

# The Bosun's Call



Vol 27 No 11 Once Navy, Always Navy December 2022



## **Events coming up**

19 Nov Last Post Ceremony AB J Salmon HMAS Sydney 81st anniversary of her loss

23 Nov Last Post Ceremony AB WLE Danswan HMAS Torrens, Mine explosion Beachport SA 14 July 41

1 Dec Christmas Lunch Eastlake Gungahlin Club 1200

1 Dec Last Post Ceremony SBLT James Buckland RAN 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Loss of HMAS Armidale



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the **Naval Association of Australia** 

# Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

## Founded 1 July 1944

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

## Office Bearers

President	David Manolas	0427 504 564
Vice President	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
Secretary	Alan Masters	02 6281 5630
Treasurer	Alan Masters	02 6281 5630

#### **Committee Members**

Welfare Alex McGown 02 6258 6167 Membership Peter Cooke-Russell 0412 757 505

> John Small 02 6258 1216 Tiger Lyons 02 6254 3453 Kate Reid-Smith 0409 498 924

Joe Slaats Stewart Gordon

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Social Sec Joe Slaats

## **Contact Details**

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

## The Secretary ACT Section

NAA ACT Section 26 Nelson Place, CURTIN ACT 2605.

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

## Membership Registrar/BC Editor

peter.cookerussell@gmail.com

General Meetings
Dates and Locations
Programme

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

## 2023

2 Feb Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Mar Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
AGM on completion of GM	
6 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 133	
4 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330	
1 Jun 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**

## Shipmates,

Looking forward to seeing as many members that are able to attend, at our NAA ACT Section Christmas Lunch on 1 December 2022, at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club. Festivities will get underway at 1200; wear your best or worst Christmas shirt!

In the interim, I will be attending the NAA National Council Meeting in Sydney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Alex McGown, our vice-President, will be our Section Delegate at this meeting. Wishing you all the very best as we cope with the rain and cold, perhaps we will have a white Christmas this year?

Yours aye,

**David Manolas** 

President

NAA ACT Section



Lieutenant Commander Andrew McDonald RAN, Adelaide. South Australia.

Photo: Defence

## **Committee meeting**

Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 2 February



# **Veterans prioritised in Federal Budget**

Tuesday, 25 October 2022

**The Hon Richard Marles MP**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Defence

The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel



The Australian Government is investing in a better future for Defence personnel, veterans and families, responding to important recommendations put forward by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and delivering on commitments from the Federal Election.

Our veterans have protected us and in return we must look after them. Key investments made in this Budget seek to improve the claims process for veterans, simplify legislation and ultimately better support Defence personnel, veterans and families as they not only need, but deserve.

In implementing the Government's Response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's interim report, the Australian Government will;

- invest \$233.9 million to engage 500 new frontline staff at DVA to eliminate the compensation claims backlog, delivering on a key election commitment made by the Government;
- invest \$9.5 million into developing a pathway for simplification and harmonisation of veterans legislation;
- invest \$87 million to modernise IT systems in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), improving claims processing;
- commit \$24.3 million to provide increased support to veterans who are having their claims processed and to improve modelling capabilities needed to forecast and manage future demand for DVA services; and
- commit \$15.5 million to support DVA's continued and timely engagement with the Royal Commission.

The Budget delivers on our election commitment to provide long-term benefits for Defence personnel, veterans and families, with significant investments including;

• \$46.7 million for 10 new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country, more than doubling the size of the existing network,

providing critical services to veterans and families in areas with significant Defence and veteran communities.

- \$24 million to deliver the Veteran Employment Program, which will not only support veterans as they transition to civilian life, but also champion veteran employment by raising awareness of the skills and experience veterans have to offer the civilian workforce.
- \$4.7 million for the development of the Operation Navigator smartphone application to better support Australian Defence Force personnel as they transition to the civilian workforce.
- \$97.9 million for a \$1,000 increase to annual Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) payments, providing additional financial support to around 27,000 of our most vulnerable veterans.

\$46.2 million to boost Defence personnel and veterans' home ownership.

The Australian Government recognises the important role ex-service and community organisations play in supporting Defence personnel, veterans and families and the Budget commits \$8.1 million to community focused programs that not only support, but pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of our veterans. These commitments include marking war graves, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Sydney and combating veteran homelessness in Darwin.

The Government is committed to providing practical services and supports to Defence personnel, veterans and families to ensure a better future for the veteran community.

## Media contacts

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Richard Mayles MP: <a href="mailto:dpm.media@defence.gov.au">dpm.media@defence.gov.au</a> | (02) 6277 7800

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office): <u>+61 407 034 485</u> DVA Media: <u>media.team@dva.gov.au</u>

Authorised by The Hon Matt Keogh MP.

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling** provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or the Open Arms website. **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or the Defence Health Portal. **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608

## **Utilities Concession**

## What is it?

The Utilities Concession covers electricity, natural gas, water and sewerage and is calculated on a daily basis, with rates depending on the season. The concession is available on the principal place of residence only and the account must be in the cardholder's name. Only one Utilities Concession per eligible household can be claimed.

The Utilities Concession is also available to eligible residents of ACT caravan parks and retirement villages with embedded electricity networks. The Concession will be paid directly to eligible residents rather than as a reduction applied to utility bills. Please contact the ACT Revenue Office directly.

From 1 July 2021, the annual concession amount has permanently increased by \$50 to \$750.

In the 2022-23 financial year, an additional one-off rebate of \$50 will be provided to the utilities concession.

The daily rates from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 will be based on the annual concession of \$750. The daily summer rate for the Utilities Concession will be approximately 95.519 cents per day from 1 November to 31 May and the daily winter rate will be approximately 357.843 cents per day from 1 June to 31 October. The additional one-off rebate of \$50 will be provided between August and October. The Utilities Concession will be applied to the applicant's electricity account by their energy provider.

The Government has also permanently extended the assistance provided under the Utilities Concession to eligible asylum seekers who hold an ACT Service Access Card from 1 July 2020.

## Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants must be the primary holder of one of the following concession cards:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).
- Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card (HCC).
- Veteran's Affairs Pensioner Concession Card or Gold Card Holders (Prisoner of

War, War Widow or Totally Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Embossed).

## ACT Service Access Card.

For primary card holders of a Low Income Health Care Card, a new application needs to be made each time a new card is issued. Only the primary card holder can apply for the Utilities Concession. The primary card holder's name and address must be the same as the name and address appearing on the electricity account.

The concession can only be claimed from the start date of the primary card holder's concession card. Please note: the Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card is not an eligible card under the scheme.

## How do I apply?

Contact your energy provider. Contact details including links for registered energy providers under the Utilities Concession scheme are listed below. For residents in a caravan park or retirement village with an embedded network, contact the ACT Revenue Office.

#### Who runs it?

**ACT Revenue Office** 

PH: (02) 6207 0028 - Select Option 5 Email: <a href="mailto:concessions@act.gov.au">concessions@act.gov.au</a>

Contact details for energy providers.

See page 7



Energy Providers		
ActewAGL	Ph: 13 14 93 Web: ActewAGL Website  For information and an application form	
Origin	Ph: 13 24 61 Web: Origin website  For information and an application form	
Energy Australia	Ph: 13 34 66 Web: EnergyAustralia website  For information and an application form	
Energy Locals	Ph: 1300 693 637 Web: Energy Locals website	
Simply Energy	Ph: 13 88 08 Web: Simply Energy website	
Red Energy	Ph: 131 806 Web: Red Energy website	
GloBird Energy	Ph: 133 456 Web: GloBird Energy website	
Electricity In A Box	Ph: 1300 933 039 Web: Electricity In a Box	
Radian Energy	Ph: 1300 805 925 Web: Radian Energy	
Discover Energy	<b>Ph:</b> 1300 946 898 <b>Web:</b> Discover Energy	
ReAmped Energy	Web: ReAmped Energy	
Amber	<b>Ph:</b> 1800 531 907	
Nectr	<b>Ph:</b> 1300 111 211 <b>Web:</b> <u>Nectr</u>	



# ACT SECTION CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12.00 PM THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022 EASTLAKE CLUB HINDER STREET GUNGAHLIN GUNGAHLIN **HURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022**





## **Permanent Telehealth information for clients**

## Last updated:

4 November 2022

Introduction of permanent Telehealth Arrangements from 1 January 2022

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with whole-of-government arrangements under the Medicare Benefits Schedule, telehealth services were introduced for DVA funded general practitioner (GP), specialist, nurse practitioner, midwifery and allied health services. These arrangements are due to cease on 31 December 2021.

On 13 December 2021, the <u>Government an-nounced permanent telehealth arrangements</u> will be introduced from 1 January 2022. These arrangements will flow through to DVA health care arrangements.

Now that the risk of COVID-19 has reduced, transitioning to permanent arrangements is intended to promote high quality health care for patients while still enabling access to telehealth where clinically appropriate and consistent with whole-of-government arrangements.

Permanent telehealth arrangements will benefit DVA clients by enabling flexible access to health care delivered both in person and by telehealth services.

## **GP** visits

DVA clients can continue to receive telehealth services from 1 January 2022, however are reminded of the need to have had at least one face-to-face service with their GP or another doctor at the same practice in the last 12 months.

## **Medical Specialist services**

DVA clients can continue to receive medical specialist telehealth services from 1 January 2022.

## Allied health services

Allied health services (except dental, optical and neuropsychology services) can continue to be delivered to DVA clients under permanent telehealth arrangements. Allied health services delivered via telehealth should achieve the same or better outcome(s) or benefit as an in-person service.

Permanent arrangements for allied telehealth services are based on the following principles:

 Telehealth services are not intended to replace in-person services and can be provided to clients who have an established clinical relationship with the provider.

- Telehealth services are only available for subsequent consultations – initial and extended consultations should be undertaken in person, except for allied mental health services where appropriate.
- Telehealth services can only be provided if the full service can be delivered safely and in accordance with all relevant professional standards and clinical guidelines.
  - Telephone consultations can only be provided where videoconferencing is not available.
  - Some telehealth services, including initial mental health consultations, should only be delivered by videoconference not telephone.
  - Group therapy cannot be delivered by telehealth.
  - Services requiring specialised equipment or facilities cannot be delivered by telehealth.
  - Services requiring assessment of the client's residence or site inspection of their home cannot be delivered by telehealth.
  - Telehealth items are also claimable for telehealth services delivered to clients in hospital or residential aged care facilities, for services not requiring prior approval.

DVA clients should note that a key change to these permanent arrangements is initial consultations are required to be delivered in person, except for allied mental health services where appropriate. Clinical research shows that telehealth is less effective for initial diagnosis but generally provides equivalent outcomes for ongoing care. However, if there are circumstances in which an initial consultation needs to be delivered by telehealth, this can be considered through DVA's usual <a href="Prior Approval">Prior Approval</a> arrangements.

From 1 November 2022, DVA clients can access allied mental health services by telehealth, without the need for initial consultations to be held in person.

Initial mental health consultations can only be accessed by telehealth where the patient and

## **Diabetes organisations membership**

## Last updated:

1 July 2022

We may cover costs to help you become members of state or territory diabetes organisations. This will help to better understand and manage your overall health.

# What is state and territory diabetes organisation membership

Each state or territory has its own diabetes organisation offering services and resources to help you manage your health.

We offer to fund your membership to help you manage your health.

#### Who can receive it

We will pay for your membership if you have diabetes and either a:

- Veteran Gold Card
- Veteran White Card with diabetes listed as an accepted condition.

## What you can receive

Membership to a diabetes organisation can provide access to:

- the organisation's member magazine and website
- social support and education programs

- a booklet specific to your diabetes
- workshops and support groups.

## How you access membership

After your diagnosis, your state or territory organisation may contact you about membership. You can also contact them to join.

Let the organisation know you hold a Veteran Gold or White Card for us to pay your membership fees. If you hold a Veteran White Card, you must have diabetes listed as an accepted condition.

## State and territory organisations

You can find more information about specific state and territory organisation's on their websites:

- Diabetes NSW & ACT
- Diabetes QLD
- Diabetes SA
- Diabetes Tasmania
- Diabetes Victoria
- Diabetes WA
- Healthy Living NT

National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS)
Membership to the NDSS is free to all Australians who live with diabetes. You can speak to your GP or health care worker for more information.

## **Permanent Telehealth information for clients**

(Continued from page 8)

provider have visibility of each other, using video conferencing technology. This applies to psychology, clinical psychology, mental health social work and mental health occupational therapy services. Initial telehealth consultations cannot be accessed by telephone.

Treatment cycle arrangements continue to apply for DVA clients accessing allied health services delivered by telehealth.

Permanent telehealth arrangements will be reviewed from 2023 to ensure arrangements remain appropriate and address any issues that may have arisen.

DVA clients are reminded that referrals for allied health services can only be provided by the client's usual GP. This means a GP (or another GP in the same practice) who:

- has provided the majority of care to the DVA client over the previous twelve months; or
- will provide the majority of care to the DVA client over the next twelve months.

Telehealth or online GP services which have not provided regular clinical care or at least one in-person service to the DVA client are not able to issue valid referrals for DVAfunded allied health services.

## **Need more information?**

For more information about what the changes to telehealth services means for veterans and their families, contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

# Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 3 November 2022

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

**Present:** 12 members as per attendance book.

**Apologies:** J Small, M. Hardwick, K. Reid-Smith, R. Horne, S. Gordon

Minute of Last Meeting. The minutes of the General meeting on 6 October 2022 appeared in the November 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 6 October 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell. Seconded: Joe Slaats Carried.

## Reports.

President. During the month I attended meetings conducted by ADSO and ESORT, both organisations addressing Veterans' issues.

**Vice President**. There will be Last Post services on 23 November and 1 December.

Secretary. Business as usual.

**Treasurer**. Little change in the state of the finances and a reminder that is now time to renew your subscriptions

**Membership.** No changes to the membership from last month.

**Welfare.** No reports of shipmates encountering rough seas but some partners are continuing with health treatments.

**Social**. The December meeting will be replaced by a Christmas lunch at our meeting venue and shipmates and partners are invited to dress in Christmas attire.

Motion: The reports be received.

Moved: Graeme Quinn. Seconded: Glen

McNamara Carried.

#### **General Business:**

National Council Meeting. Aside from our Delegate voting on the acceptance of the various reports, he will vote on motions to add/change the By-Laws and amendments to the Constitution. These relate to:

## Social Media -NAA Policy

Such a policy aims to provide guiding principles for members to follow, at all times, when using social media. Members requiring full details of the policy can seek details from the Secretary.

The policy was endorsed by members present and the Delegated was advised to vote to accept that a Section 5 of the By-Laws be introduced to describe a social media policy for the NAA.

Constitution Amendment. B-1. The recording of Verbal Communication (Annex A Amendment)- Oral Telephonic, or Electronic Recording of Meetings. The proposed policy lays down rules for the use of electronic recording of NAA meetings. Details are available from the Secretary. The Delegate was directed to support the motion by the National Executive that this amendment to the NAA Constitution be approved and to be presented at the 2023 AGM for consideration.

## NAA Mission, Vision, and Core Objectives (Goals) Statement.

The National Executive moves that the NAA Constitution articulate the core elements of the existence and purpose of the NAA by clearly defining and annunciating these concepts by the following description.

Our Mission: To provide care and camaraderie to the naval community and, to commemorate those who have and are serving at sea and ashore in peace and in war.

Our Vision: To share 'Naval Fellowship' with all who share our (aspirations) ideals

Our Core Objectives (Goals): Care, Camaraderie, Commemoration, Cadets (support of Australian Navy Cadets Units), Community (Engagement)
Our Delegate was instructed to support this motion.

# Reduction in Consideration Times for Constitution and By-Law Changes.

The National Executive felt the time frames in the existing By-Laws were excessive in the present digital age and would merit discussion at the next National Council meeting. Our Delegate was instructed to vote against the proposal to shorten the existing timeframes..

## Miscellaneous Motion – Registration with Servulink.

In the August edition of DVA's paper, Vet Affairs, it was stated that "the RSL in part-

## Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 3 November 2022

(Continued from page 10)

nership with Servulink, an Australian owned technology provider, announced a pilot program that will use technology to better connect veterans and their families to vital services and support in their area".

Our Delegate was directed to support the motion by the Victorian Section that the National Council evaluate registering the NAA with Servulink.

Asset Disposal. The Secretary advised members he presently held assets that had been written off and were no longer fit for purpose. He requested advice on their disposal. Agreement was given that subject to destruction of any sensitive material (hard drives in computers) these assts could be disposed of.

Motion: Assets that have been removed from the Asset Register and are no longer fit for purpose be disposed of.

Moved; Joe Slaats Seconded: Alex McGown Carried.

Meeting closed at 1435.

Next meeting will be on 2 February 2023 at 1330 at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

Alan Masters Secretary / Treasurer NAA (ACT)

Pausing for two minutes silence during the Remembrance Day service at the Australian War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner, London.

The service was led by the Australian Defence Staff on behalf of the Australian High Commission in London. Australia's Acting High Commissioner, Lynette Wood, laid a wreath as did the Head of the Australian Defence Staff, Brigadier Grant Mason.

Photo: Lieutenant Commander John A Thompson

# Notes from Committee Meeting 3 November 2022

**Held at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club** 

Present: David Manolas, Alex McGown, Alan Masters, Peter Cooke-Russell, , Dennis Lyons, Joe Slaats

Apology: Kate Reid-Smith, John Small, Stewart Gordon

Discussions focused on determining recommendations for the proposed motions at the National Council meeting on 23 November. These recommendations would be put to the General Meeting attendees and our delegate would follow the outcomes of these discussions at the Council meeting. See Minutes of General Meeting for more details

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 2 February 2023 at 1100.

Alan Masters Secretary / Treasurer NAA (ACT





	NAA ACT Section
	Nomination Form
202	2023 Committee Elections
Position	
Nominee	
Proposer: №	Proposer: Name (Block Letters)

Endorsement by Nominee ......

Seconder: Name (Block Letters) .......

Signature......

Date:....

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 23 February 2023

## 

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS38 for 2023**

Action to renew membership for 2023 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 2023 is \$38.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

17 Nov	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	
1 Dec	Christmas Lunch	
	Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200	
15 Dec	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	
2023		
19 Jan	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	
2 Feb	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200	
16 Feb	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	
2 Mar	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200	
16 Mar	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	
6 Apr	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200	
20 Apr	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200	

Social Secretary Joe Slaats

## **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 epartment 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 December 22 & January 23

## **December**

Michael Noonan

## **January**

James Sandison

**David Manolas** 

**Bruce Muir** 

Keith Smith





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

**AUSTRALIA** 

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