



The Bosun's Call



Vol 30 No 10

Once Navy, Always Navy

November 2025

USS Vermont arrives for a SMP



5 Sep 2025

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Vermont (SSN 792) arrives at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia for a scheduled Submarine Maintenance Period (SMP), marking the first time Pearl Harbour Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility will lead and execute SSN maintenance in Australia.

Photos: ABIS Jaxsen Shinnars

Events coming up

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 11 Nov | Remembrance Day AWM |
| 19 Nov | Last Post Ceremony Loss of HMAS Sydney II and Stoker Eric P. Beatie HMAS Sydney II |
| 4 Dec | Christmas lunch –Gungahlin Eastlakes Football Club 1200 |
| 26 Dec | Last Post Ceremony AB Stafford Dowsett HMAS Parramatta, Mediterranean Sea |
| 7 Jan | Last Post Ceremony AB Lester Halpin HMAS Napier |
| 28 Feb | Last Post Ceremony Loss of HMAS Perth and ERA4 Vincent McGovern Sunda Strait |



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

Naval Association of Australia**ACT Section****Founded 1 July 1944**

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

Social**Office Bearers 2025– 2026**

President David Manolas 0427 504 564
 Vice President Alex McGown 02 6258 6167
 Secretary Darren Rush 0435 911 607
 Treasurer Alaric O'Neill;

Committee Members

Welfare Alex McGown 02 6258 6167
 Membership Peter Cooke-Russell 0412 757 505
 Heather Millward
 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
 stbdstayportgiveness@gmail.com

The Secretary ACT Section

darren.rush@navalassoc.org.au

Membership Registrar and Bosun's Call Editor

peter.cookerussell@gmail.com
 0412 757 505

**General Meetings
 Dates and Locations
 Programme**
2025

6 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

2026

5 Feb Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

5 Mar Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

2 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

7 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

4 Jun Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

6 Aug Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

**CHRISTMAS
 LUNCH
 4 DECEMBER
 2025
 COMMENCING 1200**

**EASTLAKES
 CLUB
 GUNGAHLIN**

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

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

A new Aged Care Act is coming – what you need to know

28 October 2025

A new Aged Care Act will start on 1 November 2025, as part of the Australian Government's commitment to creating a simpler, fairer and more respectful aged-care system.

The new Act puts older people – including veterans and their families – at the heart of aged care. It strengthens rights, improves the quality and safety of care, and makes it easier to understand and access the support available.

What stays the same

DVA will continue to provide dedicated support and services to eligible veterans and war-widowed partners to help them live independently, safely and comfortably at home or in residential aged care.

You will still be able to contact DVA for assistance and your existing Veteran Card and DVA entitlements remain in place.

What's changing

From 1 November 2025:

- The new Act introduces a Statement of Rights for everyone receiving government-funded aged-care services, ensuring dignity, choice and respect are built into every level of care.
- New residents entering aged care will see updates to the way costs and government contributions are assessed, to make the system more sustainable and transparent.

DVA clients will mainly notice updated reporting requirements and adjusted rates under the new Act, rather than major changes to how they receive support.

If you receive a means-tested pension or payment you'll need to continue updating DVA when your circumstances change so we can ensure your payments and aged-care fees remain accurate and fair.

Who needs to let DVA know about the changes

If you receive any of the following means-tested pensions and payments:

- Service Pension
- Social Security Age Pension
- Income Support Supplement

Veteran Payment

You'll need to tell DVA within 14 days about changes to your circumstances, or 28 days if you live overseas or receive remote area allowance.

This includes:

- personal circumstances (relationships)
- residential circumstances
- financial circumstances.

You can tell us about changes to your circumstances by:

- ringing us on [1800 VETERAN](tel:1800838372) (1800 838 372)
- submit changes via [MyService](#)
- writing to us at GPO BOX 9998 BRISBANE QLD 4001
- visiting any of our offices – see [DVA location finder](#)

Where to get more information

Learn more about your reporting obligations in the [You and Your Pension Booklet](#).

For DVA-specific aged-care services, visit dva.gov.au/agedcaresupport

For broader information on the new Act, visit the [My Aged Care](#) website.

You can also contact My Aged Care by phone **1800 200 422** if you:

- need aged care information
- need basic or complex support at home to live independently
- are thinking about entering residential aged care.

My Aged Care is the Australian Government's service that helps individuals access aged care services, providing information, support, and guidance throughout the aged care system.

Boost for some veterans pensions

19 September 2025

From 20 September 2025, some veterans and their families will receive an increase to their DVA pension and compensation payments.

This increase helps make sure your payments keep up with the cost of living. You don't need to do anything to receive the increase, it will be applied automatically.

The first full payment at the new rate will be the payday 16 October 2025.

Payments made on payday 2 October cover the period 16 September 2025 to 29 September 2025, and will include entitlements calculated at both the old, and new rates.

The majority of Pension and compensation payments are indexed in March and September each year. Indexation is determined by either the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For 20 September

2025, the indexation is driven by PBLCI.

From 20 September 2025, deeming rates will also change in line with arrangements applying to payments made by other Commonwealth Departments. Deeming rates are used to calculate deemed income from your financial investments (e.g. shares, bank accounts), regardless of actual returns. This deemed income counts toward the income test while the actual returns are not counted. The income test, along with the assets test, determines your entitlement to Service Pension, Income Support Supplement and Veteran Payment. A new deeming rate of 0.75% (currently 0.25%) will apply to financial assets under \$64,200 for singles and \$106,200 combined, for couples. Any remaining balance over these amounts will be deemed at a rate of 2.75% (currently 2.25%). To know more about deeming rates please visit [Operation of Deeming | CLIK](#)

(Continued on page 5)

New pension and compensation rates from 20 September 2025

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,149.00	\$1,178.70	\$29.70
Couples (each)	\$866.10	\$888.50	\$22.40
Single person – transitional	\$944.80	\$959.70	\$14.90
Couples (each) – transitional	\$762.30	\$774.30	\$12.00
WAR WIDOWS (total amount)			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,170.00	\$1,200.80	\$30.80
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$347.60	\$357.00	\$9.40
DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENT (total amount)			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,812.50	\$1,860.90	\$48.40
Intermediate rate	\$1,201.60	\$1,233.70	\$32.10
EDA	\$978.10	\$1,004.20	\$26.10
100 per cent (inc ES)	\$629.20	\$646.00	\$16.80
10 per cent (inc ES)	\$69.85	\$71.53	\$1.68
Veteran Payment			
Single person	\$1,247.30	\$1,280.10	\$32.80
Couples (each)	\$972.80	\$998.40	\$25.60
MRCA*			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,170.00	\$1,200.80	\$30.80
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,812.50	\$1,860.90	\$48.40

Report fraud and corruption to help protect veterans' support

2 October 2025

DVA is committed to honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families by delivering essential healthcare, compensation, and wellbeing support—while safeguarding the integrity of these services against fraud, misuse and corruption.

Why does it matter?

Fraud and corruption are not victimless crimes. They divert resources away from veterans who genuinely need support, damage the integrity of programs designed to recognise service and undermine trust in the department.

DVA has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption and encourages the community to help spot and report suspicious behaviour.

What does fraud and corruption look like?

Fraud and corruption can be committed by anyone – providers, veterans, businesses or government employees. Examples include:

- providers charging for services they don't deliver, inflating invoices, or over-servicing
- veterans or families submitting false claims, exaggerating conditions, or misusing payments
- businesses misrepresenting eligibility for contracts or entitlements
- funding recipients using grant funds for something outside any approved purpose

a person engaging in bribery, collusion or abusing a position of trust within the department or an affiliated entity.

Even something considered a small or minor dishonest action can erode the trust veterans and families have in the system meant to support them.

How can you help?

Veterans, families and providers are often the first to notice when something isn't right. You might receive an unusual invoice, be asked to sign for services you haven't received or hear of someone trying to cheat the system. Trust your instincts. If something feels off, it's worth reporting.

You don't need proof to report something, just a genuine concern. All reports are treated seriously and confidentially, and they can be made anonymously if you prefer.

How to report?

If you suspect fraudulent activity related to DVA support and services, you can report it online at [Report a Fraud](#), in person at a DVA location near you, or by calling 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Any information that can be provided such as names, dates or documents can greatly assist DVA to investigate the matter quickly and effectively.

If you are a current or former public official, you can also raise your concerns through a Public Interest Disclosure (PID) direct to the [authorised officer](#). A PID can also be made by telephone, in writing (including email to PID@dva.gov.au) or in person.

If you suspect corruption involving a public official, you can access more information and how it can be reported on the [National Anti-Corruption Commission's](#) website.

Boost for some veteran's pensions

(Continued from page 4)

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

***Note that the MRCA payments in the bottom two rows are the fortnightly amounts, not the weekly amounts.**

Current pension and compensation rates are available on the [DVA website](#).

For more information on the new pension and compensation rates, call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

Australia getting set for Submarine Rotational Force - West

29 October 2025

Today marks another significant leap in Australia's journey to acquire a sovereign capability to operate and maintain conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines from HMAS *Stirling*.

Together with our AUKUS partners, Australia has the responsibility for coordinating, supporting and delivering a significant package of maintenance work on USS Vermont (SSN 792), a US Virginia class submarine, which arrived at HMAS *Stirling* today for the Submarine Maintenance Period (SMP).

USS Vermont includes 13 Royal Australian Navy personnel in the crew of 134. These are from the cohort of officers and sailors that have completed the rigorous training in the US.

The SMP builds on last year's milestone, when Australian personnel participated in the first-ever maintenance of a US conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine on home soil during the 2024 Submarine Tendered Maintenance Period.

This year's SMP involves a larger and more complex package of work that more closely reflects the type of maintenance that will be required when Submarine Rotational Force – West begins operations at HMAS *Stirling* in 2027.

Unlike the previous maintenance period, this year's work is being carried out without a tender ship – meaning Australian personnel are taking on even greater responsibility for executing complex maintenance activities on site. This will be a significant achievement and a reflection of the progress in upskilling the Australian workforce.

During this maintenance period, ASC will have an active role supporting work streams, including the provision and operation of pier temporary services and other support services like scaffolding.

Working alongside US personnel from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF), 19 ASC International Military Students and a further two from Raytheon and Thales are currently being trained at PHNSY & IMF.

They have returned to Australia for the SMP to help deliver the majority of the maintenance effort. This will contribute to sovereign technical uplift and facilitating knowledge transfer in line with an agreed phased capability plan leading up to the 2027 Initial Operational Support (IOS) milestone with the commencement of Submarine Rotational Force – West.

To further assist with the SMP, 22 Royal Australian Navy Fleet Support Unit personnel have also been training at the Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard since June 2025, along with eight Royal Australian Navy clearance divers who will work alongside PHNSY Divers throughout the SMP.

The visit of USS Vermont is not only a practical training opportunity, it is also a critical moment to test and strengthen Australia's nuclear stewardship systems, drawing on the deep operational experience and world-leading safety standards of our AUKUS partners.

Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States share a long-standing commitment to the safe and responsible operation of nuclear-powered vessels. For nearly 70 years, these principles have enabled trusted naval operations, and our navies are working together to reinforce them here in Australia.

Quotes attributable to Director-General Australian Submarine Agency, Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead AO RAN

"I can't overstate the value of training and working with AUKUS counterparts, and applying that training at our base while testing our infrastructure and systems. It strengthens our ability to operate and sustain nuclear-powered submarines in Australia. This visit also demonstrates the deep commitment of our AUKUS partners to supporting Australia's future submarine capability.

"Australia is firmly on track to commence Submarine Rotational Force – West in 2027 which will further accelerate Australia becoming sovereign ready to safely own, operate and maintain our first sovereign Virginia class submarine from the early 2030s."

Quotes attributable to Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, RAN

"The visit of USS Vermont to HMAS *Stirling* is another tangible example of the strong partnership between the navies of Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. This visit reflects the deep trust, technical cooperation, and shared commitment between our nations to maintaining a stable, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

"I am particularly proud of the 13 Royal Australian Navy submariners who sailed into Fleet Base West as part of the ship's company of USS Vermont, following the completion of extensive training in the United States necessary to building the skills and experience to support Australia's future nuclear-powered submarine capability.

"The Australian Navy officers and sailors of USS Vermont will work alongside US Navy and Royal Navy counterparts, as well as colleagues from the RAN Fleet Support Unit and Clearance Divers as they execute increasingly complex maintenance activities in Australia."

Media Note:

Media can access imagery/vision at <https://images.defence.gov.au/S20253253>

On completion of the Tri-Lateral Press Conference held at HMAS Stirling



29 October 2025

L-R) U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Erika Olson, Director of the Australian Submarine Agency, Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead, AO, RAN, Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Rear Admiral Chris Cavanaugh, CEO Submarine Delivery Agency, Sir Christopher Gardener, KBE, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister for Defence Industry, Mr Paul Papalia, CSC and Commander of the Sub-

marine Force, Commodore Daniel Sutherland, RAN together on completion of the Tri-Lateral Press Conference held at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia marking the first time Pearl Harbour Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility will lead and execute SSN maintenance in Australia.

Photo: LSIS Zac Dingle

Things you need to know when lodging a VEA transport claim

29 October 2025

We've changed the travel reimbursement process for veterans claiming travel under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) through MyService.

As part of the changes, VEA clients need to provide receipts for expenses over \$30 when claiming travel by taxi, public transport or flights.

This helps DVA to process claims more efficiently by allowing staff to validate information without needing to contact clients for supporting documents.

There is no change for veterans who lodge paper travel reimbursement claims. These can still be submitted without a receipt. If receipts are required, DVA staff will contact the veteran directly to confirm details.

There is also no change when claiming other types of travel expenses, such as accommodation, meals and private vehicle expenses that are paid at a prescribed rate. Veterans do not need to lodge their receipts with the travel claim, but may need to provide the receipts to DVA if requested.

You can now also view the status of your claims in MyService for all new *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) travel claims.

These changes are part of DVA's broader work to simplify travel claims, reduce delays, and improve transparency for veterans and their families.

For more information, visit the [Travel for treatment page](#) at dva.gov.au or call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

General Meeting Summary – 2 October, 2025

1. Opening and Apologies

- **Fred**, the mascot dog, was present and commended for his example.
- **Apologies received:** John Small, Mike Hardwick, Glenn McNamara, Bob Ridgway.

2. Congratulations and Birthdays

- Members recognized for October birthdays: Pauline Gribble, Bob Drew, David Bowditch, Tony Vickers.
- Tony Vickers noted as soon travelling to Europe and Turkey; best wishes extended.

3. Meeting Housekeeping

- Noted a slightly longer-than-usual meeting agenda.
- Attention drawn to various newsletter pages:
- **Motion:** Minutes of the September 2025 section meeting to be accepted.

Mover: Tony. **Seconder:** Alaric. **Carried.**

4. Committee Reports

a. Last Post Ceremonies

- No more Last Post ceremonies for the year; only four remain, all accounted for.
- Reported on VLO (Veterans Liaison Officer) at South Canberra and Bruce rehabilitation hospitals and current challenges extending services to North Canberra Hospital.
- Reminder about the new Age Care regulations taking effect 1 November 2025.

b. Correspondence (Secretary)

- Received:
 - Naval Historical Society's new Call the Hands newsletter announcement.
 - Letter from outgoing HMAS Harman Command Warrant Officer Shane O'Grady (thanks and farewell, incoming: Carly Mercer).
 - Invitation to 35th Annual Merchant Navy War Memorial Commemoration (Kings Park, October 19th).
 - Materials from DVA Health and Wellbeing.
- Email from Naval Association Queensland re: Vet Act 2025.

c. Treasurer's Report

- Investigated DVA funding:
 - DVA's commemorative grants only available for significant anniversaries ending in '0' or

'5', not annual events.

- ◇ Organisation has updated ATO Not-for-Profit Self-Assessment tool and maintains not-for-profit status (Financially liquid).

d. Membership Register

- Current members:
 - Financial Full Members: 47
 - Honorary Members: 9
 - Club Members: 1
 - Honorary Life Members: 3
 - **Total:** 60 (7 unfinancial)

Noted some overpayments for 2026 already.

e. Welfare

Welfare notification: John Small's wife, on new medication with some side effects. No other updates.

f. Social

- Recent fish & chips lunch had four attendees; next is the third Thursday monthly starting at noon.
- Parking now more straightforward: First two hours free; ticket on exit, no validation required.
- Encouragement for members to attend and enjoy social interaction.

5. Ex-Service Organizations Round Table (ESORT)

- **Notes in progress** (minutes being verified).
- **President's concerns** over the organization and formation of a new national peak advisory body post-Royal Commission:
 - Earlier expectations for government leadership; now the onus is on ESOs to establish structure—including membership and function.
 - Concern that delays in ESO consensus may reflect poorly on the sector if used by government as criticism.
- **Discussion points:**
- **Silver wound dressings:** Advocacy for DVA coverage—recognized as highly beneficial.
- **AI in claims processing:**
 - ★ DVA assured AI is only used for data gathering/filtering, not decision-making.
 - ★ Members expressed concern over potential for "robodebt-type outcomes; importance of

(Continued on page 9)

General Meeting Summary – 2 October, 2025

(Continued from page 8)

“human in the loop.”

- ✦ **Increase in paid advocates:**
- ✦ Issues with some advocates charging exorbitant fees (example: \$11,000 cancellation fee).
- ✦ DVA resources diverted to counter fraudulent claims—slowing processing.
- ✦ Ongoing work to improve advocate accreditation and training; new model prioritizing regional delivery.
- ✦ Decline in retention of trainee advocates (less than half remain from 400+ starters).
- ✦ **Blast/Overpressure Exposure:**
- ✦ Studies and initiatives to understand and address exposure impacts for artillery, naval, and special forces personnel.
- ✦ **Traffic Controller Funding for Ceremonial Events:**
- ACT section paid over \$1,000 for the first time since 1992; looking for DVA/ACT government support.
- Alaric to draft case for additional funding; fallback to ACT government's seniors/veterans' minister.

Motion: Accept committee reports.

Mover: Joe. **Seconder:** Tiger. **Carried.**

6. General Business

- a. Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal – Proposed Statute of Limitations Bill
- **Background:**
- Draft bill introduced by Minister for Defence Personnel (Matt Keogh MP) on 28 August 2025.
- Bill passed House of Representatives (1 September 2025); referred to Senate Foreign Affairs, Trade, Defence and Trade Committee (report due 30 October, submissions closed 1 October).
- **Bill's intent:** To limit retrospective medal applications to within 20 years of the operational period.
- **Concerns:**
- Major historical awards (e.g., VC for gallantry in 1942, Vietnam medals) would have been impossible under these rules.
- **ESOs and Naval Association Australia (NAA) not consulted:** Minister claimed otherwise, allegedly on advice of RSL.
- Submission process was rushed—NAA had only September notice and worked with key members to submit a nine-page letter of

strong objection.

- **Position:** The proposal is “egregious” and should be struck down, as it would exclude many deserving veterans and families.
- Risk that, if the Senate passes the bill, the House will follow suit and only a change of government could reverse it—no guarantees even then.
- **Actions taken:** Submission filed; further liaison with national colleagues to decide next actions (e.g., contacting senators like Jacqui Lambie or David Pocock).
- **Recommendations in submission:**
- Senate to read down and refuse the bill.
- Bill to be rescinded.
- **Suggestions from Floor:**
- State and territory presidents should independently contact their own local senators to broaden the campaign.

Letters should be sent from state-based presidents (perhaps authored centrally, but carrying local weight and signatures).

b. Additional General Business

No further general business issues raised.

7. Special Motion — Fred the Mascot Dog

- **Motion made and amended:** To confer upon Fred the rank of “Leading Dog” (not just ‘Able Dog’), with appropriate badge to be sourced and awarded.
- **Seconder:** Peter.
- **Discussion:** Light-hearted conversation about Fred's years of service, conduct (affirmed as “good boy” for over three years), and plans for official recognition and photos.
- ◇ **Action:** President to arrange for leading dog badge and certificate; future photograph to commemorate Fred's new rank.

8. Action Items

- **Alaric:** Draft funding application case for ceremonial traffic controller costs; coordinate with DVA and ACT Government as needed.
- **President:**
- Liaise with national colleagues on next steps re: Honours and Awards Tribunal bill, especially state/territory level advocacy.
- Distribute submission or template letter to state and territory presidents for their use with senators.
- Arrange acquisition and presentation of

(Continued on page 10)

2 October 2025 Committee Meeting

Attendees: David (Chair), Alex, Alaric, Darren, Peter, Tiger

Main Topics Discussed

1. Corrections in Documentation Sent to Government
2. ESOP Meeting (September 23, 2025) & Establishment of a Veteran Peak Body
3. DVA Strategies Addressing Paid Advocates
4. Provision of Silver Wound Dressings
5. Use of Artificial Intelligence by DVA
6. Training and Recruitment of Veteran Advocates
7. Blast Overpressure Research
8. Communication & Transparency within ESOs
9. Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal Bill 2025
10. Meeting Administration and Digital Recording Issues
11. Financial & Administrative Updates

Action Items

1. **Peak Body Formation:** Veteran organizations to confer and define structure, function, and process for the new national peak body—specific steps and timeline TBD.
2. **DVA Silver Dressings:** Continue advocacy for reinstatement/expansion of DVA funding and supply for silver wound dressings.

3. **DVA AI Communication:** Encourage DVA to circulate clear informational materials on how AI is used and where humans are in the claims process.

4. **Blast Overpressure Research:** Monitor developments and request inclusion for Navy/diver/broader veteran cases in ongoing research efforts.

Defence Honours Tribunal Bill:

- Share NIA's submission with other ESOs.

Meeting Recording/Minutes:

- Develop and propose clear policy for digital/audio recording of meetings, including pre-meeting notification and retention/deletion periods.

Funding for Traffic Control:

- Follow up with Repatriation Commissioner (Cahill) by submitting formal request and supporting documentation for event traffic costs.

Publication Formatting:

- Peter and Darren to confer over improving the formatting and usability of AI-produced minutes for the Bosun's Call.

Darren Rush
ACT Section Secretary

General Meeting Summary – 2 October, 2025

(Continued from page 9)

Leading Dog badge for Fred.

- **David:** Follow up with DVA on funding avenues for annual ceremonies, report back.
- ◇ **All members:** Encouraged to attend upcoming fish & chips social (third Thursday each month).

9. Follow-up

- **ESORT/ESO Roundtable:** Awaiting verified minutes; ongoing updates to be provided, especially regarding peak body development and advocate training.
- **Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Bill:** Monitor Senate inquiry outcomes; President to keep members informed of develop-

ments and further required action.

- **Memorial and Ceremonial Funding:** Updates expected on DVA or ACT government support.

Meeting Closed

Darren Rush
ACT Section Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$40 for 2026

Action to renew membership for 2026 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2026 is \$40

1. **Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section).** Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 . Account Number 162 834 097** *Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.*
2. Payment using the mail system. Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.
3. Direct payment to Treasurer. The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS SUCH AS HOME ADDRESS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR.

Social Program

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

2025

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 20 Nov | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 |
| 4 Dec | Christmas Lunch Eastlakes Footy Club Gungahlin 1200 |

2026

- | | |
|--------|------------------------|
| 15 Jan | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 |
| 19 Feb | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 |
| 19 Mar | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 |
| 16 Apr | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 |

Bev Joce

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

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

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800838372)

International callers:

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

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES: D

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

DVA WEBSITE:

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

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

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
November 2025**

Veronica Heard

Tim Hayden

Viv Littlewood

Graham Quinn

Jeff Wolford

Legal Aid for Veterans

Have you or your partner:

- Served in the Australian Defence Force?
- Served overseas in a Australian Government sponsored Peacekeeping role?
- Have a medical condition related to this service?

Legal Aid ACT can help veterans and their partners seek entitlements and lodge claims with The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

We can help you with:

- Rights and entitlements under Commonwealth laws relating to veterans and families
- Completing claim forms, questionnaires and writing statements in support of claims
- Your dealings with DVA and, if necessary, review tribunals.

Legal Aid ACT advice services are free, confidential and independent of the DVA and Department of Defence



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

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Paste Address label Here

The Bosun's Call Vol 30 No 10