



The Bosun's Call



Vol 27 No 1

Once Navy, Always Navy

February 2022

NUSHIP Arafura launched

The first of 12 Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels - NUSHIP *Arafura* was been launched at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia on 17 December 2021.

First Assistant Secretary Ships Division, Sheryl Lutz, said the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels were one of the foundational projects in the 2017 Naval Shipbuilding Plan.

"Luerssen Australia is contracted to build 12 offshore patrol vessels, two at Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia and 10 at Henderson Maritime Precinct in Western Australia.," Ms Lutz said.

Building the first two OPVs in South Australia enabled experienced shipbuilders from the Hobart-class destroyer to be retained and then transitioned to the new Hunter-class frigates, setting the foundation for a continuous sovereign naval shipbuilding industry.

The 80-metre long OPVs will primarily undertake constabulary missions and maritime patrol and response duties.

They will incorporate state-of-the art sensors and command and communications systems, improving operational capability alongside Australian Border



Arafura-class Offshore Patrol Vessel NUSHIP Arafura at Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia

Force vessels, other Australian Defence Force units and Australia's regional partners.

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the functions undertaken by the patrol boat were becoming increasingly important.

"As we enter a period of unprecedented regional instability and uncertainty, we again forge ahead with this new capability and with new confidence," Minister Dutton said.

"By 2030, the shipbuilding workforce will grow to over 2000 here at Osborne as part of the 15,000 workers directly employed under the government's Naval Shipbuilding Plan.

"These numbers speak obviously of our commitment to building our Navy's strength to develop our sovereign industrial capabilities and to grow our Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise."

For more information on the Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise programs visit: www1.defence.gov.au/business-industry/naval-shipbuilding/capability



Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Michael Noonan presents a bouquet to Ms Nova Peris to thank her for accepting the role of Ship's Sponsor.

Events coming up

17 Feb	Fish 'n Chips Snapper at Canberra Yacht Club 1200
28 Feb	Last Post Ceremony EA2 H C B Porter & 80th Anniversary Loss of HMAS Perth
1 Mar	Last Post Ceremony AB S W Hawkes HMAS Sydney
4 Mar	Last Post Ceremony ERA4 A Adams & 80th Anniversary Loss of HMAS Yarra



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

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Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

If the pandemic restrictions are not recycled the following program is to be followed:

2022

3 Feb	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Mar	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Mar	AGM on Completion of General Meeting	
7 Apr	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 May	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Jun	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Aug	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.

President's message

To all members,

I very much hope you have emerged from the 2021 Christmas and New Year Festive season refreshed and eager to get underway in what we all hope will be a happy and prosperous 2022.

I look forward to seeing as many members as can attend our first '*Fish and Chips*' or the year at the Canberra Yacht Club '*Snappers*' on Thursday 20 January 2022 and, our first Section Meeting for the year on Thursday 03 February 2022 at the Eastlakes Club Gungahlin.

That said, we must each take whatever action we feel is warranted to stay 'covid-safe' so if you feel you can not join in on these occasions please let someone within the Committee know how you are so that we might be able to assist in whatever way possible.

At the time of formatting the content for this BC before it is passed on to the printers, we are learning more about the RNZAF, RAAF, RAN and RNZN Units already deployed or being made ready to provide whatever support may be requested by the authorities in Tonga in the aftermath of the underwater volcanic eruption. We wish the deployed personnel a safe and successful mission and we extend our best wishes and prayers to all citizens affected.

All who have visited Tonga will know of the natural beauty of the islands and the warm welcome extended to all visitors.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

Committee meeting

Eastlakes Gungahlin
1130 Thursday 3 February
2022



The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday 5 January 2022

NATIONAL CABINET STATEMENT

National Cabinet met today to discuss our response to COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, new approaches to test, trace isolate and quarantine including the use of rapid antigen tests (RATS) and the vaccine rollout and booster programme.

The Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly provided an update on the spread of the Omicron variant. Omicron case numbers continue to increase in Australia and globally. Omicron continues to show greater infectivity than the Delta variant, but with less severity.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been 612,106 confirmed cases in Australia and, sadly, 2,289 people have died. More than 56 million tests have been undertaken, with 1,643,841 million tests reported in the past 7 days.

Globally there have been over 294.9 million cases and sadly over 5.4 million deaths, with 2.6 million new cases and 7,169 deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in many countries around the world.

National Cabinet received a detailed update on Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program from Lieutenant General John Frewen, Coordinator General of Operation COVID Shield.

Australia's COVID-19 vaccine roll out continues to expand. To date 43 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Australia, including 212,497 in the previous 24 hours.

In the previous 7 days, more than 754,500 vaccines have been administered in Australia. More than 94.5 per cent of the Australian population aged 16 years and over have now had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including 98.7 per cent of Australians aged 50 years of age and over and more than 99 per cent of Australians aged 70 years of age and over.

More than 91.6 per cent of Australians aged 16 years and over are now fully vaccinated including more than 96.8 per cent of Australians aged 50 years of age and over and more than 99 per cent of Australians aged 70 years of age and over.

Over 2.7 million booster doses have been administered. Australia has sufficient supplies of boosters, with nearly 18 million mRNA vaccines in stock in Australia. Yesterday, over 176,000 boosters were administered across Australia. Following the widening of eligibility for boosters on 4 January to those who had their second dose at least four months earlier, over 33.8 per cent of those eligible for boosters have had a booster and 28.6 per cent of Australians aged 70 years of age and over have had a booster in the last 8 weeks since the booster program commenced.

National Cabinet will meet again on Thursday 13 January 2022.

Rapid Antigen Tests

National Cabinet noted that COVID-J.9 tests are free and available at state testing clinics for people who have symptoms or are a close contact.

National Cabinet agreed that up to 10 Rapid Antigen Tests over three months (a maximum of 5 in a month) will be made available free through pharmacies to people holding the following cards:

- Pension Concession Card

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

- Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange Card
- Health Care Card
- Low Income Health Card

These free tests will become available in the next two weeks. However, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and close contacts should attend a state clinic for free testing and not go to a pharmacy to receive a free test. Costs for providing these tests will be shared 50:50 between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories consistent with COVID shared funding agreements.

National Cabinet noted the Commonwealth will provide 10 million RATs to states and territories (a combination of predominantly Point of Care Tests and self tests) to assist with testing and laboratory capacity. National Cabinet agreed to fund these in line with the existing National Partnership Agreement on the COVID-19 Response.

National Cabinet received a briefing from Joe Buffone, Director-General of Emergency Management Australia, on behalf of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM). Supply chain issues continue to be one of the main disruptors of broad access to RATs. National Cabinet noted that the Commonwealth is working through the NCM to finalise anti-hoarding measures with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and other major retailers that stock RATs to limit the number of RATs available for sale to each individual.

National Cabinet noted the Commonwealth will prohibit price gouging of and the non-commercial export of RATs, similar to actions taken earlier in the pandemic relating to essential goods such as masks, other PPE and hand sanitiser. As was the case previously, price gouging will be defined as supplying or offering to supply essential goods at a price that is more than 120% of the initial purchase price (a 20% markup) and penalties for not complying with this direction will range up to five years imprisonment or \$66,000.

Changes to testing requirements

National Cabinet agreed changes to testing requirements for all states except for Western Australia including:

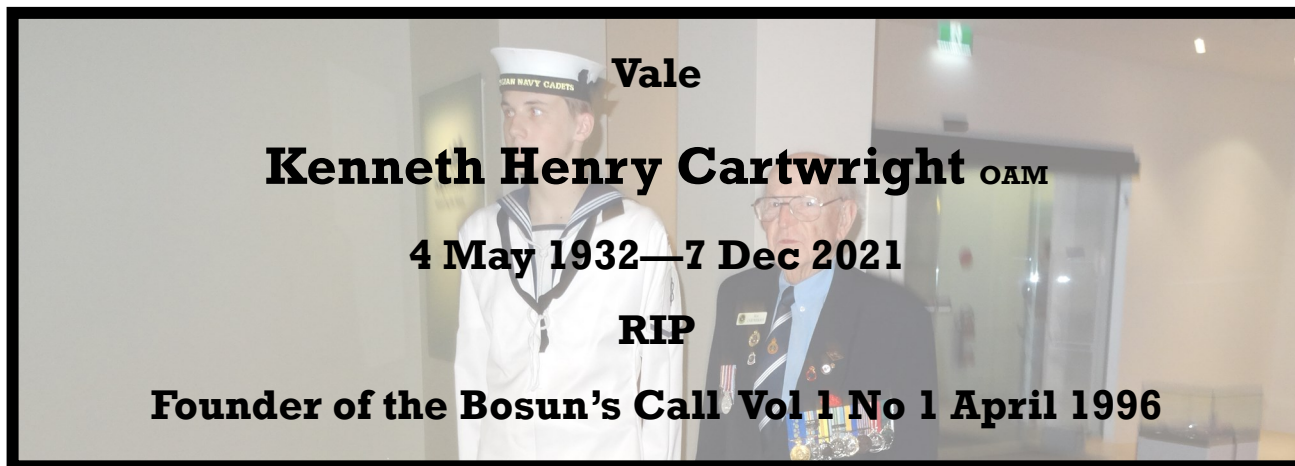
- Removing the requirement for truck drivers to have rolling seven days tests.
- Testing will not be required before patients present to hospital.
- Confirmation PCR test will not be required after a positive RAT. Individual states and territories will provide further information on how a positive RAT will be recorded. Anyone who tests positive is encouraged to contact their GP for support as required.
- Testing before interstate travel will no longer be required except for Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, with Queensland and Tasmania to review these requirements in the coming weeks. State testing clinics will not be able to be used for interstate travel purposes.
- A second post arrival test for international travelers will not be required except for Queensland, who will review this requirement when they reach 90 per cent double vaccination rate.

Workplace Health and Safety

National Cabinet noted the impact on business of current state workplace Health and Safety laws that could imply requiring employees to return a negative RAT test in order to present to work. National Cabinet agreed the Commonwealth Attorney General will convene a meeting of relevant ministers from all jurisdictions to consider workplace health and safety requirements with a view to removing any potential obligation to impose testing requirements in workplaces on employees

National Return to School Framework

National Cabinet tasked the First Secretaries Group (FSG) led by Mr Phil Gaetjens, Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to develop a national framework to enable students to return to school on day one of term one, and for schools to stay open with consistent requirements across all jurisdictions to be in place prior to the first day of the first term of school. The FSG will report back to National Cabinet at the next meeting.



New plaque honours Teddy Sheean VC

A new memorial plaque honouring Ordinary Seaman Edward “Teddy” Sheean VC was unveiled in Shropshire Park in the Tasmanian town of Ulverstone 79 years after his death.

Commanding Officer Navy Headquarters Tasmania Commander Andrew Wright represented Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Michael Noonan at the service to rededicate the memorial.

Commander Wright said Ordinary Seaman Sheean displayed incredible bravery in the action and was thoroughly deserving of Australia’s highest military honour.

“Once he had helped free a life raft, allowing his shipmates to escape the sinking ship, Sheean then returned to his gun to engage the enemy,” Commander Wright said. “Although wounded in the chest and back, the 18-year-old shot down one bomber and kept the other aircraft at bay as his mates made their escape.”

Among the guests at the ceremony were the Tasmanian Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Guy Barnett, and Sheean family representative Garry Ivory.

Other guests included members of HMAS *Launceston*’s ship’s company, Australian Navy Cadets and members of the local RSL sub-branch.

*By Petty Officer Ian McGiffen
17 December 2021*

The Memorial service and unveiling of the plaque for Teddy Sheean at the Naval Memorial Park in Ulverstone on 1st December 2021 was attended by over eighty members of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) with members attending from Georgetown, Launce-

Commanding Officer Naval Headquarters Tasmania Commander Andrew Wright and Commanding Officer HMAS Launceston Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Graney at the Teddy Sheean VC memorial in Ulverstone, Tasmania.

ton South and the host Sub-section Devonport/ Ulverstone. This was an excellent service arranged by the NAA Devonport/Ulverstone Sub-section.

This service incorporated the Navy Day Celebrations and also the unveiling of the refurbished “Corvettes Corner” which had been refurbished by the Devonport/Ulverstone Sub-section. The Naval Ode was recited by the NAA Tasmania Section President Mr Brian Ellis. Those attending included the Tasmanian Government Veteran Affairs Minister Mr Guy Barnett MHA and also the nephew of Teddy Sheehan Mr Gary Ivory.

The Commanding Officer, Tasmania Naval Headquarters, CMDR Andrew Wright was the guest speaker for the occasion and representatives of the three local Government areas were also in attendance. The Commanding Officer HMAS Launceston, a Tasmanian, and three of his crew were also in attendance along with Australian Navy Cadets from local units which lent a real navy theme to the day.

*By Gordon Fuller
South Launceston Sub-section
National Vice President
16 January 2022*



HMAS Adelaide departs Sydney for Tonga



HMAS Adelaide departs Fleet Base East at Garden Island, Sydney. Defence is pre-positioning HMAS Adelaide to Brisbane to provide additional HADR support if requested by the Government of Tonga.

Photo: ABIS Susan Mossop

The Australian Defence Force is supporting the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as it coordinates Australia's support of Tonga following the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano on Saturday, January 15.

On January 17 and 18, two Air Force P-8A Poseidon flights and one C-130J Hercules departed RAAF Base Amberley and RAAF Base Richmond to conduct aerial surveillance over the central islands of Tonga.

The Government of Tonga requested the flights to

help determine the extent of the damage, particularly in more remote locations, and inform their future disaster support requests.

HMAS *Adelaide* departed Fleet Base East in Sydney to pre-position in Brisbane, ready to provide additional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) support if requested by the Government of Tonga.

For imagery of ADF support to Tonga visit: <http://images.defence.gov.au/S20220022>.

APS Veteran Employment Pathway: Continuing to Serve

21 December 2021

Secretary Liz Cosson AM CSC recently welcomed the first participants in the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA's) Veteran Employment Pathway Program.

While the program will formally commence in February 2022, the Secretary, along with the DVA Veteran Employment Pathways manager, Mick Barnes, welcomed Adam, Alaric, Jason, Erika and Andrew to the program early.

The Veteran Employment Pathway Program is a collaboration between DVA, Department of Defence and the Australian Public Service Commission. The program aims to support veterans into employment in the Australian Public Service (APS) including a development program to kick start their public service career. The program provides targeted support for participants' transition from a military background to a career in the APS, supported by the APS Academy. This pathway has been designed to

ensure long-term success, with participants continuing in their roles as ongoing staff at DVA and Defence after completing the program.

To help participants transition to the APS culture and way of working, participants will take part in:

- formal learning and development,
- be offered a mentor,
- have access to an internal buddy,
- have access to peer networks, and
- have access to family inclusion activities.

There are many benefits to an APS career, and veterans bring with them unique experiences and valuable skills that can be applied to many roles across the APS.

Applications for the 2022 Veteran Employment Pathway Program have already closed, however other opportunities to work at DVA can be found on the DVA website: dva.gov.au/about-us/careers.

Joint media release — Construction begins on permanent Nowra Wellbeing Centre

Tuesday, 11 January 2022

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

Senator Jim Molan AO DSC

Senator for New South Wales

Construction has begun on a new purpose built, state-of-the-art facility to permanently house the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre, providing an expanded range of health and wellbeing services for our local veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force members and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee visited the site at 124 Wallace Street today to officially launch the building works.

"This is a momentous day for the Defence and veteran community here in Nowra and the surrounding region," Minister Gee said.

"RSL LifeCare, with the support of RSL NSW, has been doing a great job running the Nowra Wellbeing Centre out of their temporary premises and has already made a real difference in the lives of current ADF members, ex-service personnel, and their families.

"This new, permanent home will take those services to the next level. It will be a place of healing and connection, and a hub for accessing health, education and employment support.

"The facility has been carefully designed with a mix of communal, recreational and clinical spaces to meet the needs of veterans and their families.

"It is part of the Australian Government's \$43.2 million investment in a network of Wellbeing Centres across the country and demonstrates our commitment to providing local services to support veterans, defence personnel and their families wherever they live."

Senator for New South Wales Jim Molan said the new centre was a much needed addition to the region.

"The Nowra Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to more than 7,000 local veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, as well as personnel from nearby HMAS Albatross and HMAS Creswell,"

Senator Molan said.

"Being in the military is tough, and life after the military can be difficult to navigate. Having local support networks and a place where you can come together with others who are in a similar position is just so important."

RSL LifeCare Board Member and navy veteran Trevor Robertson said this Centre is the result of significant planning and consultation with local ex-service organisations and the veteran community to deliver a one-stop shop for service delivery that is veteran-centric and community driven.

"The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre will provide critical services to over 7,000 veterans and their families in the Shoalhaven and neighbouring local government areas, including education, health and ADF transition support and it will be an essential resource for the community for generations to come", Mr Robertson said.

"I would like to thank the DVA and the Federal Government for their support of the Veteran Wellbeing Centre model and RSL NSW, our partner charity, for supporting us in the delivery of services to veterans and their families."

RSL NSW President Ray James said the League has observed an increased need for support services this year and he expects this continue with the pressure of COVID-19 restrictions, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and the ADF's withdrawal from the conflict in Afghanistan last year.

"I take this opportunity to reassure veterans and their families across the Shoalhaven that local support and services are available to them at the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre."

Construction on the Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre is expected to be finalised by mid-2022.

For more information on the National network of Veteran Wellbeing Centres, visit the [Veteran Wellbeing Centres page](#)

Media contacts

Minister Gee office: [0459 966 944](tel:0459966944)

DVA Media: [02 6289 6466](tel:0262896466)

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.

\$7.5 million for veteran wellbeing in Tasmania

Thursday, 23 December 2021

The Morrison Government has today announced an additional \$2.5 million for Tasmanian wellbeing services for veterans and their families, bringing the total support for Veteran Wellbeing Centres in Tasmania to \$7.5 million.

This funding will deliver a Veteran Wellbeing Centre for Burnie and enhanced services in Launceston,

as well as localised wellbeing services across Tasmania. There are almost 9,000 veterans and their families who are supported across Tasmania, with many living in the mid-north and North West of the state.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said a Federal investment of \$250,000 for the Launceston RSL Sub-Branch will further develop their existing Veterans Support and Wellbeing Hub.

Hats off to historic family find

A piece of family military history, uncovered during restoration works at a Brisbane railway station, has been returned to its rightful owners.

During the works at Shorncliffe train station, all construction was brought to a halt as a large collection of mid-20th century objects were discovered – including a long-lost sailor's cap, dating from 1945-1950, unearthed during an archaeological dig.

Faded and tattered after being buried under the station master's building, the cap was revealed to belong to Royal Australian Navy stoker Ernest "Gus" James Hodgess.

Senior Heritage Consultant Dr Xavier Carah, of Niche Environmental and Heritage, the company engaged for the heritage work, recognised instantly that it was a Royal Australian Navy hat, and found a way to make contact with the family.

"Often when you find personal items, it's quite difficult to work out who it came from. Even with a name, it would be difficult to find the individual," Dr Carah said. "There were a few clues that helped narrow down the hunt for its rightful owner: World War II, some letters in a name and the deduction that it most likely belonged to a local on leave. A military historian reached out and said that they could help find the owner."

The family was found, and on December 2, Queensland Rail presented the hat to Gus Hodgess' son, former Navy paramedic Jamie Hodgess, who was accompanied by his nephew, Australian Army petroleum operator Warrant Officer Class Two Stuart Hodgess.

Warrant Officer Hodgess said his grandfather was a Korean war veteran. "He served on the minesweeper HMAS *Warrnambool*. It struck a mine in 1947 off the Great Barrier Reef near Cape Grenville, injuring some aboard with two dying of injuries later. My grandfather was able to swim back and forth, saving those on board. I'm very proud of him and the legacy I stand on."

Before the presentation, the hat had been cleaned, stabilised and boxed by a conservator.

"This is a monumental event for not only my family, who are all ex-serving military personnel, it is also incredible to receive this in a special casing and have it back to where it belongs," Warrant Officer Hodgess said.

Unable to attend the hat presentation because of border closures, Navy Warrant Officer Paul Bodensteiner, who followed in his uncle's footsteps to join the Navy as a paramedic, said his grandfather was his inspiration to enlist.

"I was following in the footsteps of my grandfather and my uncle when I signed up. I was actually living with my grandfather when I joined the Navy in 1989," Warrant Officer Bodensteiner said. "I have always looked up to him, hearing stories about when he went to sea and when he went to Korea. He never told me much about the *Warrnambool*, but when I was on the new *Warrnambool*, he opened up a little more. He kept it close to his chest. He would always get me to wear his medals on Anzac Day, even from a young age, and it's incredible to have another piece of his military history back with our family."

It is not just the family that are happy to see the sailor's hat find its way home. Dr Carah is also pleased with the outcome.

"It's very rare to get this opportunity in cultural heritage management," Dr Carah said.

"There's a desire to repatriate items to the owners or decedents of the owners. To get the opportunity to return it to its owners is remarkable. We don't often get that opportunity."

Gus Hodgess is succeeded by three generations of Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army members, including members who are still currently serving.

As for the hat, it is with Jamie Hodgess, along with other memorabilia from Gus Hodgess' Navy service.

By Captain Thomas Kaye
14 December 2021

Editor's Note: HMAS *Warrnambool* was lost whilst minesweeping on 13 September 1947. Four sailors were lost with *Warrnambool*. Their names were added to the Roll of Honour in the Australian War Memorial on 6 March 2013.

Former Navy paramedic Jamie Hodgess, left, and his nephew Army petroleum operator Warrant Officer Class Two Stuart Hodgess with the Navy hat that belonged to Jamie Hodgess' father, Gus. Photo: Lance Corporal Christopher Smith



Rehabilitation pilot starts soon

23 December 2021

The Australian Government is establishing a pilot program of Non-Liability Rehabilitation, offering eligible veterans social wellbeing and employment support – without the need for an accepted compensation claim with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Early access to rehabilitation can help veterans to improve their health and wellbeing. Under the new pilot program, a qualified professional rehabilitation consultant will help participants create an individual plan that aligns with their personal rehabilitation goals. The plan will last 3 to 6 months, and may include support in the following areas depending on the individual's needs:

- Social wellbeing: building new social connections in the local community
- Employment support: assistance with becoming job-ready, changing careers, or adjusting to the civilian workforce.
- Medical Management: obtaining a Medicare card or engaging a suitable General Practitioner.

The pilot commences on 1 January 2022 and is due to run for two years. An evaluation of the program's outcomes in 2024 will inform future policy design.

For more information on the pilot and how you can participate, visit [Non-Liability Rehabilitation | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](https://www.dva.gov.au/non-liability-rehabilitation)

Boost in support for older Australians to access Government

22 December 2021

The Pension Loans Scheme is being renamed to the Home Equity Access Scheme, as announced recently by the Minister for Social Services, Anne Ruston.

The interest rate for the scheme is also being reduced to provide a boost in support for older Australians, including those in the veteran community.

The interest rate reduction from 4.50 per cent to 3.95 per cent per annum is great news for those considering accessing the scheme, lowering borrowing costs and allowing them to use the scheme for a longer amount of time.

The newly named Home Equity Access Scheme supports older Australians who are over the Age Pension age to access a voluntary non-taxable fortnightly loan from the Government up to a maximum value of 150 per cent of the rate of the Age Pension. The scheme allows participants to use their home as equity in order to access a loan.

To be eligible for the Home Equity Access Scheme, retirees must have reached Age Pension age, own real estate in Australia and meet residency and certain other requirements, but do not need to be receiving a pension payment.

For more information on the scheme, visit [dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/support-when-you-cannot-work/pensions/pension-loans-scheme](https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/support-when-you-cannot-work/pensions/pension-loans-scheme)

MyService lets you access DVA services only online

Claiming made simple

Apply for free mental health treatment
Access support for a service-related condition or injury
Upload supporting information with your claim quickly and easily.

Easy access

Access your digital DVA Veteran Card
View your accepted conditions
Lodge and track the status of your claims.

We support those who serve or have served in defence of our nation, and their families.



New Exchange Opportunity

Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Commandant, Commodore Peter Leavy and Superintendent United States Naval Academy (USNA) Vice Admiral Sean Buck have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to begin an exchange program for midshipmen.

The exchange program will involve six-month semester exchanges between the military academies in Canberra and Annapolis, Maryland.

Vice Admiral Buck emphasised the importance of the program in strengthening ties between the US and Australian militaries and developing cultural competence as a core enabler to future operational capability.

"The men and women of our militaries are going to serve together, and this agreement will allow them to develop the professional and personal relationships they will use throughout their career," Vice Admiral Buck said.

Commodore Leavy echoed his sentiments highlighting the importance of the exchanges in contributing to the foundational education that ADFA delivers for its trainee officers.

"We have 15 countries represented within ADFA and opportunities such as this are valuable in developing an international joint cohort amongst our midshipmen and officer cadets," Commodore Leavy said.

It is anticipated the exchange program will commence with the first four USNA midshipmen arriving in Australia to undertake six months of study at ADFA in July 2022. The first ADFA trainees are expected to travel to the US in January 2023.

"This signing is an important milestone in the academy's history. It will provide our members with an opportunity to forge personal and professional relationships at the very start of their careers," Commodore Leavy said.

"We look forward to receiving the first US midshipmen in July next year."

By Wing Commander Jade Deveney

8 December 2021

2022 Annual General Meeting Agenda 4 March 2021

The 2022 AGM will be held on 3 March 2022 at the Eastlakes Football Club, Gungahlin commencing at approximately 1430 immediately after the closing of the General; Meeting programmed for that day commencing at 1330. after lunch.

AGM Agenda

Minutes of the 2021 AGM were published in the May 2021 Bosun's Call and are repeated in this issue on the following pages.

The agenda for the 2022 AGM is as follows.

MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 76th AGM

BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising from the minutes of the 76th AGM

REPORTS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Registrar
Social
Welfare

GENERAL BUSINESS

Election of Honorary Members for 2022
Appointment of Auditor
Donations to charities

Election of Office Bearers for 2022

Date of 78th Annual General Meeting
March 2022

Alan Masters

Secretary



At the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding:

Front Warrant Officer Andrew Jocumsen, Commodore Peter Leavy, Colonel James Murray, Standing: Andrew Nealy, Professor Michael O'Donnell, Group Captain Jeff Howard, Captain (USN) Matt Ort and Lieutenant Colonel Dave Cave.

Minutes of NAA ACT Section 76th Annual General Meeting 2021 Held on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

Meeting opened: President David Manolas opened the meeting at 1443 and welcomed all to the 76th AGM.

Attendance and apologies. 13 members were in attendance and two apologies noted.

Minutes of last AGM. The minutes of the 75th AGM held on Thursday, 5 March 2020 at the Kaleen Sports Club were tabled as presented in the April 2020 issue of the Bosun's Call.

Motion: The minutes of the 75th ACT Section AGM be accepted.

Moved: Tony Vickers. Seconded: JJ Harrison. Carried

Reports. Reports from the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Registrar were tabled. They are attached as Attachments A, B, C and D respectively.

Motion: The reports be accepted.

Moved: Dennis Lyons. Seconded: Mike Taylor. Carried

General Business

- **Honorary Memberships.** Honorary members appointed last year are to be re-appointed and in addition it is proposed the Director of the Australian War Memorial be offered Honorary Membership. Thus, the following are to be offered Honorary membership of the NAA ACT Section for 2021:

The Hon. Sir William Deane, Patron,
VADM M. Noonan, RAN (CN),
CAPT M. Ort USN,
CAPT T. Morrison RAN (CO HMAS Canberra)
CAPT S. Fogarty, RNZN,
CMDR D. Salisbury RN,
CMDR S. Lenik, RNZN,
Mrs M. Hare,
Mr D. Blake and
Mr M. Anderson (Director AWM)

Motion: The foregoing persons be appointed as Honorary Members for 2021.

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell. Seconded: JJ Harrison. Carried

- **Auditor.** Harry Beardsell carried out the auditing of the Section's financial accounts for 2020. He has volunteered his services for 2021.

Motion: Harry Beardsell be appointed Auditor for 2021.

Moved: Tony Vickers. Seconded: Alan Masters. Carried

- **Election of Office Bearers.**

- All of the 2020 office bearers, with the exception of JJ Harrison, have made themselves available for re-election and have been duly nominated in accordance with NAA rules. John Small, due to caring duties has been unable to sign his nomination before the AGM. He has declared his willingness to stay a committee person. A nomination for Joe Slaats to be on the committee has been received.
- The long service provided by JJ Harrison to both the Section and the wider NAA community was acknowledged by David on behalf of all members. JJ reluctantly acknowledged that "age does weary one" and he will continue to assist the section in the delivery of the BC. Best wishes and grateful thanks and BZ were extended to JJ.

David Manolas declared all positions vacant.

In the absence of no nominations from the floor and there being no contested positions the following were declared as the committee for 2021:

President. David Manolas

Vice President. Alex McGown

Secretary/Treasurer. Alan Masters

Committee.

Peter Cooke-Russell,
Dennis Lyons,
Joe Slaats,
Kate Reid-Smith.

Motion: The persons named above be elected to the indicated committee positions and John Small be appointed on completion of the nomination process.

Moved: Dean Da Costa. Seconded: John Coombe. Carried

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1515.

Alan F Masters

Secretary

NAA (ACT)

Attachments: to Minutes of 76th AGM of NAA ACT Section

- A President's Report 2020
- B. Secretary's Report 2020
- C...Treasurer's Report 2020
- D Membership Registrar's Report. 2020

Minutes of NAA ACT Section—Attachments
76th Annual General Meeting 2021
Held on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

Attachment A

President's Report

Throughout 2020 and now into 2021, we have had to contend with varying degrees and forms of restrictions in our collective efforts to ward-off the effects of COVID-19. Despite not being able to travel much farther than the Canberra Region we have, nonetheless, been able to gather together at our Section Meetings; social 'fish and chips' gatherings; enjoy the meals and facilities of our new meeting place here at Eastlake Gungahlin; embark on a very enjoyable bus trip; and, provide representation at a number of very important commemorative events in Canberra. For all of that, we can be truly thankful.

We know that for those serving in the Navy at sea and ashore, and all within in the wider ADF, it has not been an easy time wherever they may be 'standing a watch' be it, a training exercise or a task of an operational nature or here at home in support of State Authorities executing COVID-19 processes and safeguards. We are very proud of their accomplishments and devotion to duty, and we acknowledge the sacrifices they make for the collective wellbeing of all Australians and when called upon, our neighbours in nearby nations.

Some of the commemorative highlights of the past twelve months where I have acted as your representative or attended on behalf of the national membership of the NAA, have included the: Peacekeeper's Memorial Service in February; HMAS *Canberra* Memorial Service in August; WRANS Memorial Service at *Harman* in October; Remembrance Day and the NAA Centenary Wreath Laying Service at the AWM in November; and, the Last Post Ceremony for Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean VC in December 2020. Shipmate Alex McGown our Vice President, has been very busy attending a number of commemorative services and Last Post ceremonies on our behalf and for that, we express our appreciation.

On a personal note; it has been a memorable and busy year having been elected as your President on 17 September and then on the 20th, I participated in my first Zoom Conference and emerged as the National President of the NAA. There is a lesson there: think carefully when asked to attend a Zoom conference, it may prove to be a life-changing experience!

There have been challenges this past year, but for myself the most striking feature has been the way in which we have afforded each other '*naval fellowship*', wherein we have sought to watch over each other in times of '*fair winds and a following sea and through storms and tribulation*'. We have emerged

ready to sail on into another year together as *Shipmates* in the NAA ACT Section.

It has also been a year where we have seen history being made and observed. We have seen the first Victoria Cross (VC) awarded to a member of the Royal Australian Navy. We can be proud of the stance the NAA adopted in advocating for this to occur. Along with the many others who did the same, we all rejoiced in this truly momentous and just outcome for Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean VC, his family, the Royal Australian Navy and the Nation. We also saw history being observed with the NAA attaining its Centenary. During the commemorative service we spoke of our many achievements and reminded ourselves that our Association exists in order to safeguard the legacy of the Royal Australian Navy; to minister to the wellbeing and recognition of the naval veteran, those who have completed their naval service and those still serving; and, to afford our members the life-enriching benefits of 'naval fellowship'.

As I now stand aside along with the other members of our Section Committee, I do very much wish to extend to each of them and to yourselves, my heartfelt thanks for all your support, encouragement and resolve in the past 12 months. I stand ready to assist in any way you deem appropriate as we '*set our course and get underway*' in 2021. I wish the incoming committee and all our members, every success and good fortune in the year ahead.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

Attachment B

Secretary's Report

COVID restrictions throughout 2020 reduced the administrative load. Whilst the Committee met regularly to address important matters crowd restrictions forced the cancellation of General Meetings.

Ceremonial activities were also fewer in number and thus reduced workload.

The future challenge will be to accommodate the new normal.

Alan Masters

Secretary

Attachment C

Treasurer's Report

The Section's finance remain in a healthy state. A

Minutes of NAA ACT Section—Attachments
76th Annual General Meeting 2021
Held on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

loss was incurred this year but the balance sheet shows the Section has sufficient funds to enable it to operate soundly for many more years.

All financial transactions pass through the Bendigo Bank and authorisation from two committee members is required when expenditure occurs. I am grateful for the support of Peter Cooke-Russell, Alex McGown and Dennis Lyons for their quick authorisations of expenditure requests.

Thanks also go to Harry Beardsell for his auditing of the accounts.

The inclusion of the DVA Grant for bus hire distorts the accounts and if these figures were removed the loss for 2020 is \$357. This loss included one-off payments for Veterans' lunches and flowers. On the other hand we did not incur costs for travel for our delegate to National Council meetings.

Alan Masters

Treasurer

Attachment D

Membership Registrar's Report

Membership has remained steady throughout the year. The following table shows the state of membership as at the date of the AGM.

Membership 1 Jan20 to 4 Mar 21			
	Financial Members 2021	Unfinancial Members 2021	Total
Full Members	53	15	68
Restricted Members			
Honorary		9	9
Associate	1		1
Club	3	1	4
Hon Life	1		1
TOTAL	58	25	83
Removed 2020			
Deceased	2		2
Resigned	1		1
Archived	10	1	11
TOTAL	13	1	14

Peter Cooke-Russell
Membership Registrar

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War

Wednesday, 12 January 2022

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, announced that the Australian Government has committed \$6 million to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War in 2023 to ensure this important milestone is marked with appropriate respect and appreciation for all those who served and those who gave their lives in Vietnam.

"Australia owes our Vietnam veterans an enormous debt of gratitude," Minister Gee said. "Almost 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, 521 lost their lives and more than 3,000 were wounded. We honour and remember the service and sacrifice of each and every one of them. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict will be an important opportunity for Australians to express the pride, gratitude and respect of the nation.

"The Vietnam War and its aftermath exacted a

heavy toll on all those who served and their families. The treatment of our diggers upon their return home by some of their fellow Australians remains a source of hurt and pain for many. The 50 year commemoration is another important step in helping to heal the wounds that were inflicted back in Australia.

"I will be working closely with the Vietnam veteran community to ensure the funding announced today delivers a program of events that honours all Australians who served in the Vietnam conflict.

"The centrepiece will be a national commemorative service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

"We owe the men and women who served in Vietnam nothing less than a commemorative program that reflects their extraordinary service and sacrifice. Our country will always be grateful for it and we will never, ever, forget it," Minister Gee said.

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.

Subscription and Records Update 2021

Annual Subscription for 2022 **\$38.00** (Due now)

Surname.....

Given Names

Signature

Please complete the following details to bring our records up to date

Preferred Title.....Post Nominals.....

Home Address.....

Town/Suburb.....State/Territory.....

Post Code.....

Telephoner (H)

Fax

Email

Spouse/Partner Given Name

Note

When completed please return this form together with your payment to; The Membership Registrar, either at a General meeting or by post to

4 McEachern Crescent MELBA 2615 or pay via the ebanking 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**

NAA ACT Section

Nomination Form

2022 Committee Elections

Position

Nominee

Proposer: Name (Block Letters)

Signature

Second: Name (Block Letters)

Signature.....

Date:.....

Endorsement by Nominee

Nominations are to be delivered to

The Secretary, s
NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 24 February 2022

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS38 for 2022

Action to renew membership for 2022 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 2022 is \$38.

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 . .

2022

20 Jan	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
17 Feb	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
17 Mar	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
21 Apr	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
19 May	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
16 Jun	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
1 Jul	Mid winter Christmas Lunch
21 Jul	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
18 Aug	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
15 Sep	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
20 Oct	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
17 Nov	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
1 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:

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
February 2022**

7 John Crawley

9 Robert McDonnell

10 Raymond Lawton

13 Frank Shugg

14 Dean Da Costa

16 Christopher Woods

21 Peter Cooke-Russell

27 Michael Doyle

NB

**The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the
NAA ACT Section
will be held on Thursday 3 March 2022
at the Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin
commencing at 1400 (2 pm) approx.**

Nominations for Office Bearers and Committee
are to be with the Secretary by 24 February 2022

Nomination Form, Agenda and 2021 AGM minutes are in this issue



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

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