



The Bosun's Call



Vol 29 No 1

Once Navy, Always Navy

February 2024

Merle Hare celebrates her 104th birthday



Events coming up

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 8 Feb | Last Post Ceremony Lay a wreath Telegraphist Rex K. Christensen HMAS Leeuwin |
| 28 Feb | Last Post Ceremony Loss of HMAS Perth Anniversary |
| 28 Feb | Last Post Ceremony Lay a wreath LS Allan R.L. Hawke HMAS Perth |
| 1 Mar | Last Post Ceremony Lay a wreath AB Robert G. Doggett HMAS Canberra |



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

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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

1 Feb	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Mar	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Mar	AGM on completion of General Meeting	
4 Apr	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 May	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
6 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 Note

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to seeing you all as we 'single-up and get underway on our passage into 2024. I very much hope you had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and are now ready to gather together to share in naval camaraderie!

Looking ahead to our Section Meeting in March, may I take this opportunity to encourage you to consider nominating for a position in the NAA ACT Section Committee. There are also several positions in the National Executive (NX) I would be pleased to discuss with anyone interested. If you have any question as to what is involved please do not hesitate to ask any member of the incumbent Committee, thank you.

Best wishes to you all

David Manolas

Front page

Merle Hare turned 104 on Saturday 20 January 2024

Photographs were taken at the lunch organized by the ACT Branch WRANS and Naval Women's Association held in her honour on Sunday 21 January at the Ainslie Football Club. The group photo is of those who attended.

On the left is a photo of Merle talking with Alex McGown, Vice President of the NAA ACT Section. The young sailor overlooking the conversation represented HMAS Harman's Commanding Officer. A clear photo of Merle is on the right.

Committee meeting
Eastlakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 1 February 2024

Joint media release - New Hub a Win for Veterans and Families in the Queanbeyan Region

Tuesday, 23 January 2024

The Hon Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

The Hon Kristy McBain MP

Member for Eden-Monaro

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh and Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, have today announced RSL LifeCare Veteran Services will receive a \$5.4 million grant to develop a new Veterans' and Families' Hub in Queanbeyan.

This Hub will be established by RSL LifeCare, working in partnership with RSL NSW and other local ex-service organisations, to develop the dedicated space to support veterans and their families.

The Queanbeyan Hub will be developed in a "Hub and Spoke" model across the electorate of Eden-Monaro and the ACT, connecting to 10 RSL sub-branches in the ACT and in nearby NSW to provide outreach services across the region.

With more than 4,500 veterans in the Queanbeyan region and more than 22,000 in the ACT, this unique model will be so important to ensure veterans and their families across the region can access services and supports close to home.

The proposal continues to build on RSL LifeCare Veteran Services' own strong connections to both the NSW and ACT veteran communities through their existing Hubs.

The expansion of the Veterans' and Families' Hubs network in Queanbeyan is part of the Albanese Government's \$46.7 million commitment to deliver ten Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country.

For more information about Veterans' and Families' Hubs, visit: www.dva.gov.au/vfhubs

Quotes attributed to Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Matt Keogh:

"I'm proud to announce that RSL LifeCare Veteran Services, in partnership with RSL NSW will lead the establishment of the Veterans' and Families' Hub in Queanbeyan.

Media Contacts:

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office): [0407 034 485](tel:0407034485)

Holly Winchester (Minister McBain's Office): [0402 906 925](tel:0402906925) holly.winchester@aph.gov.au

"This Hub, like those being rolled out around the country, will be unique, set up as a Hub and Spoke model to ensure the more than 26,000 veterans in the region can access the services and supports they need and deserve.

"While each veteran community around the country is different, RSL LifeCare will be able to bring the experiences and insights gleaned at their Nowra Veterans' & Families' Hub and their RSL LifeCare Veteran Wellbeing Centres to Queanbeyan.

"The significant consultation undertaken with the local veteran community in the development of the business case for this Hub and ongoing engagement will ensure it is best set up to serve the local veteran community."

Quotes attributed to Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain:

"For the thousands of personnel who leave the ADF each year, transition to civilian life requires major readjustments. It's a significant event for Defence members and their families, and it can be both a challenging and traumatic time.

"That's why this new Veterans' and Families' Hub in Queanbeyan is great news for our community, because it means over 26,000 current and former ADF personnel and their families will be able to access support where they live.

"This is a great way for RSL LifeCare Veteran services to expand their footprint and their ability to support veterans and their families in a friendly and welcoming environment – where their experiences are understood and their military service is respected.

"We want to see local veterans and veteran's groups involved in the development of this Hub to make sure it suits the changing needs of current and former ADF members and their families at all stages of service.

"Whether you need a coffee and a chat, access to wellbeing support, or you just want to meet like-minded friends, you'll be welcome at the Veterans' and Families' Wellbeing Hub in Queanbeyan."

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](tel:1800011046) or the [Open Arms website](http://www.openarms.gov.au). **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on [1800 142 072](tel:1800142072). **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on [1800 628 036](tel:1800628036) or the [Defence Health Portal](http://www.defence.gov.au/health). **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on [1800 624 608](tel:1800624608)



The Department of Veterans' Affairs is pleased to announce that tickets are now available to attend the 2024 Anzac Day Dawn Services in France and Türkiye.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Gallipoli, Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site within the Gallipoli Peninsula. This will be followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial service at

Tickets for international 2024 Anzac Day services now available.

Lone Pine Cemetery, the site of one of the fiercest battles that the Australians fought during the First World War.

The Dawn Service in France will be held at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France, followed by a service at the Digger Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt. The local French government will hold a series of smaller services in Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt throughout the day.

Those planning to attend the Dawn Services can get their free attendance passes online at <https://commemorations.teg.com.au>. Early registration is essential. For entry requirements and travel advice for France and Türkiye, visit smartraveller.gov.au.

For those unable to travel, the services in France and Türkiye will be broadcast live on the ABC.

#AnzacDay2024 #LestWeForget

Role of Veterans' and Families' Hubs

Wellbeing describes how you feel about yourself and your life. It includes a complex combination of biological, lifestyle, socioeconomic, societal and environmental factors. Access to health care, welfare support and other interventions can greatly affect an individual's sense of wellbeing (*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018*).

The hubs provide a space for veterans' services and advocacy organisations to co-exist and provide integrated support to current and ex-service personnel and families. Hubs provide access to local veteran services, which may include health and mental health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection.

Lead organisations in each location will either provide, or facilitate access to these services, integrating support to veterans and families in partnership with ex service organisations, community and other organisations and state and territory governments.

Accessing Veterans' and Families' Hubs

The hubs and their services are available to all current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and reservists, and families.

The organisations that operate the hubs have unique operational and service models based on local needs and will determine their own cost arrangements and charges (if any) to veterans and families. Whilst some services may be free of

charge, services facilitated via the hubs to another service provider may have their own fee structures.

Services provided

Each hub will provide services and support based on local needs and opportunities. These services may include, but are not limited to:

- Transition and employment support
- ESO advocacy services
- Housing and social connectedness
- Mental and physical health services
- Community engagement

Defence Member and Family Support offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

For more information on page 5 and other DMFS services visit our website or contact the all-hours

Defence Member and Family Helpline.



1800 624 608



memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au



[ADF Members & Families](#)



[DefenceMemberFamilySupport](#)



[DMFS AusDefence](#)

Support for ADF Members and their families

Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) offers a range of programs and services to help Defence members and their families manage the challenges and opportunities of military life.

The best way to access these services or gain referral to a local DMFS office is to contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline at memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au or on 1800 624 608.

DMFS is available 24/7 through the Defence Member and Family Helpline, which is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists.

WHY CONTACT DMFS?

Defence Member and Family Support is for ADF members, their partners, children and relatives for whom the member has primary responsibility.

DMFS offers a range of programs and services to help Defence members and their families manage the challenges and opportunities of each stage of military life.

24 HR DEFENCE MEMBER AND FAMILY HELPLINE

ADF members and their families can contact qualified human services professionals any time of the day or night—anononymously if preferred—to talk to staff who are familiar with the Defence way of life.

Helpline staff can assist members and their families to solve problems, find information, find a subject matter expert, and link with community groups and services in the local area.

The Helpline provides one convenient channel for Defence families to access this broad range of services.

ADF members and their families are encouraged to contact the Helpline for:

- Support and advice to manage deployment, posting and relocation
- Referral to your local DMFS office or education liaison officer
- Support for partner employment
- Assistance with children's education and childcare priority access coordination
- Assistance for resident family or recognised other persons with special needs
- Help during crisis and emergency
- Access to transition coaching and the Defence Force Transition Program
- Connection with community groups, organisations and resources in the local community
- Professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems

- Access to information sessions and social/support groups
- Support for Reservists
- Support for parents of serving members

DMFS SOCIAL WORKERS

If you require additional support for your family during this process, Defence Member and Family Helpline can facilitate a referral to a Defence Social Worker's (DSW) in your area. DSW's are located all around Australia, on most bases and in all capital cities.

DSW's provide short term case work and emotional support and are experienced in aspects of the military lifestyle, including issues arising from posting and managing the demands of absences and other stressors but they are also a great support avenue for people who may be requiring extra support.

DSW's can help problem solve and assist you to develop short/long term strategies for the future and link members and their families with appropriate support services if required.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In addition to these primary psychosocial services, DMFS offers range of other services and programs including access to:

- Support during deployment, posting or relocation
- Defence supported childcare centres
- Connection with community groups and local area resources
- Assistance for family with special needs
- Access to transition coaching
- Referral to Education Liaison Officers (ELO's) – provide education and schooling advice to Defence families as they move around the country
- Referral to Family Liaison Officers (FLO's) – provide has extensive knowledge of local services, resources and communities and can provide advice and information before or during posting
- Access to Partner's Employment Assistance Program (PEAP) – provides support and funding for eligible ADF partners for initiative aimed at improving employability.

CONTACTING DMFS

To access any DMFS services and support contact the Helpline on:

1800 624 608 or via email at: memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au

Christmas Lunch—7 December 2023



Left: Cath and Alan Masters

Below: Jenny Burns and Peter Cooke-Russell



Left : Newly weds, Donna and Darren Rush

Below : L-R Harry Beardsell, Graeme and Sandra Quinn , and Lex Beardsell



Christmas Lunch—7 December 2023



Above: Joe and Mary Slaats and Bev Joce

Photos Joe Slatats



Above : R—L Dennis and Pauline Gribble and their guests Sue Wheeler and Heather Millward

Right L—R Jeff Wolford, Peter Gillin, Alaric O'Neill and Glen McNamara



Sailors evolve with capability

14 December 2023

Recent graduations from the Maritime Communications and Information Systems Wing marked the end of an era and start of another for the Communications and Information Systems (CIS) workgroup.

On November 30, CIS Session 30 graduated as the final course of generalist CIS sailors straight from initial entry training.

These members will not conduct specialised streamed training until they commence their first career progression courses as able seamen.

The first streamed-on-entry CIS sailors graduated on November 9.

Aligning with the CIS Workgroup Remediation Action Plan, CIS initial entry training will be conducted in separate courses to represent the different streams of communications specialists and information systems specialists.

The new structure of streaming on entry ensures the CIS workgroup remains agile and capable of delivering a workforce that meets emerging demands.

The disciplines and skills of these specialist sailors are skill sets tailored to the particular stream; however, both work in collaboration with one another in maintaining assured communications at sea.

The role of an information systems specialist is to work within deployed ICT networks within a maritime environment, providing command with the vital computer networks to fight and win at sea.

Due to the increasing sophistication of IT systems – combined with the complexity of the operating environment – a streamed information system specialist is one who can act quickly and decisively.

The role of a communications specialist is to establish and maintain tactical and strategic communications links ashore and at sea.

Right: OIC, Defence Force School of Signals, Maritime Communication and Information Systems Wing, LCDR Nathan Cole, OAM, RAN speaking during the RAN Communication and Information Systems Initial Employment Course No. 030 graduation at HMAS Cerberus

Photo: LSIS James McDougall

Navy has a vital need for co-operation with partner nations, which combined with rapidly changing technology requires streamed communications specialists who can provide the necessary links to pass critical information to fight and win in the maritime environment.

These changes to the CIS workgroup are in line with Navy's push into information warfare and the pillar of assured command and control at sea.

Lieutenant Commander Nathan Cole is the current Officer Commanding of the Maritime Communications and Information Systems Wing.

"This marks an important milestone in the evolution of naval communications and the move towards streamed mastery pathways for the CIS workgroup," he said.

"It's critical that the whole of Navy understands how the new generation of CIS are employed and consequently results in a more refined information warfare capability."

Further information on communications and information systems sailors streams can be found at [ADF Careers - Networks Operator](#), [ADF Careers - Communications Operator](#) and [ADF Careers - Communication Networks Operator Submariner](#).

By Sub Lieutenant Cinaed Final

Graduation marks a sailors' readiness for employment as Communication Information Systems sailors in the Royal Australian Navy after more than 12 months of recruit and category training. On completion, graduating sailors undertake Equipment Application Courses and then proceed to major Fleet units and shore Establishments to commence their careers



Navy One Sydney—Hobart Yacht Race 2023



Above: The crew of Navy One before departing for the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race at the Royal Australian Navy Sailing Association, Darling Point, NSW.

Right: Navy One Skipper, Lieutenant Tori Costello

Photos: LSIS David Cox



Navy One, the Royal Australian Navy's sail training yacht, was part of the fleet for the 2023 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The crew consisted of five Officers and five Sailors with a diverse range of experience. Navy One and her crew lined up for the race start of the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on Boxing Day, 26th of December 2023

Navy One was the 52nd yacht to cross the finishing line on 31 Dec at 06:23:24 AM taking 04 days:17h:23m:24s to get there. Twelve yachts withdrew during the race. Based on her handicap, she was placed 8th in IRC Division 4 of those that finished.

Originally launched as *Lunchtime Legend* for Queenslander Robbo Robertson in August 2011

she won IRC Division 2 of the Rolex Trophy Rating Series and scored third in IRC Division 4 of the Rolex Sydney Hobart that year – finishing with the exact same corrected overall time as sistership, *Two True*, winner of the 2009 Rolex Sydney Hobart. In 2012, Robbo won IRC Division 3 after finishing 17th overall in the 2012 Hobart.

The yacht was sold and became *Outlaw* and the Navy then renamed her *Navy One*, after purchasing her four years ago for initial entry officer sail training for the RAN at HMAS Creswell in Jervis Bay. In the 2019 Rolex Sydney Hobart, *Navy One*, with Nathan Lockhart in command, won the Oggin Cup and plaque for the first Armed Services Yacht on corrected time.

NAA ACT Section Nomination Form 2024 Committee Elections

Position

Nominee

Proposer: Name (Block Letters)

Signature

Second: Name (Block Letters)

Signature.....

Date:.....

Endorsement by Nominee

Nominations are to be delivered to

The Secretary, s NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 22 February 2024

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 banking 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 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 REGIS-

Social Program

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

2024

1 Feb	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
15 Feb	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
7 Mar	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
21 Mar	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
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

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section 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
February 2024**

John Crawley

Frank Shugg

Jack Lissing

Peter Cooke-Russell

Michael Doyle

NB

The holiday period is almost over, just Australia Day to go.

Just a reminder that the Section will meet for the first time in 2024 at the EastLake Football Club rooms at
1330 Thursday 1 February 2024

GATHER THERE FOR LUNCH AT 1200



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

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