



The Bosun's Call



Vol 27 No 3

Once Navy, Always Navy

April 2022

Operation Tonga Assist—2022



Australian Defence Force personnel returned to Townsville, Queensland, on Thursday, 24 March 2022 on board Royal Australian Navy landing helicopter dock HMAS *Canberra* after deploying to Tonga on Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

Operation Tonga Assist 2022 is the Australian Defence Force contribution to the Australian Government's support to the Government of Tonga following the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano on 15 January 2022 and a subsequent tsunami. HMA Ships, *Canberra*, *Supply* and *Adelaide* all deployed on Operation Tonga Assist.

The ships embarked personnel and assets that supported recovery and clean-up operations across Tonga, as well as the delivery of humanitarian and disaster relief stores.

Air support to Operation Tonga Assist 2022 included air reconnaissance to assess damage using P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, and more than 132 tonnes of humanitarian and disaster relief stores was delivered using C-17A Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules transport aircraft.

Photo: Sgt Andrew Sleeman

Events coming up

1 Apr Last Post Ceremony Lieut Kyle RANVR Coastwatcher New Ireland PNG, Dennis Lyons
9 Apr Last Post Ceremony Loss of HMAS Vampire Stwd Harvey, Michael Taylor CO HMAS Vampire II
25 Apr ANZAC Day



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

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:

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,

Thank you all for the part you played in the conduct of our 2022 AGM. I was delighted to see the enthusiastic way in which members offered their services to be part of the Section Committee, thank you.

Whatever is to become of covid precautions into the future, we can give thanks that we have had the means and support to weather the storm thus far. We can be justifiably satisfied and proud of the way in which we have remained 'on-watch' and met our NAA Care, Camaraderie and Commemoration objectives in these troubled times.

We are delighted to see some new members within our ranks, welcome and thank you for your support. May I extend to you all a 'Bravo Zulu' on a job so very well done over the past year.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

President ACT Section



A detailed list of the ADF support activities in the Flood Crisis from 25 February to 8 March may be found in the National Bosun's Call placed in the NAA website. Details for the period 9-24 March are avail at the Defence website.

Operation Flood Assist 2022 | Defence

Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 7 April 2022

Operation Flood Assist 2022

Last updated: 10:00am Friday, March 25, 2022.

Defence support to Queensland and NSW governments is being delivered under Operation Flood Assist 2022 and coordinated through Headquarters Joint Operations Command. Deployment of forces is in response to [NSW Government](#) and [Queensland Government](#) requirements coordinated and prioritised through State Emergency Operations Centres.

Defence remains responsive to changing requirements and continues to adjust to meet the needs of affected communities as identified by state governments.

Defence has been supporting Queensland and New South Wales governments under Operation Flood Assist 2022 since February 25.

Personnel supporting:

At the peak of Operation Flood Assist 2022, approximately 7000 Australian Defence Force personnel were available for tasking in Queensland and New South Wales.

In Queensland

- ADF personnel assisting flood-affected communities in south-east Queensland have gradually begun returning home, with state requests for emergency and recovery assistance concluding on Friday, March 25, 2022.
- At the peak of the operation, more than 1600 ADF personnel were available for tasking to provide community assistance to south-east Queensland.

In New South Wales

- About 4000 ADF personnel will remain on task or available for tasking in northern NSW, assisting with clean-up and disaster relief efforts.

Tasks planned for Friday, March 25:

Queensland:

ADF personnel continuing to conduct clean-up activities and vulnerable persons checks in the Greater Brisbane area including Kedron Brook walkway, Col-



Above: Navy diver Able Seaman Jake Phillips prepares to survey ferry terminal pylons along the Brisbane River as part of Operation Flood Assist 2022.

Photo: Corporal Julia Whitwell



Above and below: RAN sailors remove flood-spoilt soil from the Knox Park playground in Murwillumbah, New South Wales,

Photos : Cpl Jonathon Goedhart

leges Crossing recreational reserve, and Logan.

- All southeast Queensland tasks expected to be complete by the weekend. Some personnel to remain in location.

New South Wales

- Continuation of support to northern NSW, including Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay, Casino, Nimbin, Cabbage Tree Island, Coffs Harbour, Evans Head, Pottsville, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Woodburn.
- Task units are preparing for potential increased requests for assistance ahead of forecast severe weather in the Lismore area.
- Two MRH-90 helicopters in position in northern NSW to support search and rescue operations from Ballina as required.
- Anticipate handing over jurisdiction of support to Coraki to NSW Resilience.

Sydney basin personnel are postured to provide short notice support ahead of drawdown.

Defence will continue to provide additional support as requested by the Queensland and NSW governments. Defence is ready to support the states as the flood emergency and recovery efforts continue.

For more Operation Flood Assist 2022 imagery, go to the [Defence image gallery](#).



Ceremonial



1 March 2022

Left National President David Manolas at the Chief of Navy's commemoration of the Navy's 121st birthday at the Naval Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra

Photo: Nicole Mankowski

Below: Tiger Lyons with RADM Peter Quinn AM CSC RAN on completion of the AWM Last Post Ceremony commemorating the Navy's 121st birthday.

Photo: Flickr



Left: Naval Association's wreath in memory of AB Hawkes who was lost with HMAS Sydney. The wreath was laid by Tiger on 1 March

Photo: Flickr

Joe Slaats laid a wreath marking the 80th anniversary of the loss of HMAS Yarra and ERA4 A Adams on 4 March. Unfortunately a Flickr photograph could not be found in the Flickr album.

Right: ACT Section Vice President Alex McGown at the AWM Last Post Ceremony on 28 February which commemorated the 80th anniversary of loss of HMAS Perth. Peter Eveille (ACT RSL) is on Alex's right and to his left are CAPT Tobias Reid USN, US Naval Attache and CAPT Christopher Leece, Commanding Officer HMAS Perth (IV). The 80th anniversary of loss of the cruiser, USS Houston was also remembered.

Photo: Flickr



ANZAC Day 2022 at the AWM Canberra

Development works at the Australian War Memorial, including enhancements to the Parade Ground, change the format for commemorations in 2022.

Whilst the National Ceremony will not occur mid-morning in its traditional format, the ACT Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) veterans' march, Anzac Day Commemorative Address and official wreath laying, are encapsulated in other commemorations or programs throughout the day.

From 4.30 am, representatives of the armed forces will read excerpts from letters and diaries of Australians who have experienced war first-hand.

The Dawn Service is an informal standing ceremony and will begin at 5.30 am. The ceremony includes the laying of wreaths on behalf of Australia and New Zealand symbolising the unity of ANZAC.

The ACT Branch of the RSL will conduct the veteran's march through the western grounds of the Memorial from 9.30 am.

The Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony will be held that evening in the Commemorative Area at 4.45 pm. This ceremony will include the official wreath-laying by veteran association members and representatives. Tickets to attend the Last Post Ceremony will be available to book on the Memorial website.

Members of the public are encouraged to join us on Anzac Day, and may wish to lay their own personal tribute or wreath at the Stone of Remembrance following the Dawn Service, or at the Last Post Ceremony.

Following the veteran's march, the Anzac Day address to the nation will be televised and livestreamed from the Memorial's Commemorative Area including to large screens for public viewing in the Memorial's western grounds

Information about the commemorative activities taking place at the Australian War Memorial will be regularly updated as planning is progressed at this link: www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac-day

Mates reunited in Tonga

16 March 2022

Two mates from different navies who completed officer training together have been reunited in Tonga.

RAN Midshipman Callum Masters and Tongan Navy Midshipman Paula Ulakai, who both trained in HMAS *Creswell* in 2020, enjoyed a contactless reunion on a wharf at Tongan navy headquarters. Midshipman Masters was in Tonga as part of Operation Tonga Assist 2022,

"To come to Tonga and help Tonga in a time of need and manage to reunite with a friend was quite special," Midshipman Masters said.

Midshipman Ulakai said the experience was "pretty surreal".

The pair met for the first time in a lunch line on the first day of New Entry Officer Course 63.

"We ended up just chatting. We were both in the same division and have remained mates since," Midshipman Masters said.

Midshipman Ulakai has fond memories of his time in Australia.

"It was pretty different from here in Tonga. It was really good to experience how the Royal Australian Navy works," Midshipman Ulakai said.

"It really helped me to develop as an officer and to bring those skills back home. I am really thankful for the friendships that I made."

Midshipman Masters came ashore for the reunion in a RAN rigid-hull inflatable boat after a formation entry into Nuku'alofa Harbour by HMA Ships *Adelaide*, *Canberra* and *Supply*.

More Operation Tonga Assist 2022 photos can be viewed on the [Defence image gallery](#).

By Lieutenant Brendan Trembath

Below: Midshipman Callum Masters, left, with Midshipman Paula Ulakai at their reunion in Tonga.

Photo: Leading Seaman David Cox



Recognising their sacrifice

Extracts from the report of the inquiry into recognition for members and families of members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service

CHAPTER 3 - Preliminary matters

On 20 January 2021 the Hon. Darren Chester MP, then Minister for Defence Personnel, gave a direction to the Tribunal to hold an inquiry into recognition for members, and families of members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service. The terms of reference for the inquiry appear earlier in this report.

The inquiry was undertaken by the following Members of the Tribunal:

- Mr Stephen Skehill (Tribunal Chair)
- Mr David Ashley AM
- Rear Admiral James Goldrick AO CSC RAN (Retd)
- Ms Josephine Lumb, and
- Ms Jane Schwager AO

Major General Simone Wilkie AO (Retd) was part of the originally constituted panel for this inquiry, but withdrew from the constituted panel in April 2021 to attend to a family health issue. The terms of membership of Rear Admiral Goldrick and Ms Schwager expired on 6 July 2021 but they continued on a consultancy basis until the completion of the inquiry.

The inquiry terms of reference invited submissions concerning whether members of the Australian Defence Force who are killed in or as a result of service, or their families, should receive an Australian honour or award or another form of recognition for that service. Unsurprisingly, given the broad nature of these terms of reference, we were presented with a wide range of views concerning possible forms of recognition and the merits and possible risks associated with introducing such recognition, whether operative within or outside the Australian honours and awards system. The following summaries of individual and organisational submissions, both written and oral is representative rather than comprehensive

CHAPTER 5 – Background to the inquiry

From 2009, following the introduction of the Elizabeth Cross in the United Kingdom (itself based in part on older awards in Canada and New Zealand), Defence considered introducing a similar form of recognition for families of veterans killed in or as a result of service. This was primarily in response to submissions from veterans and veterans' organisations seeking such recognition. Some of those submissions also suggested recognition for those wounded by the enemy on warlike operations, or otherwise injured in service, including in peacetime service. In response to these ongoing representations, the issue was brought to the attention of the Chiefs of Service Committee in 2011 and again in 2014. However, on each occasion Defence decided not to implement such recognition.

In its submission to this inquiry, Defence advised that it decided against implementing medallic recognition 'as there was complexity and ambiguity sur-

rounding the intent, implementation and eligibility criteria'.

CHAPTER 9 Views of submitters – recognition for service-related death

One individual's submission extracted

Commander Jennifer Wittwer RAN urged us to understand that death (or injury) incurred during service should not simply be accepted as a condition of service. Commander Wittwer explained that those who serve generally understand that death or injury may occur as a consequence of their service, but that did not mean that the ultimate sacrifice of a member should not be recognised in some meaningful way. Commander Wittwer believed, like other submitters, that there is a shortfall in the current system of recognition.

The Naval Association of Australia

In its written submission, the Naval Association explained that its preferred option to recognise death in service would be a device, in the form of a poppy, to be attached to the ribbon of an operational service medal or the ADM, to recognise death sustained in or as a result of operational or non-operational service. Consistent with other submissions that argued that a person's medal set should 'tell the story' of their service, the Association submitted that a device to be attached to a specific operational service medal would provide a direct link to the conflict or campaign in which the person died. The alternative option proposed by the Association would be for recognition in the form of a medal. The Association advised that any new recognition should commence from 3 September 1945, consistent with eligibility for the ADM.

Aside from affixing recognition to particular medals, the Association counselled against the concept of different forms of recognition for death on operational and non-operational service, which would potentially attribute a differing worth or significance between deaths. The Association also advised that death by suicide should be included as satisfying the criteria of service-related death for the purposes of any new award, and that, particularly having regard to sensitivities related to death as a result of psychological injury, receiving such recognition should be by application only. 56,57

The National President of the Association, Mr David Manolas, advised us that the reason recognition as part of the deceased member's medal set had been proposed was due to the meaning and gravitas attached to a veteran's medal set, and that the significance of such measures can be diluted through a less significant object such as a pin. Mr Manolas indicated that the Association would support a meaningful measure, such as a brooch or other emblem, which would add value to the degree of recognition provided to a member.

Recognising their sacrifice *Continued*

CHAPTER 10 Views of submitters – recognition for service-related wounding, injury and disease

The Naval Association of Australia

In its written submission, the Naval Association explained that its preferred option to recognise injury and wounding in service would be a device, in the form of a sprig of golden wattle, to be attached to the ribbon of an operational service medal or the ADM, to recognise injury sustained in or as a result of operational or non-operational service. Consistent with other submissions that argued that a person's medal set should 'tell the story' of their service, the Association submitted that a device attached to a specific operational service medal would provide a direct link to the conflict or campaign in which the person was injured. The alternative option proposed by the Association would be for recognition in the form of a medal. The Association advised that any new recognition should commence from 3 September 1945, consistent with eligibility for the ADM.

Aside from affixing recognition to particular medals, the Association counselled against the concept of different forms of recognition for injury on operational and non-operational service, which would potentially attribute a differing worth or significance between injuries. The submission urged us to take a broad view of the term 'wounded', noting past injuries and deaths of sailors due to friendly fire, and of those involved in logistic support roles in Vietnam who subsequently suffered the consequences of exposure to dioxins. The Association also emphasised that, particularly having regard to sensitivities related to death as a result of psychological injury, receiving such recognition should be by application only.

CHAPTER 11 Our analysis of the views of submitters

The preceding two chapters, while they provide only a summary of representative views put to us by submitters, are a vital element of this report for two reasons:

- having responded to our invitation and having clearly taken considerable time and effort in preparing their often emotional submissions, our submitters deserve to have their views heard, not just by us but also by those who will read and take decisions based on this report; and
- because those submissions disclose the depth and complexity of the issues that are raised by the apparently simple subject of "recognition for members and families of members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service" that our terms of reference direct us to consider.

Reading only the written text of those submissions, it was readily apparent to us that they conveyed a wide diversity of views. While the almost universal view was that there is a need for some additional form of recognition beyond that currently provided, there was no clear consensus about to whom and in what circumstances that recognition should be afforded.

Those very few who opposed any new form of recognition argued, in summary, that those who chose to enlist voluntarily assumed the risk of death or injury and that, when that resulted, there should be no different recognition beyond the compensation, health care and similar benefits that were available in civilian employment.

APPENDIX 6 – Forms of recognition proposed by submitters

Medal Devices – Concept Images



Poppy for Killed



Wattle Sprig for wounded or injured

Incurred in Non Operational Service



Incurred in Operational Service



Proposed by the Naval Association of Australia

Recognising their sacrifice *Continued*

Recommendations *(from the Executive Summary)*

Recommendation 1

We recommend the institution of the following new forms of medallic and emblematic recognition:

- a) a **Memorial Clasp** – to be posthumously awarded to a member of the ADF or a veteran who dies in or as a result of service. The Clasp is to be attached to the Australian campaign or service medal most relevant to the circumstances in which the death occurred and bearing, at the discretion of the veteran's family:
- the date of death; or
 - the date of the incident leading to death; or
 - no date;
- b) a **Gratitude Clasp** – to be awarded to a member of the ADF or veteran who is seriously wounded, seriously injured or suffers a serious injury in or as a result of service.
- The Clasp is to be attached to the Australian campaign or service medal most relevant to the circumstances in which wounding or injury occurred and bearing, at the discretion of the veteran (or family where posthumous recognition is sought) the date of wounding or injury; or
 - where multiple dates of wounds or injuries have been recognised, the number of such events recognised; or
 - no date;

c) a **Memorial Star** – A full size brooch-like emblem of a uniquely Australian design that recognises the sacrifice of the family of a member of the ADF or veteran who dies in service or whose death is service related;

d) a **Gratitude Star** – A full size brooch-like emblem of uniquely Australian design to recognise the sacrifice of the family of the member or veteran who has suffered a serious wound, serious injury or serious disease in or as a result of service; and for veterans awarded the Gratitude Clasp, a lapel pin of separate and appropriate design for everyday wear at the discretion of the veteran.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that the Memorial Clasp, the Gratitude Clasp, the Memorial Star and the Gratitude Star be accompanied by a scroll, issued under the authority of the Governor General, to commemorate the sacrifice of the member, veteran or the family, as applicable.

Recommendation 3

We recommend that the proposed new forms of recognition be available retrospectively, to recognise death, serious wounding, serious injury or serious disease that is or was brought about in or as a result of service after 2 September 1945

Defence Honours, Awards and Recognition Policy

Coming soon – the Defence Honours, Awards and Recognition Policy (DHARP) which will provide up to date policy and guidance information regarding honours, awards and recognition.

The Defence Honours & Awards Manual (DHAM) was first published in 2012 to provide a sole reference to information required for the administration of the honours and awards system within Defence. This included not just policy, but also procedures required to support the nomination and processing

of awards. Work on reviewing the DHAM began in 2019 to ensure that Defence honours, awards and recognition policy is in line with the Defence administrative policy framework.

The DHARP brings Defence honours, awards and recognition policy in line with the Defence administrative policy framework.

Please [contact 1800 DEFENCE](#) should you require clarification of honours and awards policy.

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



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

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CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
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Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
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1800 628 036

Australia to build additional submarine base

7 March 2022

Joint media release:

Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP

A new submarine base will be built on the east coast of Australia to support the nation's new nuclear-powered submarines, providing deployment opportunities in both the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The new Future Navy Base will add capacity and capability to Fleet Base West in Western Australia, home of the Navy's Collins-class submarines, which will also receive significant funding to support Australia's nuclear-powered submarines and enable regular visits from the United States and United Kingdom's nuclear-powered submarines.

The Department of Defence estimates that more than \$10 billion will be needed for facility and infrastructure requirements to transition from Collins to the future nuclear-powered submarines, including the new east coast submarine base.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the decision to establish an east coast submarine base has been underway for many years and would enhance Australia's strategic deterrent capability in the Pacific Ocean.

"Australia faces a difficult and dangerous security environment and we must continue to invest in growing the capability of our ADF to ensure we keep Australians safe," the Prime Minister said. "Under our AUKUS partnership with the United States and the United Kingdom we will have access to the best technology in the world to support our efforts to deter threats against our national interest in the Indo-Pacific.

"This new 20-year investment is vital for our strategic capabilities, but it will also provide long-term economic opportunities at both our submarine bases on the east coast and on the west coast. Our investments will also flow into our operations in Western Australia, with significant funding flowing to upgrade facilities there for our future submarines and to support our allies in the United States and United Kingdom. Fleet Base West will remain home to our current and future submarines, given its strategic importance on the Indian Ocean."

Following significant work by the Department of Defence, which reviewed 19 potential sites, three preferred locations on the east coast have been identified, being Brisbane, Newcastle, and Port Kembla. The locations were selected on submarine basing criteria, which included access to exercise operating areas, proximity to industrial infrastructure, and significant population centres to support personnel and recruitment.

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the Australian Defence Force had not constructed a major



new base since Robertson Barracks in the 1990s, and an extensive process would now begin.

"We took the important decision in 2021 to pursue nuclear-powered submarines with the support of our American and British partners, in response to the changing strategic environment," Minister Dutton said. "Nuclear-powered submarines have superior characteristics of stealth, speed, manoeuvrability, survivability and endurance when compared to conventional submarines.

"With the ability to operate from both coasts, this will make our nuclear-powered submarines more responsive and resilient to meet the strategic environment. Today's announcement will ensure Australia has the infrastructure and facilities ready to support those submarines when they enter service. A new Navy base on the east coast will also have significant advantages for training, personnel and for Australia's defence industry."

Navy's current fleet of Collins-class submarines and other maritime capabilities will be able to be operated out of the new east coast base, which will provide critical support to the ADF's undersea capability. Defence will engage with state and local governments to determine the optimal site, which will be informed by the ongoing work of the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce. This initial work is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

There will probably be a whole lot of jockeying and positioning from the various interests promoting each site, along with equally fervent opposition to the idea of having nuclear reactors with highly enriched uranium anywhere near affected communities, no matter how impeccable the safety records.

In the midst of these busy, noisy voices, it will be worth keeping in mind Australia's dangerous international environment and the contribution that the submarines—and the other faster-moving technologies in the AUKUS arrangement—will make to keeping Australians safe and deterring war.

Michael Shoebridge ASPI

Operation Tonga Assist—2022



Tonga's Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni (centre) and Australian High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga, Rachael Moore (centre left), talk with military personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, French Armed Forces and the Republic of Fiji Military Force

Photo: Leading Seaman Daniel Goodman

A farewell ceremony at Tonga's Vuna Wharf was held on March 16 to thank personnel from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), French Armed Forces in New Caledonia (FANC), and Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) who have been operating together from HMAS *Canberra*.

Operation Tonga Assist 2022 delivered more than 370 tonnes of equipment, supplies and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief stores to Tonga following the January 15 eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano and subsequent tsunami.

Australian High Commissioner to Tonga Her Excellency Rachael Moore said the team's considerable efforts had made a difference to the people of Tonga in their time of need.

"We help each other out in the Pacific. Australia is proud to work alongside our Pacific family to contribute to the Government of Tonga's timely and effective response," Ms Moore said.

"Recovery will take time and commitment. While we are saying goodbye to HMAS *Canberra*, the Australian Government will work with friends and partners in support of the longer-term effort."

HMAS *Canberra* arrived in the Tongan capital of Nuku'alofa on 1 March to deliver 150 tonnes of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief stores and transfer command of the local ADF Joint Task Group from HMAS *Adelaide*.

Commander 1st Division Deployable Joint Force Headquarters Major General Scott Winter said he was proud of the achievements of all ADF personnel.

"In a highly challenging environment, the team came together along with other members of the Pacific family to provide immediate aid and support

to the Government and people of Tonga." Major General Winter said.

"HMAS *Canberra* also supported Tonga's COVID-19 response, transporting vaccines and medical teams to Eua and Southern Ha'apai islands. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the way in which the people of Tonga took our troops into their hearts, even when under great strain following the eruption and tsunami.

"I am looking forward to working closely with His Majesty's Armed Forces in the coming months, to continue develop mutual understanding, build partner capacity and enhance resilience across our Pacific community."

HMAS *Canberra* Commanding Officer Captain Jace Hutchison said the ship facilitated multiple air and amphibious operations while in Tonga.

"Embarked CH-47 Chinook and MRH-90 Taipan helicopters airlifted stores such as food and farming supplies and personnel including Army engineers, Government of Tonga medical teams and telecommunications technicians," Captain Hutchison said. Hundreds of personnel were transported ashore to conduct recovery tasks ranging from debris clearance to simple repairs to community property."

Captain Hutchison said local communities appreciated the assistance provided by the ADF, FANC and RFMF.

"The people of Tonga's warmth and appreciation was obvious every time we hit the ground. Food was offered and there was always a smile on the faces of those we met. That hospitality meant a lot to us," Captain Hutchison said.

The farewell ceremony at Vuna Wharf was conducted according to strict Government of Tonga COVID-safe protocols.

Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlake Gungahlin Club on 3 March 2022

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

Present: 15 members as per attendance book.

Apologies: J Small, G McNamara, M. Hardwick, A. Vickers, R. Hannan, JJ Harrison

Minute of Last Meeting. The minutes of the general meeting on 3 February 2022 appeared in the March 2022 edition of the Bosun's Call. It was considered there was no outstanding business from that meeting.

Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 3 February 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Darren Rush. Seconded: Joe Slaats. Carried.

Reports.

President. The President thanked committee members for their support throughout the past year and welcomed the rolling back of the COVID restrictions.

Vice President. Advised members of a Last Post Service in April and invited any member to lay the NAA (ACT) wreath. He advised that he has taken over the running of the meeting raffles and praised Bev Joce for her past work. During her reign as Raffle Queen she raised \$2356. He also passed around a photograph of a decorated coffin. It showed a coffin painted in ship-side grey with a large image of a frigate.

Secretary. Business as usual.

Treasurer. Financial records have been audited and remain in a healthy state.

Membership. Membership renewals slowly continue bringing the full membership for 2022 to 49 with 15 still to renew their subs.

Welfare. Shipmate JJ Harrison had a fight with a bed-base and suffered an injury to his leg. His existing medication led to excessive bleeding and subsequent hospitalisation. He is slowly getting better.

Motion: The reports be received.

Moved: Kate Reid-Smith. Seconded: Rex Kendall. Carried.

General Business:

- **Donations to Charitable Organisations.** Discussions centred on the amount of each donation to the selected charities and whether the omitted 2021 donation would be rectified in the 2022 donation. Dementia Australia, Australian Cancer Research Foundation, National Heart Foundation and Legacy were to be the recipients of our donation and \$100 would be amount to each of them bringing the total of the 2022 donation to \$800.
- *Motion: \$100 be donated to each of Dementia Australia, Australia Cancer Research Founda-*

tion, National Heart Foundation, and Legacy as part of the 2022 donations and the same amount to the same charities for the 2021 donations.

- *Moved: Harry Beardsell. Seconded: Dean Da Costa. Carried*
- **RAN Birthday.** David Manolas attended and laid a wreath on 1 March at the Navy Memorial on ANZAC Parade on behalf of the NAA. He was grateful for the acknowledgement of the NAA support to the RAN. He was supported by Alex McGown.
- **ANZAC Day.** There will be no national service held this year, but the dawn service will proceed and may be a ticketed event. At this stage, the march, organised by the RSL (ACT) is still under consideration.
- **Computer Purchase.** The purchase of a laptop computer for use by the Secretary has occurred and was on display for members. A good deal was achieved and the laptop, mouse and operating and security systems (for an extended period) cost \$1461.
- **Audit of Financial Accounts.** The Treasurer informed the committee that the accounts have been audited.
- **Royal Commission re Suicide of Veterans.** The President is negotiating for a guest speaker to inform members at our April meeting of how best they can assist the commission.
- **Fish'n Chips.** These get togethers are back and details are in the BC.
- **Certificate of Appreciation.** The President congratulated Darren Rush for his award by the National Council for his work with the design of the White Ensign Magazine.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 7 April 2022 at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club starting at 1330 following lunch starting at 1200.

Meeting closed at 1355.

Alan Masters

Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Meeting held at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club 3 March 2022

Present: David Manolas, Alex McGown, Alan Masters, Peter Cooke-Russell, Dennis Lyons, Joe Slaats, Kate Reid-Smith
Apology: John Small

Discussion matters focused on the agenda items for the General and Annual General Meetings.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 7 April 2022 at 1100.

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

Reminder

For those receiving hard copy, if you have one of these symbols on the address label, The Section is anxiously awaiting your subs for 2022.



For those of you receiving it by email, the covering email will remind you.

Your membership is a vital part of the Naval Association

Regards

Peter Cooke-Russell
Membership Registrar

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

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

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you
April 2022**

24 Alaric O'Neill



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



Paste Address label Here

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