air Force and Indonesian C-130s.

Those who took part in the Cyclone Tracy operations took away long lasting memories of the devastation, the intensity of the operation (including the extreme fatigue they experienced) and the community response.

Then Defence Minister Mr Barnard expressed his thanks on behalf of the Australian Government.

“All the armed services have played their part in the emergency,” he said.

“I wish to express my personal thanks to all.”

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(Continued on page 8)

Defence

Remembering Cyclone Tracy 50 years on

(Continued from page 7)

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Remembering Cyclone Tracy 50 years on | Defence

Submarine Institute of Australia Conference

Chief of Navy address—Introduction extract

05 Nov 2024

Good morning, Michael, Scottie. Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to speak here today. To Their Excellencies, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Vicki Treadell, and Her Excellency the Ambassador for the United States to Australia, Caroline Kennedy. Thank you for being here at this very, very important event.

Other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and of course, most importantly, the submariners in the room, it is fantastic to share this event with you.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Ngannawal people on whose traditional lands we meet today, and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

I'd also like to acknowledge the more than 20 ships of the Royal Australian Navy and more than 1,600 sailors and officers who are underway in their great service to our nation this week while we are gathered here to discuss this very important issue.

Introduction – A Tradition of Excellence in Spite of Doubt

By way of introduction, I'd like to talk about the tradition of excellence in spite of doubt, and it is an honour to address you on a topic that is frankly fundamental to our shared future as citizens of a three-ocean island trading nation.

Australia's submarines are the cornerstone of our deterrence strategy. But deterrence against what? Against an appetite to interfere with our maritime economy—I submit, an economy which is reliant upon access to the sea, to shipping lanes and to seabed cables.

Some of us grew up being told that this nation rode to economic success on the sheep's back. I disagree with that. Frankly, as far as I know, sheep don't swim, very far. I submit that this nation sailed to economic prosperity on the ship's deck, and we forgot it at our peril. Iron ore doesn't float.

The fuel imports which enable our economy and power the ADF's ability to fly, sail and drive, come via the maritime industry. We maintain our economic prosperity by maintaining access to the seas and access to the seas in our time is no longer guaranteed.

Indeed freedom of the seas isn't free, and for an island trading nation, this is not a discretionary issue.

But let me start by observing that despite our nation being entirely surrounded by sea with a comparatively modest population, Australia's submarine programs—from the E-class in 1914 to today's initiatives under AUKUS—have constantly faced criticism for their cost and complexity. It is an abiding trend.

Our nation's first submarines, the E-class, were criticised as costly and risky undertakings, as Australia's military submarine capability and the Royal

Australian Navy itself were both still in their infancy.

What was lost was that we had access to, and we were operating the most advanced long range conventional submarine of its day, in the very earliest years of our Navy.

By the 1960s, with the acquisition of the Oberon-class, we saw a significant capability leap. Yet, the O boats were criticised for their considerable maintenance and upgrade costs, drawing criticism for being an unsustainable strain on resources. Regardless, to this day they are regarded as one of, if not the most, capable conventional submarines of their era.

In the 1990s the debate resurfaced as we pursued the Collins-class. Concerns over technical complexity and our capacity to build them sparked significant public discourse. Indeed, I remember the headline, *Dud Subs*, by Ian McPhedran in the weekend paper, being published at the same time as one of our Collins-class submarines, the first to participate in exercise RIMPAC, was finding, fixing and holding at risk Los Angeles-class submarines. It was indeed the quietest submarine of its type in that exercise. But you wouldn't have known it from reading the media.

Again, the Collins-class are regarded as world-class all diesel boats who continue to conduct a variety of successful operations for our nation. And would it be possible that I could stand here with my peers from the Submarine Force from all three nations and share with you the operational successes of the Royal Australian Navy? If I could, I think you would indeed be very, very proud. We would all go to jail, however.

The recurring factor has been a tendency by some commentators to lament the relative cost of ownership of submarines versus ships. It always struck me as odd though that it wasn't intuitive to grasp that an underwater aerospace vehicle would cost more to own and operate than a floating vessel, or that the utility was not only complementary, but it was force multiplying.

However, in each instance, in spite of the doubt, Australian submarine programs ultimately succeeded through the grit and determination of astute decision makers and the dedication and professionalism of Navy people and our industry and academic partners.

This story of excellence reflects an enduring pattern of overcoming doubt to achieve extraordinary national capability outcomes. It is truly a story of Australian excellence, persevering and achieving great things in spite of pessimism, cynicism and competing agendas. And the missions consistently achieved by professionals focused on one thing, we derive our national economic security, and therefore our national security, from access to the maritime domain.

Current pensions and allowances

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,116.30	\$1,144.40	\$28.10
Couples (each)	\$841.40	\$ 862.60	\$21.20
Single person – transitional	\$922.90	\$941.10	\$18.20
Couples (each) – transitional	\$744.60	\$759.30	\$14.70
WAR WIDOWS (total amount)			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,136.30	\$1,165.30	\$29.00
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$337.40	\$346.20	\$8.80
DISABILITY Compensation Payment			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,760.00	\$1,805.30	\$45.30
Intermediate rate	\$1,166.80	\$1,196.80	\$30.00
EDA	\$949.80	\$974.20	\$24.40
100 per cent (inc ES)	\$611.00	\$626.70	\$15.70
10 per cent (inc ES)	\$68.03	\$69.60	\$1.57
VETERAN PAYMENT			
Single person	\$1,211.20	\$1,242.20	\$31.00
Couples (each)	\$944.50	\$968.70	\$24.20
MRCA			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,136.30	\$1,165.30	\$29.00
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,760.00	\$1,805.30	\$45.30

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. These rates came into effect on 20 September and the first full payment was the payday of 17 October 2024. An explanation of these changes is available in the online version of *Vetaffairs*.

Scam alert



Criminals are calling people and pretending to be from a trusted organisation like a bank, IT company or phone company. They will say your bank accounts or computers aren't secure and your money isn't safe. They will ask for your PIN and tell you to leave your bank card in your letterbox so it can be cancelled and replaced. They may ask you to withdraw cash and leave that in the letterbox instead, or they may pick it up from you directly.

These scammers can use technology to make it look like the call is coming from the bank's or other legitimate business's phone number. They may send text messages in the same conversation thread as your real bank.

Our Scamwatch reports show these criminals are targeting older and vulnerable Australians who live alone. They are stealing large sums of money. Share this Scam Alert with your friends, family and colleagues - it's important we all work together to help protect each other from scams.

How to spot the scam

Criminals pretend to be from your bank, IT company or phone company and tell you that your account or computer is not secure. They will ask you to provide your PIN and leave your card out for collection, or to withdraw cash and hand this over instead.

How the scam works

Scammers impersonate organisations you know and trust so that you will believe what they're saying.

They will try to make you scared about the security of your money or device, so you'll do what they say without stopping to check that what they're saying is real.

Once they have your card and PIN, they'll withdraw as much money from your account as possible.

What you should know

Your bank or phone company will never ask you to:

- disclose your PIN
- leave your card out to be collected
- withdraw cash from your account
- transfer money to another account to keep it secure.

Speak up and report if you are ever asked to do any of these things. Visit the Scamwatch website to find out more.

Stay protected

STOP – Never tell anyone your PIN, or give your

card or cash to someone you don't know. Say no, hang up, delete.

CHECK – Scammers call and pretend to be from organisations that you know and trust – like your bank. If you're not sure, call the official number of the organisation to check. You can find this on their website, app or the back of your bank card.

PROTECT – If a scammer has taken your money, bank card or personal details, contact your bank or card provider immediately to report the scam and ask them to stop any transactions. Call the police if your cash or card has been taken by someone you don't know. Report scams to Scamwatch.

If you've been affected

If you're the victim of a scam, don't be embarrassed. It can happen to anybody. It's important to ask for help and report the scam as soon as you can.

If a scammer has taken your money, bank card or personal details, contact your bank or card provider immediately to report the scam and ask them to stop any transactions. Call the police if your cash or card has been taken by someone you don't know, or you feel unsafe.

When you report the scam, the people who read your report understand how you are feeling. You are not alone. Contacting support services can help you understand what happened and ensure you get access to the support you need.

Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch. The information you provide helps the National Anti-Scam Centre make Australia a harder target for scammers.

Resources for people experiencing financial hardship

The National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007

Who is the National Anti-Scam Centre?

The National Anti-Scam Centre is where government and industry work together to protect Australians. We're harnessing shared resources and smarter analytics to identify blind spots, strengthen weak links and use data to react faster, stopping scams before they happen.

Our aim is to make Australia a harder target for scammers.

HMAS *Canberra* exercises Freedom of Entry—4 December 2024



More than 250 officers and sailors from HMAS *Canberra* III exercised their freedom of entry – a mark of trust and respect, and the highest accolade a town can award a military unit.

Commanding Officer *Canberra*, Captain Brendan O'Hara said such activities strengthened bonds between Defence and the Australian people.

"It is such an honour for us to march through the streets of our namesake city and is an opportunity to express our appreciation for the Australian community," Captain O'Hara said.

"It also provides a chance to build familiarity, trust and confidence with our local communities.

Members from the HMAS *Canberra*/HMAS *Shropshire* Association also participated in the event, including 101-year-old Stoker Desmond Jones, the last survivor of HMAS *Canberra*.

Mr Jones was on board during the Battle of Savo Island on 9 August 1942, when the ship was



Above photos by LSIS Jarrod Mulvihill

struck by two torpedoes on its starboard side and more than 20 salvos of 8-inch shellfire.

The vessel sank with the loss of 84 lives.

Mr Jones met several crew members of *Canberra* III, including Seaman Tamara Buckley from Sydney. (See photo above)

At 19, Seaman Buckley is the youngest member of the crew and the same age as Mr Jones when he was forced to abandon ship in 1942. The two sailors exchanged stories, separated by more than 80 years,

By Mike Hughes

Left: CO HMAS *Canberra* Captain Brendan O'Hara presents a gift to the Australian War Memorial – a print featuring USS *Canberra*, his own ship and its predecessors.

Photo by Petty Officer Tara Morrison.





Merle Hare, who joined the WRANS in 1942, celebrates her 105 th birthday with her mates, members of the Navy Women's Association and the Naval Association ACT Section at the Ainslie Football Club on 19 January 2025' She celebrated it with her family the next day.



Below: Merle is seated in the middle of the front row with a bunch of flowers.

Photos: sent by Pauline Gribble and Debbie McGown



Welcome sea change for Air Force chef



LAC Jin Seo

Photos: Above LAC Ryan Howe
Right Cpl Nicci Freeman



31 January 2025

An Air Force chef got a literal sea change when he put his hand up to join the crew of HMAS *Brisbane* on an interchangeability deployment to the United States.

Leading Aircraftman Jin Seo spent almost three months living and working like a Navy chef onboard *Brisbane* as she test-fired a Tomahawk missile – a first for Australia – and conducted exercises with the US Navy near San Diego.

It was the aviator's first time on a Navy ship and his first visit to the US.

"Cooking on the ship was quite different, but all the basics were similar," Leading Aircraftman Seo said.

"It wasn't as hard as I [expected] – Navy chefs have really nice teamwork and everyone puts in when called over the pipes for a spare hand."

Although life in the kitchen had a familiar rhythm for the award-winning chef, who is currently posted to the Australian Federation Guard in Canberra, it took some time before he got his sea legs.

"I'm quite a small man but I struggled to sleep in the tiny bed," Leading Aircraftman Seo said.

"We had nine people in our room. It was cramped but big enough for operations."

Leading Aircraftman Seo said the work roster gave him time to get off the ship and explore San Diego and beyond.

But the highlight of his trip was when he served VIPs who visited the ship.

"When I got there, they [had] already organised all the stuff so I just started cooking with the other chefs," he said.

"I can't believe how high the quality of the food was. We were working in a small team and kitchen. It was a really great experience."

With that unique experience under his belt, it will be some time before Leading Aircraftman Seo is back in the kitchen.

He is now preparing to deploy to the Korean DMZ as part of Operation Linesman, the ADF contribution to the UN mission to ensure peace between North and South Korea.

By Cpl Jacob Joseph

Notes from the Committee Meeting 7 November 2024

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

The President previewed the agenda items and provided a debrief of the happenings from the National Council and Executive meetings. A discussion took place on re-imbursements of costs to members who represented the Section at the Fleet Review for King Charles 3.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 6 February 2025 at 1100.

Alan Masters

Secretary

NAA (ACT)

4 McEachern Crescent MELBA 2615 or pay via the banking system to **Nav** Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section), transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 Account Number 162 834 097**

Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 7 November 2024

Meeting started at 1330 with the Odes recited by David Manolas.

Present: 11 members and 4 visitors

Apologies: J Small, W. Lissing, D. Rush, P. Gillin, J. Wolford, P. Gribble

Minute of Last Meeting. The minutes of the General meeting on 3 October 2024 appeared in the November 2024 edition of the Bosun's Call. It was considered there was no outstanding business from that meeting.

Motion: The minutes of the 3 October 2024 General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Alaric O'Neill Seconded: Heather Milward Carried.

Reports.

President President's activities have been about National Executive and Council business and this will be covered in the General Business part of the meeting.

Vice President Last Post services commemorating the loss of naval personnel will be held on 5 and 8 January, in February and March. Volunteer names to VP.

Secretary Business as usual.

Treasurer Our funds remain in a healthy state.

Membership No change in our member numbers.

Social: More attendees at the Fish'nChips at the Yacht Club would be appreciated. With warmer weather around the corner, it makes for a convivial setting to mix with shipmates. The Christmas function will take place at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on Thursday, 5 December. There will not be a meeting on this day and partners are invited.

Welfare The secretary encountered Life Member Peter McNay at his local shops. Peter has vision challenges and Judith had a brief hospitalisation, but both are coping OK. John and Wendy Small continue to have health challenges.

Motion: The Reports be received.

Moved: Dennis Lyons Seconded: Peter Cooke-Russell Carried

General Business

National Council Meeting – Motions. Results of Motions put by Sections voted on at the NC meeting are:

- **NSW Motion 1.** Amend paragraphs 1 and 3 to Annex A to the By-laws to reduce the Sub-section membership for each multiple of nominations for NAA Honours. **Carried.**
- **NSW Motion 2.** That the national Executive of the NAA implement a project to undertake a comprehensive review and reconstruction of the NAA's Strategic Rules (Constitution and By-laws). **Carried.**
- **Victorian Motion.** Move that the vacant Na-

tional Vice President Recruitment and Membership position is recruited and the recruited incumbent be responsible for developing a national recruiting strategy to recruit contemporary veterans to the NAA. **Not carried.**

- **South Australian Motion 1.** That the National Membership Registrar position be declared vacant. **Motion**
- **South Australian Motion 2.** The National Council call applications for the position of National Membership Registrar of the NAA. **Vote YES**
- **South Australian Motion 3.** The By-laws be amended by creating a position of "Information Technology Officer" so that the current Webmaster can concentrate on all Information Technology issue including the NAA web page. **Carried**
- **South Australian Motion 4.** Action be taken immediately to remove the National Membership Data Base from the Naval Association Website and to make the data base a standalone facility only. **Carried**
- **South Australian Motion 5** The current details requested of a new member be retained into the future. **Carried**
- **South Australian Motion 6.** A position of Assistant National Membership Registrar be created. **Carried**

(For those wishing to compare the outcomes with the ACT Section recommended voting action, see October BC). The President expressed his gratitude to Dennis Lyons for the support he provided at what was a torrid time.

- **HMAS Canberra (III) Freedom of Entry.** The ACT Government will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS Canberra (III), and acknowledge the special relationship between our city and the ship with a Freedom of Entry Parade on Saturday, 30 November 2024 at 1100 at Civic Square. Members are invited to witness this event and partake of any post-parade activities.

Next General Meeting will be held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on Thursday, 6 February 2025 starting at 1330.

Close of Meeting There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 1410.

Alan F Masters

Secretary

NAA (ACT)

Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 for 2025

Action to renew membership for 2025 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2024 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

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

Bev Joce

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

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

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

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

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

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

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you
December 2024 February 2025**

December Nil

January 2025

James Sandison
Brian Eagles
Brendan O'Hara
David Manolas
Merle Hare

February

John Crawley
Frank Shugg
Peter Cooke-Russell
Michael Doyle



If undeliverable return to
NAA ACT Section
26 Nelson Place
CURTIN ACT 2605

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