



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 25 No 1

Once Navy, Always Navy

February 2020



*Left: One of HMAS Adelaide's landing craft at Eden, NSW during Operation Bushfire Assist 2020.*

*Below: Members of the NSW Police, Rural Firefighting Service and the ADF Amphibious Task Group work together in the Joint Operations Room onboard HMAS Adelaide*



## Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20

Staff from the Amphibious Task Group embarked in HMAS Adelaide have been forging close ties and collaborative relationships with regional authorities supporting efforts ashore during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20.

Over the last 10 days the Amphibious Task Group (ATG) has coordinated the introduction of Naval Liaison Officers to regional towns, and landed engineering support and medical teams to assist fire-affected communities.

To contribute to the success of this high level of support, the ATG has leveraged the on board expertise of two emergency services members embedded with the Task Group at sea.

Chief Superintendent Chris Ryder from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (RFS) has joined the ATG as a liaison officer.

Chief Superintendent Ryder is one of the RFS Headquarters State operations managers.

He has been working with the Task Group to enhance mutual sharing of skills and provision of knowledge and expertise in fire operations ashore.

"This has been an amazing experience, the team has made me feel very welcome and I now have a better understanding of what skills and support can be provided by a ship like Adelaide," he said.

Chris is joined at sea by his colleague from New South Wales Police - Inspector Ray Stynes from Nowra.

Inspector Stynes has shared how emergency management arrangements work within New South Wales and facilitated integration of processes and communication between the agencies involved.

"The opportunity to be here has been fantastic, we have learned off each other," Inspector Stynes said.

"We've gained some valuable insights and I'm confident they've gained some important lessons as well," he said.

The learning opportunity gained from the collaboration has not been lost on the Commander of the

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Events coming up

- 4 Feb Last Post ceremony - Alex McGown will lay a wreath in memory of the loss of HMAS Patricia Cam
- 20 Feb Fish 'n Chips at Snapper CYC 1200
- 27 Feb Last Post Loss of HMAS Perth CMDR Alleyne Tregear



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

### Office Bearers 2019

President	Alex McGown	02 6258 6167
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### General Meetings & AGM Dates and Locations Programme

#### 2020

6 Feb	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
5 Mar	Kaleen Sports Club then AGM	1330
2 Apr	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
7 May	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
4 Jun	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
6 Aug	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
3 Sep	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
1 Oct	Kaleen Sports Club	1330
5 Nov	Kaleen Sports Club	1330

Tables are 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 Note

G'day

Welcome to our new year. Hoping everyone is well and had a good break over the holidays.

Shipmates are reminded that March is our AGM and that all Section positions are open for election. Nominations for the National Council positions are in this issue and will need to be discussed as well as the ACT proposal for a National Rules Committee.

Sadly, Shipmate John McCorriston crossed the bar in January.

Our oldest shipmate, Merle Hare, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 20/1/20.

Yours aye

Alex

### Note By Editor.

It was unfortunate that the Freedom of Entry Ceremony carried out by HMAS *Canberra's* ship's company received little publicity prior to the event. The ACT Section did not become aware of it until watching TV news after the event.

Negat BZ

## Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20

(Continued from page 1)

Amphibious Task Group, Captain Leif Maxfield.

"Having Chris and Ray here has brought a new perspective and greater understanding to the team of how we can employ Defence and Amphibious assets to support the tasks ashore during the bushfire crisis," Captain Maxfield said.

"Lessons learnt include how we can access RFS services, how we can work to locate Navy Liaison Officers and target specific locations to provide back up to equipment and services.

"What an amazing job the emergency services have been doing.

"Their teams have been at it for more the 120 days and it's an outstanding effort that we and all Australians appreciate," he said.

Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19-20 imagery is available on the Defence Image Gallery: <https://images.defence.gov.au/S20192970>.

**Committee meeting Kaleen Sports Club  
1130 Thursday 6 February 2020**

## Joint communiqué – Veterans Ministerial Council

**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
**Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel**

MEDIA RELEASE

[Back to media releases](#) 13 December 2019

### Joint communiqué – Veterans Ministerial Council

At the meeting of the Veterans Ministerial Council on 29 November 2019, State and Territory Ministers provided initial feedback on the draft of the Commonwealth's new Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan to improve veteran mental health and wellbeing and reduce suicide.

At the meeting in Canberra, Chair of the Council, Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester, provided an update on the development of the Strategy and National Action Plan and the consultations that have taken place so far.

During the meeting, State and Territory Ministers discussed the draft document in detail and put forward their views on how it could be improved.

The Council also resolved to support the Commonwealth progressing the Strategy and National Action Plan for finalisation, noting the feedback and changes recommended at the meeting.

The draft document has been in development since June when Minister Chester convened a national Summit, bringing together experts from around Australia to plan the best way forward.

The Summit identified four priority areas – health care, transition, partnerships and engagement, communication and education.

Over the past six months, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has been consulting with veterans and their families, ex-service organisations, service providers and States and Territory Governments to inform the development of the Strategy and National Action Plan.

It is important that the Strategy and National Action Plan is designed by veterans and their families, for veterans and their families.

Commitment from the States and Territories to the Strategy and National Action Plan is also critical to ensure that the nation is best-placed to improve veteran mental health and wellbeing.

State and Territory Ministers agreed to provide some more detailed feedback on the Strategy and Action Plan as soon as possible. The Ministers also noted the importance of working closely with their other Ministerial colleagues in particular those with responsibility for health, mental health and wellbeing.



DVA will provide a final draft of the Strategy and National Action Plan to the Government before the end of the year.

The Veterans Ministerial Council provides an opportunity for ministers responsible for veterans issues from across Australia to come together to discuss how different levels of government can collaborate to support veterans and their families.

#### List of attendees:

- Federal Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel, The Hon Darren Chester MP
- New South Wales Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, The Hon Dr Geoff Lee MP
- Queensland Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State, Ms Jennifer Howard MP
- Victorian Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Veterans, Robin Scott MP
- South Australian Premier; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation; Defence and Space Industries; The Arts; Veterans' Affairs; Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Steven Marshall MP

Northern Territory Assistant Minister for Veterans, Mr Tony Sievers MLA

*Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046) (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit [www.OpenArms.gov.au](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au)*

## Simpler access to medical treatment

**The Hon Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister**

**The Hon Darren Chester MP  
Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel**

6 December 2019

VETERANS who currently have to pay for their medical treatment upfront and wait to be reimbursed will only need to present their Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) health card to pay for their treatment under changes to the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) passed through Parliament yesterday.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said around 4000 MRCA veterans and their families would benefit from the change, which is part of DVA's transformation program to make processes faster and easier for veterans and their families to gain access to the support they need.

"Veterans with conditions covered under the MRCA will now, like other DVA clients, only have to present their DVA health card at the time of their medical treatment for accepted conditions and payments will be then made directly to health providers electronically through the Medicare system," Mr Chester said.

"Importantly, this change ensures all veterans can gain access to medical treatment without worrying

about claim forms, or being out-of-pocket while waiting for reimbursement—reducing financial pressure on veterans and their families."

The Department of Defence's arrangements for the delivery of health services to Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel now includes a provision that allows DVA to use these arrangements so veterans can access mental health services in the community.

"I have worked together with Members and Senators with a lived experience of the ADF, in particular Senator Rex Patrick, to eliminate barriers in accessing mental health care for all veterans, regardless of the Act they are covered by. I thank the Senator for his passionate interest in looking after his fellow veterans," Mr Chester said.

"This arrangement provides more options for veterans to access mental health services, including where a veteran transitioning from the ADF requires continuity of care, or where a veteran is having difficulty accessing services due to their geographic location."

These changes are another example of DVA and Defence working together to support veterans and their families. More information on the DVA health card is available on the [DVA website](#).

## Expanding access to low cost home insurance for veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force

**The Hon Darren Chester MP  
Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel**

28 November 2019

More than 300,000 additional Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans, including Reservists and Peacekeepers, will be able to access low cost home insurance through the Defence Service Homes Insurance.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said changes to eligibility will mean all current and former ADF members who have at least one days' continuous service can access Defence Service Homes Insurance from 1 January 2020.

"The expansion of eligibility will assist in reducing the cost of living for ADF members, veterans, and their families and ensure those who have protected our interests will have peace of mind knowing their homes are protected," Mr Chester said.

"This is particularly important for those ADF members and veterans in regional Australia and areas

at high risk of cyclones and other natural catastrophes, such as northern Australia.

"As a Government, we are committed to putting veterans and their families first and the changes passed through Parliament today delivers on that commitment, providing a real benefit for a key cost-of-living expense."

For the last 100 years, Defence Service Homes Insurance has provided affordable home insurance to eligible ADF members and veterans, and the amendments to the *Defence Service Homes Act 1918* closes existing gaps in eligibility.

The home insurance offered through Defence Service Homes Insurance is comprehensive with economical premiums and includes a range of benefits such as no excess, accidental damage, and fusion of motor cover at no additional charge.

Defence Service Homes Insurance can also provide access to other personal insurance products such as contents, motor vehicle and caravan insurance. For more information, visit [Defence Service Homes](#).

## Australian War Memorial Director appointed

**The Hon Scott Morrison**  
Prime Minister

**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

13 December 2019

### Australian War Memorial Director appointed

Matthew Anderson PSM has been appointed as the next Director of the Australian War Memorial by the Government following a formal selection process.

Mr Anderson, a veteran himself, is the current Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

He will replace outgoing Director, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, who will conclude in the role at the end of this year.

The Prime Minister said Mr Anderson's skills, knowledge and experience will ensure the continued success of the Memorial.

"Mr Anderson is well placed to guide the Australian War Memorial through generational change to tell the stories of our more recent conflicts," the Prime Minister said.

"He has demonstrated his passion for military history and ensuring future generations are educated about the service and sacrifice of our personnel, having written three children's books on Australia's involvement in the First and Second World Wars.

"Over the past three years he has further built on his knowledge and passion, serving as the Australian Alternate on the Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

"I would like to congratulate Mr Anderson on his appointment and wish him all the very best for his tenure in guiding the memorial through an important part of its history and upholding its purpose in assisting to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society."

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said as a veteran himself, Mr Anderson will understand the importance of the Memorial's development project and ensuring the stories of our veterans are appropriately told.

"Mr Anderson is a Graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon, spending eight years as an Australian Army Officer, including three years as Troop Commander for the Royal Australian Engineers," Mr Chester said.

"His service, along with his proven record of achievement in senior diplomatic postings, demonstrated leadership and knowledge of military history, will ensure the continued success of the Memorial."

The Prime Minister thanked Dr Brendan Nelson for all he has done to remember the almost two million people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, but also ensuring the stories of those currently serving are told in a solemn and respectful way.

"Dr Nelson has ensured the stories of an entire new generation of service are told and remembered alongside those that inspired their own sacrifice and to do the same for future generations. I wish him all the best for the future," the Prime Minister said.

## Husband and wife make patrol boat history

A married couple in Darwin has become the first husband and wife in Royal Australian Navy history to command patrol boats at the same time.

Lieutenant Commander Julia Griffin assumed command of HMAS *Maitland* on 6 December, while Lieutenant Commander Khan Beaumont has led HMAS *Ararat* for the past 18 months.

Lieutenant Commander Beaumont said it was an honour to be selected for command and a bonus he could now share the experience with his wife.

"It's awesome. I found my best mate and married her. To have Julia do what I do makes us stronger as a team. We know exactly what each other is going through and for such a unique job it is a very special partnership," he said.



Lieutenant Commander Julia Griffin and her husband, Lieutenant Commander Khan Beaumont, in the Coonawarra Basin at the Navy's patrol boat base, HMAS Coonawarra, Darwin.

## HMAS *Canberra* exercises her Right of Freedom of Entry into the City of Canberra



*Lifebuoy Bearer, Able Seaman Boatswains Mate Kate Jennings leads the HMAS Canberra Freedom of Entry march through the City of Canberra.*

Three-hundred-and-fifty members of the 400-strong ship's company of HMAS *Canberra* (III) exercised its Freedom of Entry through the City of Canberra on Saturday 23 November 2019.

*Canberra's* Commanding Officer, Captain Terry Morrison, answered the traditional challenge to the parade by the Chief Police Officer for the ACT, Assistant Commissioner Ray Johnson, in front of the ACT Legislative Assembly on London Circuit.

The parade was reviewed by Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, along with the Deputy Chief Minister of the ACT, Miss Yvette Berry.

Joining *Canberra's* crew was decorated Second World War veteran Lionel Mead.

The 93-year-old Mead was a sailor on HMAS *Shropshire* during the Battle of the Atlantic more than 75 years ago.

Mr Mead marched with fellow members of the HMAS *Canberra*-HMAS *Shropshire* Association of Australia as well as the Navy Cadet Unit TS *Canberra* and the Royal Australian Navy Band.

*Right* Chief Petty Officer Naval Police Coxswain David Clarke presents the ceremonial scroll to Chief Police Officer of the ACT, Assistant Commissioner Ray Johnson APM, during the Freedom of Entry march, in *Canberra* on 23 November 2019.



## Merle Hare turned 100 on 20 January 2020

Merle Hare photographed with VADM Noonan, Chief of Navy at the AWM on her 100th birthday. The reason for being at the AWM was primarily on the occasion of her twin brother being remembered at the AWM Last Post Ceremony that day. The Chief of Air Force, about 50 relatives, 20 Ex WRANS, about 40 serving Writers (Marine Logistics Personnel) and MLA Gordon Ramsay were also there.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04955.002

Merle joined the WRANS on 25 March 1943 WR940 and served until 9 January 1946 being discharged as a POSV .

Merle's twin brother Sergeant Donald Storrie, an Air Gunner, served in No 20 Squadron RAAF flying Catalinas.

Operating from Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, he was lost when laying mines off the coast of Formosa on the night of 7 March 1945. It is believed that the aircraft was most probably lost due to bad weather.



## PBS Safety Net threshold lowered – 1 January 2020

From 1 January 2020 the PBS Safety Net thresholds have been lowered:

- \* from \$390.00 to \$316.80 for concessional patients
- \* from \$1550.70 to \$1486.80 for general patients.

As a result of these changes concessional patients/families require 12 fewer PBS scripts filled each year in order to reach the safety net. For more information on the Safety Net and the lower thresholds, visit the [Department of Human Services](#) website.

Pharmacists will need to apply the lower threshold amounts when issuing Safety Net entitlement or concession cards. Pharmacists can access information on the Safety Net at the Department of Human Services [PBS Safety Net for pharmacists](#) website.

### **What are the current patient fees and charges?**

#### **Patient co-payments**

The co-payment is the amount you pay towards the cost of your PBS subsidised medicine. Many PBS medicines cost significantly more than the co-payment amount.

From 1 January 2020, you may pay up to \$41.00 for most PBS medicines or \$6.60 if you have a concession card. The Australian Government pays the remaining cost.

Since 1 January 2016, pharmacists may choose to discount the PBS patient co-payment by up to \$1.00. This is not mandatory and it is the pharmacist's choice whether or not to provide a discount. The option to discount the co-payment does not apply for prescriptions which are an early supply of a specified medicine.

The amount of co-payment is adjusted on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

You can reach the threshold sooner by combining what everyone in your family spends on PBS medicines.

A family is any of the following:

- a couple married and not separated
- a couple in a de facto relationship with or without dependent children
- a single person with dependent children.

A dependent child is any of the following:

- younger than 16
- a full time student younger than 25
- attends school, college or university and you support them financially.

## Operation Bushfire Assist 19—20



*Leading Seaman Maritime Logistics - Operations Support Cassidy Browell transcribes names of evacuees at Mallacoota .*

*For the nearly 1500 guests who have been evacuated from the Victorian town of Mallacoota to Western Port on board HMAS Choules, the journey was made easier by the presence of people from other agencies who helped the ship's company look after them.*

*An LCM8 transits from HMAS Choules to HMAS Cerberus to disembark evacuees from Mallacoota as the ship takes on supplies via the ship's MRH-90 Maritime Support Helicopter.*

*With the national bushfire emergency ongoing, the Royal Australian Navy amphibious ship HMAS Choules conducted a second evacuation from Mallacoota.*

*A day after returning to the fire-ravaged area, Choules evacuated 280 more people, including 66 Country Fire Authority (CFA) fire-fighters.*



*Evacuees from Mallacoota disembark at HMAS Cerberus Many sent other family members on the first opportunity, and over the coming days it became clear the immediate crisis was over, but evacuation by road would not be possible for some time.*

*When we offered the second opportunity on our return, most visitors and some residents took it up, and we were also pleased to be able to assist the CFA volunteers in getting home at the end of their deployment.*

*"All members of Choules' family are proud that we have been able to assist the evacuation .*

# Operation Bushfire Assist 19—20

*Right: MV Sycamore conducts a rendezvous with Choules to transfer personnel onto the ship during Operation Bushfire Assist.*



*Right: HMAS Adelaide off the coast of Eden, NSW as a part of Operation Bushfire Assist.*



*Below An RAN MH-60R Seahawk 'Romeo' Helicopter conducts a vertical stores lift with Adelaide. RNZAF MSH190 helicopters also conducted similar tasks. Choules and Sycamore conducted evacuations of people and animals from Mallacoota*



*Below : Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force work together in the Adelaide Hills to provide medical outreach and support to the region. A Primary Health Care Team from 2 Emergency Health Support, supported by 3 Security Force, have integrated with medical personnel from Army, Navy and NZDF in support of Operation Bushfire Assist*



**Vale****John Leonard McCorriston**

30 March 1930 to 2 January 2020

**David Willoughby Leach**

17 July 1928 to 19 January 2020

**Proposed ACT Section Motion to be put to the  
NAA National Council Meeting 1 April 2020****For consideration at the February ACT Section General Meeting.**

Experience over several years has demonstrated that the NAA Rules amendment process has been open to changes being made without impartial guidance being given to the National Council and changes to the NAA structure and process being introduced without proper discussion. In a motion forwarded to the National Council meeting of 10 October 2019 by the ACT Section the concept of forming the Rules Sub Committee of the National Council was approved by the National Council. The above motion is the ACT Section's proposed amendment to the By-laws which is necessary to action the National Council's decision.

As a result and with the ACT Section's concurrence, the following By-law amendments are to be forwarded by the ACT Section to implement the agreed concept.

**By-law 1.5.1**

- e. The National Secretary will refer all such motions and proposed amendments to those motions to the Rules Committee, which must report its findings in writing to the National Secretary for inclusion in the agenda of the National Council meeting held in accordance with 1.5.1 c

**1.5.3. Rules Committee**

- a. A Rules Committee of three Full Members shall be appointed at each National Council AGM or if so determined, immediately following that AGM to:
  - 1. determine the affect on the NAA Constitution and By-laws of any enactment, amendment or alteration put to the National Council prior to the National Council General or Annual General Meeting (AGM) in advance of the meeting;
  - 2. investigate whether or not any anomalies or potential errors in these rules should be remedied;
  - 3. consider any relevant questions referred to it by the National Council; andexamine all items for National Council AGM agenda proposing amendment to the Constitution and By-laws and prepare a report for submission to the National Council.

Each report from the Rules Committee, shall be circulated referring any recommendations included in the report to each Section Council and National Executive by the National Secretary, in a time frame that ensures that the report can be circulated to members of the NAA for consideration prior to the relevant meeting.

## National Council Annual General Meeting To be held in Adelaide 1 April 2020

The National Executive is due for election at the National Council's AGM this year. Due to the unprecedented number of casual vacancies (ie National President, One Vice President, National Treasurer and Assistant National Secretary) which arose during the National Council meeting held on 10 October 2019 considerable concern was felt by the Association. As a result of the strong leadership of the remaining Executive members the casual vacancies were filled and the National Executive remained effective.

The table below lists the nominations received by the Returning Office for the election of the National Executive at the 2020 AGM All the Vice President nominations were received prior to the set closing date. The other positions remain open for nomination as no nominations were received by the set closing date and therefore those that are listed are regarded as being nominations from the floor at the AGM.

### National Executive Nominations Received to 15 January 2020 – 2020 Tri-ennium Elections

Election sequence	Position	Nomination	Section	Comment
1	Nat. President	David Manolas	ACT	See Note 1.
		Terry Makings	Victoria	See Note 1.
2	Nat Vice Pres	Graham Savage	Victoria	See Notes 2 3, and 4.
	Nat Vice Pres	Gordon Fuller	Tasmania	See Notes 2 3, and 4.
	Nat Vice Pres	Tony Cornell	Victoria	See Notes 2 3, and 4.
	Nat Vice Pres	Lorraine Grey	NSW	See Notes 2 3, and 4.
	Nat Vice Pres	David Manolas	ACT	See Notes 2. 3 4 and 6
3	Nat. Secretary	Russell Pettis	Victoria	See Note 1
4	Asst. Nat Secretary.	Election from the Floor		See Note 5
5	Nat Treasurer	Eileen Calway	Nat Executive	See Notes 2 and 3.
6	Nat. Membership Registrar	Election from the Floor		See Note 5

- Notes:**
1. Nomination received after 7 Dec 19 and is therefore regarded as a Nomination from the Floor
  2. These nominations were received by the Returning Officer from the relevant Section prior to closing date – 7 Dec 2019.
  3. This position is not open to Nomination from the Floor
  4. Three National Vice Presidents to be elected.
  5. No Nomination received by the Returning Officer by 15 Jan 20
  6. Nomination will be withdrawn if elected National President
  7. Webmaster and WEM Editor are appointed by the National Council from volunteers as required.

**Subscription and Records Update 2020**

Annual Subscription for 2018 \$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 MLBA 2615 or pay via the ebanking system to Nav Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section). transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account BSB: 633 000 Account Number 162 834 097

**NAA ACT Section  
Nomination Form**

**2020 Committee Elections**

**Position**

**Nominee**

**Proposer:** Name (Block Letters) .....  
Signature .....

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

**Date:**.....

**Endorsement by Nominee** .....

Nominations are to be delivered to

The Secretary, s  
NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 28 February 2020

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2020**

Action to renew membership for 2020 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 2019 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*

- 20 Feb Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 19 Mar Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 16 Apr Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 25 Apr ANZAC Day Post March Session**
- 21 May Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 18 Jun Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 9 Jul Christmas in July lunch**
- 16 Jul Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 20 Aug Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 17 Sep Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 15 Oct Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 19 Nov Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
- 3 Dec Christmas lunch**
- 17 Dec Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200

*Bus trip program is being developed.*

**Bev Joce**  
**Social Secretary**

**Operation Bushfire Assist 19 –20  
RAN Fleet Air Arm Support**

The Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm (FAA) has capped off a high tempo year by supporting firefighting efforts on the east coast of Australia, during one of the most dangerous bushfire periods the nation has ever seen.

Helicopters from three squadrons based at HMAS Albatross were used: MH-60R Seahawk helicopters from 816 Squadron, MRH-90 helicopters from 808 Squadron and EC135 helicopters from 723 Squadron, with all playing roles to support the firefighters and emergency crews on the ground.

"Taking part in operations such as the firefighting efforts in New South Wales gives our newly qualified crews an opportunity to consolidate the skills and knowledge that they have gained during training," Lieutenant Commander Johnston said.

During the firefighting deployment 723 Squadron's EC135 helicopters reached the key milestone of 10,000 flying hours.

Commanding Officer 723 Squadron, Commander Bruce Willington, said the fleet of 15 EC135 helicopters reached the milestone in only three years.

"I would like to congratulate my skilled and committed aircrew, maintenance teams and support personnel who have all contributed to this milestone," Commander Willington said.

Meanwhile, Navy's MH-60R Seahawk helicopters provided advanced technology through their Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) cameras and sensors. Each night, soon after dusk, the aircrew from 816 Squadron were joined by RFS specialists for flights over fire grounds to assess and map current fire movements.

Navy's Fleet Air Arm is regularly called on to provide humanitarian aid and disaster relief in response to bushfires, floods, cyclones or other emergencies.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A Happy Birthday to you in  
February 2020

9	Robert McDonnell
10	Raymond Lawton
13	Frank Shugg
14	Dean Da Costa
21	Peter Cooke-russell
27	Michael Doyle

### Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS)

The new Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS) is a specialist service within Legal Aid ACT offering flexible legal assistance to older people. OPALS can help in many situations, such as if you:

- have concerns about your safety
- are being pressured to change your living arrangements, sign documents, or provide details of your finances
- are having money taken from you without your permission
- owe money and are not sure how you will pay
- are being abused, threatened or bullied
- are being denied access to grandchildren, other members of your family or support services
- are being discriminated because of your age

If you think you need legal advice, please feel free to contact OPALS:  
Address: 2 Allsop Street, Canberra, ACT; or  
Telephone: (02) 6243 3436 or 1800 353 374  
Email: [opals@legalaidact.org.au](mailto:opals@legalaidact.org.au)  
[www.legalaidact.org.au/opals](http://www.legalaidact.org.au/opals)

OPALS has a strong community legal education and outreach component and provides information and referral services to concerned family, friends and workers. OPALS draws on the expertise of other practices in Legal Aid ACT when providing advice and representation services.

OPALS is a **free** service and all cases are treated in confidence. We can also help make referrals to other specialist services if you choose not to take legal action.



If undeliverable return to  
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