



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 29 No 3

Once Navy, Always Navy

April 2024

## Open Day Government House Yarralumla

On the 18 March 2024 the Governor General of Australia opened his residence in Yarralumla to the public. Those organisations to whom he is a patron were invited to have a stall set up in the grounds of Government House. The ACT Section of the NAA set up a stall and combined with the WRANS and Naval Women's Association, ACT Branch.



Photos: Geoff Hazell



Top: NAA stall, David Manolas is in the shade in the middle of the photo

Above: Australian +War Widows stall

Right: Legacy stall with His Excellency the Governor General at centre and Geoff Hazell at right.

**Events coming up**

25 Apr	ANZAC Day
2 May	Last Post Ceremony Lay a wreath AB James Cummings HMAS Sydney II
24 May	Last Post Ceremony Lay a wreath AB Rex Cooper HMAS Sydney II
17 Jun	Last Post Lay a wreath Stoker Daniel Beer HMAS Parramatta I



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

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## General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

#### 2024

4 Apr	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 May	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 Jun	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
3 Aug	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Sep	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
5 Oct	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Nov	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

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

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

## Prevent lithium-ion battery fires

2 February 2024

DVA urges veterans to always follow manufacturers' instructions when recharging any devices that use lithium-ion batteries, such as mobility scooters. That's because there has been an increasing number of fires linked to these batteries.

Lithium batteries can be found in mobility aids, electric wheelchairs, recliners and beds provided through DVA's Rehabilitation Appliances Program .

The batteries can overheat or explode if they are used, charged or disposed of incorrectly, or if they are damaged.

The main recommendation that comes from safety and consumer groups is to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Product Safety Australia recommends you:

- be present while you're charging the battery
- don't recharge it on a combustible surface, and keep it away from combustible materials
- unplug the device once it is fully charged
- only use the charger that came included with your device
- obtain replacement lithium-ion batteries recommended by the product manufacturer.

For replacement batteries and cables please contact the RAP supplier; details are provided on the RAP supplied equipment.

For safety information about recharging lithium batteries, visit [Product Safety Australia](#) and [Choice](#)

*Note; Due to outside pressures, the minutes of the 2024 ACT Section Annual General Meeting will be published in the May issue of the Bosun's Call*

*Editor*

**Committee meeting  
Eastlakes Gungahlin  
1100 Thursday 4 April 2024**



## Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

25 March 2024

The Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, will take the stand as the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide enters its final week of public hearings in Sydney.

The hearing will continue to examine the issues of leadership and accountability with a focus on how the upper echelons of the Australian Defence Force and Department of Defence have responded to a suicide crisis in the military community.

General Campbell previously gave evidence to the Royal Commission in Townsville in June 2022, where he said the ADF "is not doing enough" to address Defence and veteran suicide.

Chair of the Royal Commission Nick Kaldas said it would be an opportunity to ask the General about the cultural and systemic challenges the inquiry had identified within Defence.

The Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force have previously given evidence at the Sydney hearing.

Commissioner Kaldas said it was refreshing to hear

*"Nearly two years ago, General Campbell admitted Defence was not doing enough to address this national tragedy," Commissioner Kaldas said. "We're keen to hear what urgent steps Defence has taken in the intervening period to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for its people," Mr Kaldas said.*

the tri-service chiefs acknowledge suicide and suicidality as a service issue –and speak openly about improvements needed within Defence.

"It was particularly good to hear the Chiefs of Air Force and Navy acknowledge there is a link between what happens during service and the adverse outcomes some experience after they leave the military. This is something Defence has not previously acknowledged, believing that this was a problem mainly for those who have left service and therefore for the Department of Veterans' Affairs."

General Campbell will appear on Thursday 28 March.

The Secretary of the Department of Defence Greg Moriarty will appear on Tuesday 26 March, while Associate Secretary Matt Yannopoulos will appear today (Monday 25 March).

The 16-day public hearing will conclude on Thursday.

The Royal Commission is due to deliver its final report to the Governor-General by 9 September this year.

## Newsletter

### Edition 27 - 4 March 2024

"There's no time to waste": Commission Chair says leaders must act now on veteran wellbeing

The chair of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has opened the inquiry's final public hearing in Sydney today, saying the cultural and systemic issues impacting veterans' health and wellbeing must be urgently addressed.

In his opening statement, Commissioner Nick Kaldas once again urged leaders to see this Royal Commission as an opportunity to drive long-overdue cultural and systemic reforms. He stressed there must be collaboration, cooperation, governance and accountability from all parties.

Despite at least 57 related inquiries preceding this Royal Commission, there has been no improvement in the high rates of suicide and suicidality among the Defence and veteran population.

Mr Kaldas has told the hearing there's "no time to waste" in tackling the issues impacting the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving ADF members, and their families.

No longer can these systemic issues be denied, dismissed, diminished or deflected by those in the halls of power and positions of leadership. Their lack of ownership of these issues, their lack of curiosity about contributing issues, and their willingness to accept glossy versions of history over stark facts cannot continue.

- Commissioner Kaldas

## Legal support

The Defence & Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS) provides information and legal advice to support Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans, as well as their families, carers and supporters, to safely share their experiences with the Royal Commission. This service is independent – both from the Royal Commission, and from Government, including Defence and DVA. Visit the [DAVLS website](#) or call 1800 331 800 to find out more.

## Australian Defence Force chief Angus Campbell issues unreserved apology for 'deficiencies' in supporting veterans at royal commission

ABC News 28 March 2024

The chief of the Australian Defence Force has issued an unreserved apology for "deficiencies" in providing wellbeing support and care for veterans during and after their service and says he is committed to "doing better".

General Angus Campbell is appearing before the long-running Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, which is in its final week of public hearings.

He began his evidence with an opening statement which acknowledged failings.

"Our people deserve and should rightly expect the wellbeing support and care they need both during and after their service," General Campbell said.

"I acknowledge that this has not always been the case and has tragically led to the deaths by suicide of some of our people.

"I apologise unreservedly for these deficiencies.

"Defence is committed and I am committed to doing better."

General Campbell said the courage of those who have come forward to share experiences with the commission was "deeply admirable".

He said he appreciated the efforts of those who have contributed to his learning and the force's "deeper understanding" of suicide and its "enduring aftermath".

Under questioning from Counsel Assisting, Erin Longbottom KC, he also acknowledged he was accountable for "everything that happens in the defence force and everything that does not happen in the defence force".

General Campbell previously appeared before the royal commission in June 2022, where he admitted defence was not doing enough to address veteran suicide.

### Defence needs 'culture of organisational accountability'

Ms Longbottom put to General Campbell that the royal commission was not the first inquiry to explore issues connected to mental health and sui-



cide prevention within the defence community.

He accepted there were some 22 reports and inquiries that have examined the issue over 16 years.

But he disagreed that Defence waited until 2022 or 2023 to start "in earnest" initiatives to improve the experience of personnel.

Ms Longbottom asked why the newly established mental health and wellbeing branch could not have been set up before last year.

General Campbell said Defence was previously coming from a "disaggregated perspective".

"What we have been doing, certainly through my tenure, is trying to systematically build the aggregated capacity to act as an enterprise and to generate consistently high quality outcomes by an enterprise view," he said.

General Campbell also accepted that suicide and suicidality is a "significant adverse event" that Defence must confront.

He agreed with Ms Longbottom's propositions that it requires more than a "procedural response" and there is a need for a "culture of organisational accountability".

On his way into the hearing, General Campbell told the media the royal commission was "critically important".

"Defence is determined to learn from and to improve our support to our people," he said.

Photo: NCA NewsWire

## ANZAC Day Canberra

On Thursday 25 April 2024, the Australian War Memorial will mark the Gallipoli landings in 1915, as well as commemorating all Australians who have served and died in military operations.

- Dawn Service at 5.30 am
- Veterans' March at 9.30 am
- Last Post Ceremony at 4.30 pm

Tickets are not required to attend the Dawn Service and Veterans' March.

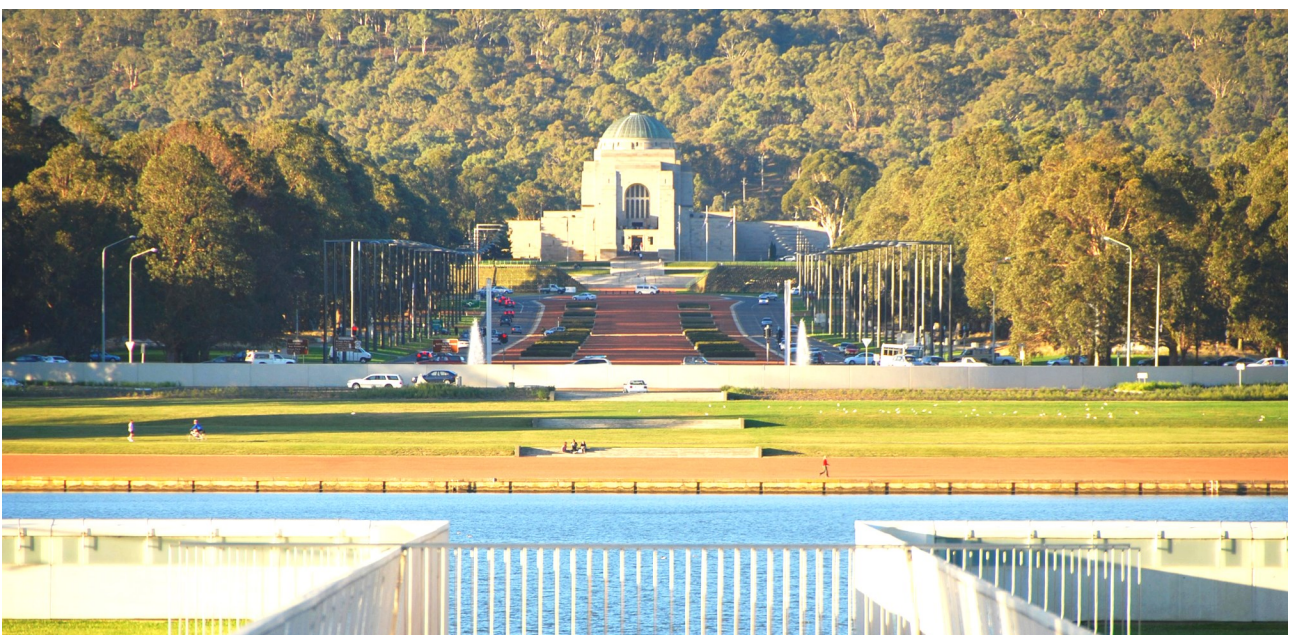
The Dawn Service will again be held in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard commencing at 5.30 am. The Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral David Johnston AC RAN, will deliver the Commemorative Address on this occasion.

This year, the veterans' march will return to the Parade Ground and will commence from Anzac Parade at 9.30 am. On conclusion of the march, Afghanistan veteran Mr Damien Thomlinson will deliver the Anzac Day Address.

Later that afternoon, the Anzac Day Last Post Ceremony will conclude the day's commemorations starting at 4.30 pm. The previous official wreath laying will no longer occur, however should you wish to attend and lay a wreath, please contact the Last Post Ceremony team directly at [lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au](mailto:lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au). A representative is not required should you be unable to attend.

Tickets are required to enter the galleries and attend the Last Post Ceremony, [book your tickets](#).

Information regarding Anzac Day will be updated on the website nearer the date. For further enquiries please email [ceremony@awm.gov.au](mailto:ceremony@awm.gov.au) or call (02) 6206 9813



**Volunteers are needed to carry the banner in the march**

## Seventy Years Ago



*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II escorted by H.K. Joyce MBE, President of the ACT RSS&AILA, and the Duke of Edinburgh escorted by H.D. (Jock) Campbell, President of the ACT Section Ex-Navalmen's Association, on the steps of the King George V Memorial; in front of the old Parliament House Canberra  
17 February 1954*

*Photo: ACT Section NAA*

### Royal Tour of Australia, 3 February to 1 April 1954

Tuesday 16 February 1954  
Canberra

**AM**

- Meeting of the Federal Executive Council, Government House
- Give Address and unveil the Australian Memorial to the USA, Australian National Memorial to America

Wednesday 17 February 1954  
Canberra

**AM**

- Privy Council meeting and swearing in of Councillors, Government House
- Attend assembly of ex-Servicemen and women Parliament House Lawns
- The Queen presents new Colours to the Corps of Staff Cadets, Royal Military College, Duntroon

**PM**

- Garden Party, Government House
  - State Ball, Parliament House
- Overnight – Government House

*Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet*

**It's been one heck of a ride: Civic's iconic merry-go-round celebrates two anniversaries this year**

*Riq tact 23 March 2024 | James Coleman*

2024 is shaping up to be the year of anniversaries for Canberra.

It's 70 years since the 79-metre high American-Australian Memorial was officially opened in Russell, after a delicate process that involved trucking the concrete eagle down from Sydney to Canberra and installing it at night when weather conditions were calmer.

It's 65 years since the copper-roofed 'Shine Dome' opened, the first Canberra building to be added to the National Heritage List for its standout architecture.

And it's 60 years since the drought broke enough for Lake Burley Griffin to fill in six days and for then Prime Minister Robert Menzies to declare it the "heart to the city" and one "I hope ... will be quietly beating ... for the rest of our lives".

On 14 March 1964, the Canberra branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society then hosted the world's first hovercraft race on the new lake.

But on City Walk in Civic, one of the city's quaintest features is celebrating two anniversaries at once. This year marks 110 years since the merry-go-round was made, and 50 years since it was installed in Canberra.

The story begins with Herbert Thomson, born in Melbourne in 1890. By age 19, he had helped his father install machines in coal mines and built a steam engine used in a boat launch on the Yarra River. By 27, he had set up his



own business producing steam engines and boilers.

In July 1899, he revealed his *tour de force* – a self-propelled, steam-driven vehicle – or, to put it another way, Australia's first car. It reached a top speed of 24 km/h, hit during a 56 hour, 36 minute maiden journey from Bathurst to Melbourne. The Thomson Motor Car Company was born, and subsequent models reached 40 km/h and even beat a Benz imported from Germany. The company went out of business in 1912, but not before Herbert had designed a steam-powered carousel for St Kilda beach.

It was a properly international effort. The animals, including 50 horses and two elephants, were hand carved in Germany, and sit four abreast in 14 rows, while the twisted brass poles were made in Scotland. Jaunty accompaniment was taken care of by a steam-powered 69-key pipe organ, also from Germany.

It drew crowds in Melbourne until September 1973, when Canberra locals collectively raised \$40,000 to purchase it from a public auction.

It was in a sorry state by then, and underwent a heavy restoration courtesy of the Carousel Organ Restoration Group, Australian War Memorial, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Master Painters Association, Canberra Gem Society, and Model Makers Society.



*(Continued on page 8)*



Australia's first car, the 'Phaeton', designed by Herbert Thomson.

*Photo: Museums Victoria.*



Each of the animals have a name – see the full list [here](#).

*Photo: Spelio, Flickr.*

## It's been one heck of a ride: Civic's iconic merry-go-round celebrates two anniversaries this year

*Riqtact 23 March 2024 | [James Coleman](#)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

Volunteers from the Australian National University (ANU) restored the steam engine in the centre of the merry-go-round.

The finished product was unveiled on Petrie Plaza in the heart of Civic during Canberra Day celebrations on 13 March 1974, and it's been there ever since. It is now considered a heritage-listed ACT Government asset and managed by the ACT Property Group.

The only major changes are that the driving force is now a modern electric motor, rather than the original steam boiler, and the organ has been removed for safekeeping.

City Renewal Authority CEO Malcolm Snow says it's become a "landmark" to generations of Canberrans.

"It's one of those attractions with universal appeal."

It might not have been a hit with everyone at the time of purchase, but Mr Snow says not only was there strong appeal for a young city to have such a heritage item, but the carousel also arrived during a push for the pedestrianisation of the city.

"Civic was a different place at the time – it had cars going through it. But then Petrie and Alinga were closed to traffic and pedestrianised."

Today, the cost for a ride is \$3. Day-to-day operation is managed by a not-for-profit charity, chosen by the ACT Government. Most of these earnings are directed to this, with the balance used to fund upkeep.

"We've also offered free rides during promotional campaigns in the city, particularly at Christmas time, and we've certainly seen great take-up from the people of Canberra," Mr Snow adds.

As for the future, it's hoped we'll be back in 50 years time for a story on its centenary.

"I can't say with certainty that it will be there in 50 years' time, but certainly any decision to relocate it would have to take account of its heritage significance," Mr Snow says.

*Note: Riqtact states that it is only "60 years since the.... American-Australian Memorial was officially opened....".*





## Submariner's accomplishments commended

22 February 2024

Two years since completing an exchange posting aboard a US Navy nuclear-powered submarine, an Australian submariner received the United States Navy (USN) and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his service while in the UK.

Commander Daniel McCall is serving as an exchange officer within the UK's Submarine Delivery Agency and received his commendation during AUKUS Pillar 1 meetings held in London in December 2023.

Rear Admiral Lincoln Reifsteck, USN, presented the medal on behalf of the US Secretary of Navy Carlos Del Toro, recognising Commander McCall's accomplishments during a 2021 deployment aboard the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS *Key West* (SSN 722) as an exchange officer.

The citation accompanying the medal reads in part, "Commander McCall contributed to the successful accomplishments of two missions vital to the national security of the United States," and that, "through his continuous effort, he strengthened the ties between the US Navy and the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Forces".

Commander McCall's presentation ceremony was held in King Henry VIII's Wine Cellar – an historical feature built in 1536 that is now preserved underneath the UK's Ministry of Defence main building, Whitehall.

Fellow senior leaders Rear Admiral Matt Buckley, RAN Head Nuclear Submarine Capability in the Australian Submarine Agency, and Rear Admiral Chris Shepherd, RN, joined Rear Admiral Reifsteck in congratulating Commander McCall on his distinguished feat.

"Commander McCall's achievement demon-

strates the professionalism of RAN and USN submariners and our long history of working closely together on operations," Rear Admiral Buckley said.

"The efforts of Commander McCall and the professional and personal relationships he has developed will be well utilised as we now embark on an even deeper relationship through the AUKUS nuclear submarine program."

Commander McCall said the presence of senior leaders from the three partner nations highlighted the importance of the ceremony and AUKUS Pillar 1's mission to deliver a sovereign conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine capability to Australia.

"I truly appreciate the time under way with my USN shipmates and I am grateful to receive such an award," Commander McCall said.

"Opportunities such as these are highly beneficial for both parties, which will be further realised as more RAN submariners serve in Virginia-class submarines under AUKUS.

"I was also fortunate to have former commanders of mine at the ceremony – Commodore Brad Francis [RAN] and Captain Doug Theobald [RAN] – who are both fulfilling essential AUKUS positions in the US and UK respectively."

*Defence*

*Commander Daniel McCall, Royal Australian Navy, being presented with the citation that accompanies the US Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.*



*Photo: Defence*

## Law reform council wants to hear from public about sentencing for dangerous drivers

*Rliqtact 28 March 2024 | [Albert McKnight](#)*

The ACT Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council (LRSAC) has begun its public consultation period for its referral to the 'Dangerous driving: sentencing and recidivism' panel and wants to know the public's thoughts on the sentencing process for such offenders.

One person who will be making a submission is Tom McLuckie.

It has previously been alleged that on 19 May 2022, a driver had drugs in her system when she drove a stolen car onto the wrong side of the road at almost 180 km/h before she crashed into the car of Mr McLuckie's 20-year-old son, Matthew.

Matthew died the next day. The alleged driver remains before the courts.

"For the most serious crimes, specifically culpable driving causing death and [grievous bodily harm], despite what the report states as per Crimes Sentencing Act and the Monfries appeal that no one purpose is to be prioritised over any other purpose, it is clear from recent judgements that rehabilitation is being given priority over all other purposes," Mr McLuckie said.

He said this was reflected in several recent judgements, citing the sentence for the 16-year-old who killed [Susi Kopsiewicz and Claire Sankey](#) in a crash on 9 October 2022, the man who killed disability advocate [Sue Salthouse](#) by crashing into her on 20 July 2020, as well as the drunk driver who killed ice hockey player [Lachlan Seary](#) on 8 March 2021.

LRSAC is asking whether the public believes the current maximum penalties for driving offences are appropriate and whether there are any specific aspects of sentencing practices that need reform.

"The council is particularly interested in hearing diverse perspectives on how best to address repeat offending and enhancing the safety of our community," former ACT magistrate and LRSAC chair Lisbeth Campbell said.

"Some of the most valuable insights to the matters canvassed in this consultation paper may come from community members."

When asked for his thoughts on the topic of repeat offending, Mr McLuckie said a Freedom of Information request from Corrective Services showed that of 49 detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre who had been involved in serious motor vehicle offences, 48 were repeat offenders.

"We [see] the same offenders constantly reappearing at our courts and sometimes multiple generations of the same families," he said.

"[Operation TORIC](#) [which targets recidivist offending and dangerous driving in the ACT] has also



*Matthew McLuckie (right) stands with his younger brother, Joseph, and his father, Tom McLuckie.*

*Photo: ACTnowforsaferoads.*

clearly demonstrated that repeat offending is a huge challenge for all categories of those on provisional liberty – bail, good behaviour orders, intensive correction orders and parole ...

"Of 134 cases that since January 2019 to September 2023 went to the Supreme Court involving 'dangerous driving' offences, 130 of these offenders had a mention of previous offending. This is despite our government claiming it is addressing recidivism."

[LRSAC is an independent expert body that provides high-level advice](#) to Attorney General Shane Rattenbury on law reform and sentencing matters.

This consultation period will focus on the sentencing of dangerous driving offenders, including repeat offenders, in the context of recommendations arising from the *Standing Committee on Justice and Committee Safety Report No. 16 Inquiry into Dangerous Driving*, which can be viewed [here](#), along with the government's response to those recommendations.

The council has published a consultation paper that contains 16 questions directed to the referral's terms of reference to help shape submissions.

LRSAC wants to hear from a wide range of people and also welcomes submissions from practitioners, institutional organisations and agencies whose work is relevant to the subject matter of the consultation paper.

The consultation paper is [here](#). You can make a submission by clicking the same link.

Submissions are due by 7 May and LRSAC will hand its recommendations to Mr Rattenbury by 30 July.

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

**Meeting started** at 1332 with the Odes recited by David Manolas.

**Present:** 10 members and two visitors as per attendance book.

**Apologies:** D Lyons, J Small, M. Hardwick, J. Slaats, P. Gillin, Pauline Gribble, Heather Milward, R. Ridgeway, D. Rush,

**Minute of Last Meeting.** The minutes of the General meeting on 1 February 2024 appeared in the March 2024 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 1 February 2024 be accepted.*

*Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell Seconded: Harry Beardsell Carried.*

### Reports.

**President** Much of the President's Report relates to matters of national significance. Such items included:

- At an ESORT pre-meeting in a DVA provided room, consideration was given to a name change from ESORT to VORT (Veterans' Organisations Round Table) or MVORT (Military Veterans' Organisations Round Table),
- DVA claims to be processed within 2 weeks, 11000 DVA personnel to be involved,
- DVA to operate with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs),
- DVA website to be improved,
- Improved quality hearing aids to be made available,
- Travelling expenses to be improved there being no change in such for the last 10 years,
- A privacy breach in data between DVA and University of South Australia is being investigated,
- DVA see the need for a single veteran's voice considering there are more than 3000 veteran organisations.

**Vice President** Last Post ceremonies to be held 2 and 24 May

**Secretary** Business as usual.

**Treasurer** The audited financial records will be presented at the AGM.

**Membership** The membership stands at 67, made up of 54 full members, 9 Honorary, 2 Club and 2 Honorary Life. The 6 new members was offset by 6 full members crossing the bar, one transferring and 5 being archived.

**Welfare** John Small is still undergoing chemotherapy.

**Social** As per BC notices.

*Motion The Reports be received.*

*Moved Alaric O'Neill Seconded Peter Cooke-Russell Carried*

### General Business

**New Membership** An application has been received from Brian Eagles and acceptance from the membership was sought.

*Motion The application for membership of the NAA by Brian Eagles be endorsed.*

*Moved Alan Masters Seconded Peter Cooke-Russell Carried*

**Next Meeting** The next General Meeting will be held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 4 April 2024 starting at 1330.

**Close of Meeting** There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 1340.

Alan F Masters  
Secretary  
NAA (ACT)

## Notes from the Committee Meeting 7 March 2024

**Present:** David Manolas, Alex McGown, Peter Cooke-Russell, Stewart Gordon, Alaric O'Neill, Joe Slaats.

**Apology:** Dennis Lyons.

Discussion focused on the agenda items for the 79th Annual General Meeting and the 7 March 2023 General Meeting. The President also outlined the potential issues that may arise from formation of a Veterans' Hub to be created in Queanbeyan and managed by RSL NSW. The funding will be provided by DVA for a set period after which the Hub is to be self-funded. This issue is of concern to the NAA

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 4 April 2024 at 1100.

Alan Masters  
Secretary / Treasurer  
NAA ACT

**Subscription and Records Update 2024**  
**Annual Subscription for 2024 \$40.00 (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**

**Can you recognise suspicious provider behaviour**

Service providers and other third-party organisations play an important role in offering high quality health and well-being programs and services for veterans and families.

To help protect veterans and families, all service providers must comply with strict requirements for the services they deliver to DVA clients. Most providers do the right thing. However, we are aware of some providers and third-party organisations which are engaging in misleading and non-compliant behaviours, including fraud.

A small number of DVA providers and third-parties engage in misleading and non-compliant conduct and this can adversely affect the veteran community and DVA. Such conduct includes:

- target veterans through misleading advertising and prize draws
- send or offer DVA clients unsolicited ‘free’ goods related to their Veteran Card entitlements
- contact DVA clients via uninvited, direct approach methods (cold calling/emails)
- contact DVA clients claiming to represent DVA or be making contact on behalf of DVA
- use images of Veteran Cards and government logos on webpages and other materials to suggest DVA or the Australian Government endorses their services
- provide DVA clients with allied health services without a valid referral from their GP.

DVA is the only source of truth for information about the services and supports that can be accessed by veterans and families using a Veteran Card. You can learn more about [Veteran Card entitlements](#) and [DVA's funded health](#)

[services](#) on the DVA website. Alternatively, you can call us on [1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](#) to confirm what services you are entitled to receive.

There are ways you can protect yourself from being a victim of fraud. These include by:

- knowing the facts – read the small print
- asking questions if you can’t find answers in the small print
- checking the information that you’ve read or heard is correct
- not sharing your personal information over the phone or online with people or providers you don’t know
- asking an advocate or trusted friend or family member to help you
- Visiting [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) or calling us on [1800 VETERAN 1800 838 372](#) if you need more information.

Remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Look into it closely before you accept the offer.

**If you suspect fraud**

DVA takes a zero tolerance approach to fraud committed against DVA or our clients. Tip-offs help to keep our veteran community safe. If you suspect someone isn’t following the rules, report it to us by:

- **emailing:** [fraud.tipoff@dva.gov.au](mailto:fraud.tipoff@dva.gov.au)
- **completing the online [Report a Fraud form:](#)** [dva.gov.au/about-us/dva-forms/report-fraud](http://dva.gov.au/about-us/dva-forms/report-fraud)
- **contacting us by phone:** [1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](#)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### \$40 for 2024

Action to renew membership for 2024 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2024 is \$40

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

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

## Social Program

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

### 2024

- 4 Apr Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
- 18 Apr Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 2 May Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
- 16 May Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 6 Jun Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
- 20 Jun Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 4 Jul Christmas I July Lunch
- 18 Jul Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 1 Aug Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
- 15 Aug 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](mailto: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](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017

*(Continued from page 12)*

### Suspicious Provider Behaviour

DVA takes all fraud and non-compliance tip-offs seriously and investigates these as appropriate. You can choose to remain anonymous when reporting an issue that you think might be fraud. However, please be aware this can make it more difficult to investigate the issue if we require further information.

For more information, including what DVA needs to investigate a fraud complaint, please visit the [Reporting suspected fraud page](http://dva.gov.au/about/overview/reporting-suspected-fraud) of the DVA website ([dva.gov.au/about/overview/reporting-suspected-fraud](http://dva.gov.au/about/overview/reporting-suspected-fraud)).



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you  
April 2024**

Alaric O'Neill



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



Paste Address label Here

The Bosun's Call Vol 29 No 3