



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 25 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

July 2020

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PROOF  
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE  
Sheean, Ordinary Seaman Edward (Teddy)  
QUESTION  
Thursday, 11 June 2020**

Mr ALBANESE (Grayndler—Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): My question is to the Prime Minister. Why has the Prime Minister commissioned a review of the review of the review of the review of the failure to award a Victoria Cross to Tasmania's Teddy Sheean? Will the Prime Minister now do the right thing and support the unanimous independent recommendation that recently went to the government, but was overturned, that Teddy Sheean be given a Victoria Cross posthumously without delay?

Mr MORRISON (Cook—Prime Minister and Minister for the Public Service) (14:33): I thank the member for his question on this matter. There can be no more important decision than a Prime Minister would make than to recommend to Her Majesty regarding the awarding of the Victoria Cross. That is true when that is awarded in the same period of time in which the acts have been conducted. But, when one is considering acts of 80 years ago where these matters have been considered on numerous occasions and, on all of those occasions bar one, the recommendation has not been to do this, a Prime Minister has to be very careful and has to set a very high bar.

It is true that the tribunal are charged with making recommendations, and they have made a recommendation. The valour inquiry of 2013 also made decisions in relation to this matter, and those two decisions are at odds with each other. As a result of the valour inquiry report a set of principles was set out which was adopted as government policy by those opposite, as the government at the time, and has been continued on by our government—and that is that, to take such a matter forward,

there must be compelling new evidence that would support that recommendation.

There is dispute about that in the advice that I've received in forming the view that I have made to this point in time. I note that the Leader of the Opposition, before forming a view, has not sought out that advice from the government, from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or from the Department of Defence and has moved immediately to form a position. That is a matter for him. I will be more cautious. I will uphold the integrity of our awards and honours system to ensure that we will understand whether this high bar has been met. That is why I have asked former defence minister Brendan Nelson, former solicitor-general David Bennet, former head of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Dr Shergold and senior curator and historian of the New South Wales Anzac Memorial Brad Manera, all outstanding individuals with expert experience in these areas, one simple question: has there been compelling new evidence?

The Leader of the Opposition may wish to move and take a decision that he has made without reference to that type of advice, but I will not.

The SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will resume his seat. The Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

Mr Albanese: Mr Speaker, my question went to the decision of the tribunal, which made a decision 11-0, which I have read and do support.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. Has the Prime Minister concluded his answer?

Mr MORRISON: Yes.

## Events coming up

**1 July      AWM reopens to the public**



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

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## Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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## General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

Should the pandemic be lessened over the next two months the following provisional meetings are advised. The Committee meetings are back.

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 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.

## A/President's Note

Shipmates,

On behalf of the Committee it is our earnest hope that you are all well and coping with the easing of the coronavirus restrictions, though from what we are seeing in Victoria we need still to proceed with caution. Take care and if we can help you in any way please let us know.

We are making progress in our preparations for the NAA Centenary in November: communications have been established with the AWM and I hope to have more news soon as to a Wreath Laying Ceremony we could contact on behalf of the national membership of the NAA; and, planning is underway for our own ceremony, possibly at the Navy Memorial where we as a Section would gather and mark this milestone in the history of our Association.

While we await the outcome of the deliberations of the Expert Panel led by Dr Brendan Nelson, members of the NAA nationwide are encouraged to continue gathering signatures for the Teddy Sheean VC Petition. For the moment we must wait and trust that 'given the room to manoeuvre' the way ahead will be justly defined.

I am delighted to advise we have a new member of the NAA ACT Section Committee; we warmly welcome Alex McGown to our team. His extensive experience, generosity of time, spirit and enthusiasm will greatly enrich our efforts to maintain and promote the naval fellowship that is the embodiment of our Section and therein, the NAA.

Welcome aboard Alex.

Yours aye,

David Manolas  
A/President  
NAA ACT Section



**Committee meeting  
4 McEachern Crescent  
Melba  
1100 Tuesday 7 July 2020**

## More than \$1 million in mental health support for younger veterans

### The Hon Darren Chester MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel

Monday, 1 June 2020

Support for the mental health needs of younger veterans has today received a boost with more than \$1 million in grants for eight projects which will be delivered by ex-service organisations (ESOs) and other veteran community organisations.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the latest round of the Supporting Younger Veterans grants has provided funding to projects that support the development of well-researched and tailored services and programs for younger veterans who may be at risk of experiencing poor mental health.

"The Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first and it's important that we work with the veteran and ex-service community to ensure support is provided to veterans and their families at grassroots level, when and where they need it," Mr Chester said.

"These projects include employment, education, recreational, sports, social connectedness and digital supports—all great initiatives offering real support to veterans.

"Congratulations to all of the successful applicants and thank you to all who have applied and continue to support this important program."

DVA recognises the potential impact coronavirus may have on recipients completing their projects with social distancing and other public health measures in place across the country.

The grants offer will be available for the initial 12-month period, however if the organisation requires more time to complete their project due to coronavirus, DVA will consider extending the length of the agreement on a case-by-case basis.

This flexibility will ensure all of the successful organisations can deliver their projects within a reasonable timeframe and continue to deliver great support their local veteran community.

A full list of successful applicants is below.

The Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) grants program (2019–20)			
Recipient	Funding Description	Amount	Service Areas
The Returned and Services League of Australia, Woden Valley Sub-Branch Inc.	To facilitate the 'Group Emotional and Relationship Skills' (GEARS) Program to offer a skills-based intervention for members of the younger veteran community in Canberra experiencing mental health problems.	\$25,000.00	ACT NSW
Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group	To provide a tailored surf therapy program that will assist younger veterans with mental health issues.	\$280,686.00	NSW
ServULink Pty Ltd	To enable all veterans and their families to identify, navigate, connect with and access existing services including mental health, support and community events across Australia through the development of an application based service that will create virtual partnerships across relevant existing ESO providers.	\$117,360.00	National
Australian Catholic University Limited	To create a tertiary credit mapping framework that will improve access to post-service tertiary education and so improve employment prospects and mental and physical health outcomes for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans.	\$240,632.07	NSW QLD VIC
The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)	To develop a toolkit in conjunction with Clinical Psychologists and mental health professionals experienced in veteran mental health issues, to encourage veterans' involvement in the supportive sporting community.	\$59,176.43	National
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia Limited	To encourage younger veterans to 'share their story' through a 'Younger Service Voices' (YSV) radio and podcast series featuring interviews with younger veterans who have transitioned into civilian life. YSV will raise awareness of the issues faced by younger veterans such as suicide prevention, transitions, employment, family support, health and homelessness.	\$36,335.00	National
STEPS Group Australia Limited	To run a 9-month Pilot to secure sustainable jobs for up to 25 younger veterans at risk of experiencing poor mental health.	\$103,452.84	QLD
Mates4Mates Limited	To provide equine-assisted therapy programs to at-risk veterans and their partners.	\$138,357.66	NSW QLD NT

## Changes to DVA Online Services - AUSkey authentication

Good afternoon

I refer to the recent discussion at the last YVF meeting about the changes to how ESO's access DVA Online Services. Below is an email outlining the changes and how to use the new **PRODA Login**.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

### Changes to DVA Online Services – AUSkey authentication

Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) use AUSkey to access the **Ex-Service Organisation Portal** via the DVA website. The Australian Taxation Office has advised that AUSkey will be decommissioned at the end of **March 2020**.

From 28th February 2020, a new authentication solution called Provider Digital Access (PRODA) will be made available to enable secure access to DVA Online Services. You will be able to access the Ex-Service Organisation Portal via either **AUSkey login** or **PRODA Login** until decommission of AUSKey occurs at the end of March 2020.

To ensure ESO's can continue to do online business with us securely, please make sure the following steps below are undertaken.

If you don't register for, and use PRODA you will not be able to access the ESO Portal after the end of March 2020.

Please note that only the authentication solution is changing, the services will continue to be provided by DVA as before.

### What you need to do

Please follow these steps to prepare for the change. We encourage all ESO portal managers and individual members who use DVA Online Services to do this as soon as possible to avoid any disruption in accessing our services:

The ESO Portal Managers will need to identify the authorised person for their organisation, listed on the Australian Business Register, as they will need to set up the organisation in PRODA.

Request the authorised person to:

1. *Register for an individual PRODA account.* To register, go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda** – from the side menu select **"How to register for an individual account"**

- o You are required to verify 100 points of Proof of Identity online, such as a driver's licence, passport or Medicare card.
- o If you already have an individual PRODA account, you do not need register again.
- o A unique Registration Authority (RA) number will be generated and assigned to your individual PRODA account.

2. *Register their organisation and link to DVA services.* To register, go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda** – from the side menu select **"How to register an organisation"** Only an authorised person for the organisation listed on the Australian Business Register needs to set up the organisation in PRODA.

- o An Authorised person is the person listed as an Associate or an Authorised Contact for that ABN on the Australian Business Register (ABR).
- o Ensure your name and organisation details recorded on the ABR are correct and current prior to commencing the registration.

An authorised person for the organisation with an AUSkey can update their ABR information (including adding other Authorised contacts) or otherwise contact the ABR on 13 92 26 or visit: [abr.gov.au](http://abr.gov.au)

The Portal Manager to:

3 *Request personnel within their organisation including themselves, using DVA Online Services, to Register for an individual PRODA account.*

Then, Request the authorised person to:

4 *Add personnel to your organisation in PRODA,* using their individual PRODA account RA number and Surname. To add personnel, go to the Members tab under your organisation in PRODA.

- ◇ Authorised persons can delegate management attributes to other members, so could enable the portal manager to add or remove members on behalf of the organisation in PRODA.

For information or assistance with PRODA please contact PRODA Support on **1800 700 199** (option 1) or email [proda@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:proda@servicesaustralia.gov.au) or visit **servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda**

For information or assistance with the Ex-Service Organisation Portal please contact 1800 555 254.

This information will also be sent to ESO Portal Managers on Thursday 27th February 2020.

Regards

**Lea-anne Gordon**

Assistant Director

Governance & Ministerial Events Section | Parliamentary & Governance Branch

Ph: (02) 6289 1196 | Ext: 601196 | [lea-anne.gordon@dva.gov.au](mailto:lea-anne.gordon@dva.gov.au)



## Operation RESOLUTE

Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

It is the only ADF operation that currently defends the Australia homeland and its assets.

The Operation RESOLUTE Area of Operations covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface and includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200nm around the mainland. Christmas, Cocos, Keeling, Norfolk, Heard, Macquarie and Lord Howe Islands also fall within the Operation RESOLUTE boundaries.

Commander Maritime Border Command (MBC), Rear Admiral Peter Laver, RAN, is the overarching operational authority that coordinates and controls both Defence and Australian Border Force assets from his headquarters in Canberra.

Maritime Border Command is the multi-agency taskforce which utilises assets and personnel from both the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to safeguard Australia's maritime jurisdiction. Its maritime surveillance and response activities are commanded and controlled from the Australian Maritime Border Operations Centre in Canberra.

Deputy Commander of Operation RESOLUTE, Commodore Brenton Smyth, RAN, is responsible at the frontline for ADF assets operating under Operation RESOLUTE.

The ADF assets protect Australia's maritime domain from security threats. These threats include:

- illegal maritime arrivals
- maritime terrorism

- piracy, robbery and violence at sea
- compromise to bio-security
- illegal activity in protected areas
- illegal exploitation of natural resources (eg. illegal fishing)
- marine pollution
- prohibited imports and exports

At any one time, up to 800 ADF personnel at sea, in the air and on the land, are working to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. They work alongside personnel from Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and other agencies.

ADF resources allocated to Operation RESOLUTE comprise:

- Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft that provide aerial surveillance of Australia's north-west and northern approaches
- Navy Armidale Class Patrol Boats (ACPBs) operating daily throughout Australia's northern offshore maritime areas
- Australian Army Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU) patrols which conduct land based security operations
- a Transit Security Element (TSE) made up of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel who embark in the ACPBs
- two Navy Major Fleet Units (MFU) for northern waters response

In addition, ADF units transiting the area of operations, whilst not assigned to Operation RESOLUTE, also contribute to the overall surveillance and security effort through their presence.

*HMAS Pirie departing Smith Point refuelling depot at Christmas Island, as seen from the stern of HMAS arrakia, while on Operation RESOLUTE duties.*



## Navy's global engineering credibility set to soar

Navy's global credibility is set to thrive with the skills and knowledge of more engineering personnel to be acknowledged internationally.

In an exciting new agreement with Engineers Australia - one of the nation's top professional engineering institutes - Royal Australian Navy Senior Technical Sailors and Engineers can now receive global accreditation.

Director General Engineering - Navy, Commodore Colin Dagg, said this accreditation would give the workforce chartered status in Leadership and Management.

"Becoming chartered should be an aspiration of everyone involved in engineering, as it is independent recognition for meeting international standards of competency," he said.

Engineers Australia is a global industry leader, setting educational and professional benchmarks for engineers around the world.

Over the last 12 months, Engineers Australia has reviewed the qualifications and certifications within Navy engineering and found Navy's training meets, and in some areas exceeds, international standards.

Engineers Australia Registrar Glen Crawley said this shows Navy personnel are of an extremely high calibre.

"To acknowledge this, Engineers Australia streamlined a professional assessment pathway that validates the experience and extensive training accrued by personnel," he said.

Following the review, the Navy Professional Development Program has been included in the Defence Engineers and Senior Technicians Recognition Agreement (DESTRA).

The DESTRA was created two years ago between the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group and Engineers Australia, to provide accreditation to Defence Force Aviation Engineers and Senior Technicians.

Following its success, Navy worked closely with Engineers Australia to amend the contract so all

categories of maritime engineering were included.

"Having more chartered members will improve our global credibility and defensibility of technical decision making, which is vital in an age of joint operations and global support arrangements," Commodore Dagg said.

Chartered Navy personnel will be added to the National Engineering Register of Australian engineers who meet the industry's highest professional standard.

Ranking personnel can also apply for Fellow and Engineering Executive Status, an honor reserved for true leaders of the profession.

"Our technical personnel work hard to maintain and sustain all of Navy's platforms to ensure we can fight and win at sea, and they deserve this acknowledgement," Commodore Dagg said.

Marine Engineer Lieutenant Michael Zgoznik hopes to become chartered within four years and believes streamlining the process through the DESTRA will enable more people to take charge of their careers.

"It gives me confidence that through the rest of my career, my skills and experiences will be recognised by an internationally accredited organisation," he said.

The new partnership will help Navy remain at the forefront of the industry with members given access to a huge range of professional development.

"It's about enabling a Thinking Navy, so Navy people can take advantage of various colleges, technical societies and further education through the DESTRA," Commodore Dagg said.

"I'm excited to see not only the new agreement's immediate benefits, but also where it leads Navy and our people in the future."

*Director General Engineering - Navy, Commodore Colin Dagg, CSC, RAN, right, explains to Lieutenant Michael Zgoznik the benefits of Navy's new partnership with one of Australia's top professional engineering associations, Engineers Australia*





## Supporting Navy families through deployment

While usually rewarding for members, deployments and other absences can be a stressful and challenging time for some families. With many Navy members deployed on exercise and operations, Defence Community Organisation has developed a new webinar series for members and their families called 'Deployment: embracing the challenge'.

Commander David Gayford, Deputy Director Military Support at Defence Community Organisation, said the webinar series will provide families with a range of information and practical tips for managing before, during and after deployment.

"The four-part webinar series starting this month covers the phases of deployment, the planning families can make pre-deployment, tips and strategies for members and their families during deployment and also the preparations families can make for their member's return when the deployment is over," Commander Gayford said.

"The extraordinary events of 2020, with the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, has only increased the stressors on many members and their families. This webinar series provides a great opportunity to get a range of useful information from the comfort of home," he said.

The Defence Community Organisation website also has a wide range of information for members and their partners and parents about deployment and absence from home.

One of the most helpful resources available on the website is the absence from home support handbook.

"The handbook provides a range of information about how members and their families can prepare practically and emotionally, as well as tips for staying positive and how to help kids during deployment," Commander Gayford said.

The handbook also includes a Member and Family Care Plan which has a checklist of important family information like Defence and Navy contacts.

It also details the personal administration to be completed before leaving on deployment, relevant family medical and education information and other useful contacts and information for insurance, banking, vehicle and home maintenance.

"Things can go wrong when the member is deployed and sometimes their partner doesn't know all the details of where to go or what to do," Commander Gayford said.

"Events like car break downs, issues with Government payments, or if a family member or pet needs urgent medical attention, can be difficult when the family isn't prepared. Even things like storms caus-



*Family members wave in excitement as HMAS Sheean returns home to Fleet Base West Rockingham WA*

ing damage to property and insurance claims can be quite stressful if partners don't have all the details on hand," he said.

Navy families can always call the all-hours Defence Family Helpline/National Welfare Coordination Centre (NWCC) on 1800 624 608 if they need support, referral or advice, or if they need to contact their member on deployment.

Families can also opt in to receive absence from home support calls. The support calls provide a good opportunity for family members to chat with Helpline/NWCC staff and ask any questions they might have about the support available from Defence and in their local community.

The webinar series will be held on the Zoom platform and families can download the free app from the Apple iStore or Google Play.

Follow Defence Community Organisation on social media, ForceNet Families or go to [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco) for details about the deployment webinar series or deployment support.

*Published on 10 June 2020 Ms Rachel Bowman (author), LSIS Richard Cordell (photographer)*

Not applicable on retirement deployments



## Live better with diabetes



20 May 2020

Every day someone in the DVA community is diagnosed with diabetes and many others within our community remain undiagnosed.

Diabetes is one of the biggest challenges confronting the Australian health system today. Living with diabetes can be challenging and health complications can be stressful, not only for you but also family, friends and carers.

DVA will fund memberships of diabetes organisations across Australia for eligible DVA card holders living with diabetes. This will help those who are diagnosed with diabetes to live full and active lives, free from health complications.

A diabetes membership gives DVA service recipients access to local support, education and all the membership benefits of their state or territory diabetes organisation. In addition, a DVA booklet has helpful information about living with diabetes, how to get regular medical supplies and reminders about the range of services DVA provides to support recipients' understanding and ability to self-manage their diabetes.

Local support provides veterans, their families and carers the opportunity to take advantage of their diabetes organisation's support groups, expos and education sessions on offer.

So, if you are a DVA card holder living with diabetes we encourage you to contact DVA on 1800 555 254 or your state or territory diabetes organisation to discuss your eligibility for this initiative. Just be sure to tell them you are a DVA Gold or White Card holder. For more information go to [dva.gov.au/diabetes](http://dva.gov.au/diabetes)

As a person living with diabetes you may have a need for equipment to help you monitor and manage your overall health. These may range from glucose monitoring equipment, exercise bikes to mobility equipment to help you remain independent and active whilst managing your diabetes and preventing health complications.

**Have a chat with your GP or healthcare professional and they can determine if you have a clinical need for a product or service.**

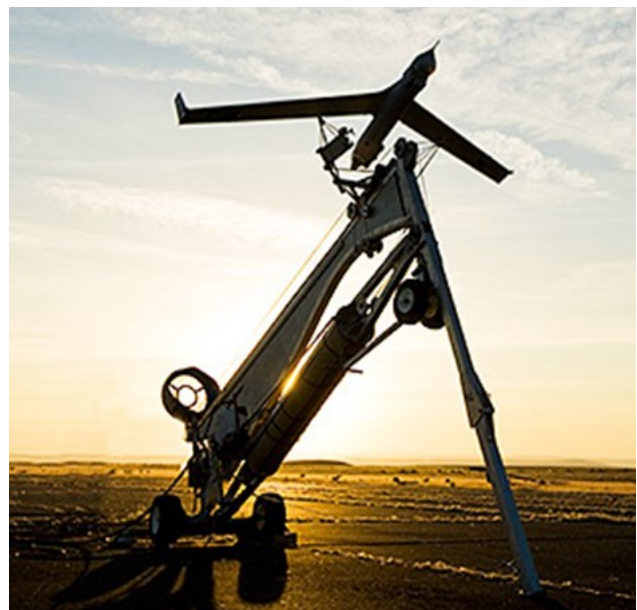
## RAN 822X Squadron—ScanEagle

The squadron's role is to experiment with operating UAVs and develop procedures for integrating them into the Navy. Upon formation, the squadron was equipped with Insitu ScanEagle and Camcopter S-100 UAVs. These are intelligence UAVs equipped with high quality cameras. 882X Squadron's title was drawn from the serial number of the Naval Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit's first aircraft, a ScanEagle designated AV1422.

ScanEagle carries an electro-optic or a dual imager in a gyro-stabilized turret. The camera has full pan, tilt and zoom capabilities and allows the operator to track both stationary and moving targets. ScanEagle vehicles can operate above 15,000 feet (4572 metres) and loiter over a battlefield for extended missions of up to 20 hours, depending on system configuration. The five-foot-long (1.5-metre-long) ScanEagle UAV has a 10-foot (3-metre) wingspan and can operate in land and maritime environments. Its modular design allows integration of new payloads and sensors and ensures the vehicle will be able to incorporate new technology as it becomes available.

ScanEagle is launched autonomously by a catapult launcher and flies preprogrammed and operator-initiated missions. The patented SkyHook® recovery system is used for retrieval. SkyHook catches the aircraft's wingtip with a rope that hangs from a 50-foot-high (15-metre-high) boom.

<b>First flight</b>	April 2002
<b>Type</b>	Autonomous unmanned reconnaissance vehicle
<b>Length</b>	5 feet
<b>Wingspan</b>	10 feet
<b>Altitude</b>	15,000 feet and low altitudes
<b>Endurance</b>	24+ hours
<b>Payload</b>	Electro-optic or infrared camera





## AWM Current situation

Dear Friends of the Australian War Memorial,

We are pleased to announce we will be re-opening to the public from Wednesday 1 July 2020.

All visitors will need to book timed tickets to visit the Memorial to ensure social distancing can be maintained on site.

Tickets are free and now available for the following sessions.

**Museum galleries and Commemorative Area** (2 hour session only)

**Anzac Hall galleries** (1 hour session only)

**Last Post Ceremony** (1 hour ticket. Access from 4.20pm. Ceremony begins at 4.55 pm)

Book your free tickets online at <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit>

Visits to the Research Centre will be by appointment only.

Friends of the Memorial and regular visitors will notice that we have made changes to our operations to ensure the health and safety of visitors,

staff and volunteers. We will continue to align and refine our opening model to the latest Government Health advice.

Please visit our website for more information [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

Thank you for your continued support of the Memorial, we very much look forward to welcoming you back.

Yours sincerely,

**Matt Anderson, PSM**  
Director

**The Australian War Memorial: To honour. To Learn. To Heal.**

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## Royal Australian Navy's Entire Amphibious Force Operating Together for the First Time

In a first, all three amphibious force ship's of the Royal Australian Navy, HMAS Canberra, HMAS Choules and HMAS Adelaide, sailed together in formation..

*Naval News*



*From left, HMA Ships Canberra, Choules and Adelaide sail in formation during Force Integration Training off the east coast of Australia*

## Two decades of service for HMA Ships *Leeuwin* and *Melville*



*HMA Ships Leeuwin and Melville were originally painted white, in line with the Royal Navy's paint scheme for tropical survey operations. They were painted grey in January 2002 as they began to take on a broader range of maritime taskings.*

On 27 May, HMA Ships *Leeuwin* and *Melville* quietly stepped out of their teen years by celebrating their 20th birthdays alongside HMAS *Cairns*. While social distancing requirements meant the anniversary had to be more subdued, both crews still felt honoured to be part of this milestone.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Melville*, Commander Michael Kumpis, was incredibly proud to have served on these vessels several times throughout his career.

"The last 20 years has seen these vessels take on a greater role within Navy, shifting from a primarily national charting focus towards border protection operations, enhanced regional engagement and the provision of maritime military geospatial information in the operational environment as part of a Task Group."

Initially painted white, *Leeuwin* and *Melville* began their careers undertaking national charting and survey operations throughout their first decade of service.

Due to their versatility, ample space and large endurance, they quickly proved themselves ideal for a wide range of maritime taskings.

Over the years, both ships have supported Operations RELEX and RESOLUTE, have undertaken a range of Humanitarian Assistance missions and a range of adhoc and bespoke taskings.

Their specialised survey systems provide significant capability to the Fleet across a number of disciplines, either organically or as part of a Task Group.

"The *Leeuwin* Class, with a world's best sonar system and the ability to deploy ScanEagle, added to the multidisciplinary versatility of the platform, makes the Hydrographic Survey vessel a valuable Fleet asset," Commanding Officer HMAS *Leeuwin*, Commander Richard Mortimer, said.

Much more than just surveying platforms, the *Leeu-*

*win* Class of ships continues to offer significant capability to the Royal Australian Navy.

While participating in Exercise TALISMAN SABRE in 2017, Hydrographic Survey 'Blue Crew' (embarked in *Melville*) were awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for their role in the location and recovery operation of a United States Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey Aircraft which tragically crashed and sank off the coast of Queensland.

For the same operation, HS Blue Crew was also honoured to be awarded the Duke of Gloucester's Cup, which was presented on board *Melville* by His Royal Highness The Prince

of Wales.

During the Royal Australian Navy's International Fleet Review in 2013, *Leeuwin* took centre stage as the reviewing ship, hosting a number of dignitaries including the then Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce.

Most recently, both ships have increasingly deployed internationally as part of the Enhanced Regional Engagement program across the South West Pacific and South East Asian regions, undertaking valuable work and building relationships with Australia's close neighbours.

"The *Leeuwin* Class Hydrographic Ships have provided outstanding service across a wide range of changing and expanding roles over the last 20 years, including non-core roles in Border Protection and Regional Engagement," Commander Mine Warfare, Hydrographic and Patrol Boat Force, Captain Bryan Parker, said.

"The adaptability of their crews to meet these challenges with success has been of great credit to themselves and to Navy," Captain Parker said.

The vessels have supported numerous International engagement activities, such as the Women in Maritime, Peace and Security forum that was hosted by *Leeuwin* in 2019 while alongside in the Federated States of Micronesia, highlighting the diverse and significant contributions made by this class of ships.

Reflecting the two vessels' ship's mottos "I Shall Maintain" and "With Determination", *Leeuwin* and *Melville* have served the nation honourably for twenty years, charting a clear path for others to follow.

*Published on 22 June 2020 LEUT Brenton Fairall  
(author)*



## Nations combine to remember losses in Sydney Harbour

The 'Battle for Sydney' has been commemorated with a memorial service at Garden Island, Sydney, 78 years on from when Japanese forces again brought the Second World War to the Australian mainland.

Over the evening of 31 May-1 June 1942, 19 Australians, two British and six Japanese personnel perished when three Imperial Japanese Navy mid-gut submarines, each with a crew of two sailors, launched a daring attack against Allied warships moored in Sydney Harbour.

Committee member of the Submarine Institute of Australia, retired Captain Christopher Skinner recounted the events leading into the battle.

"Over 30 warships were in the harbour that night, including Dutch and American ships; with a number recently returned from the Battle of the Coral Sea," Captain Skinner said.

In planning the attack, a Japanese reconnaissance aircraft made several passes over Sydney Harbour enabling the pilot and his observer to sketch the position of the anti-submarine defences and some of the warships.

"The sea plane was both seen and heard, but no one expected a Japanese force so close to Australia's largest city," Captain Skinner said.

Following the success of the reconnaissance flight the Japanese submarine commander decided to launch the attack.

"Shortly after entering the harbour, M27 was spotted caught in an anti-submarine net. Realising they were trapped the crew scuttled their vessel, Captain Skinner said.

"M22 was spotted near Taylor's Bay and was attacked with depth charges by Navy auxiliary patrol craft.

"With their submarine damaged and realising they wouldn't be able to complete their mission or return to the parent submarine the crew took their own lives."

M24 took aim at the heavy cruiser USS *Chicago*. The torpedo missed, detonating against a breakwater and destroying accommodation ferry HMAS *Kuttabul*.

"This daring and spectacular submarine action had extraordinary impact on national and strategic thinking of the day, precisely as it was intended to do," Captain Skinner said.

In remembering the lives lost, Commander Andrew Fraser, Commanding Officer Sydney's namesake base, HMAS *Kuttabul* said the significance of the sacrifice made by personnel had not faded.

"While many years have passed, we continue to honour and pay respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their respective nations," he said.

As representatives from Australia, Japan, Great Britain and the United States laid wreaths, *Kuttabul* Ship's Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Matthew Hurley reflected on what it meant to him to wear the ship's name on his uniform.

"I reflect not only on those lost in the sinking of *Kuttabul*, but all Defence personnel who have been lost in the 78 years since," he said.

"I am very proud to be part of this *Kuttabul* ship's company, as she too has a distinguished service record.

"*Kuttabul* still provides accommodation for sailors as the ship was doing on that dreadful night in 1942, and continues to be an important part of Sydney Harbour."

*Published on 02 June 2017 Ms Natalie Staples (author), ABIS Chantell Brown (photographer)*

*Commander Surface Force, Commodore Chris Smith, CSM, RAN lays a wreath at the HMAS Kuttabul 75th anniversary memorial service held at HMAS Kuttabul, Sydney.*





## Committee Meeting 18 June 2020—CYC Grounds

### Notes from the Committee

The Committee met on Thursday, 18 June at the Yacht Club, combining the timing of their meeting with the Fish'nChip get together.

### HMAS Canberra (1) Commemorative Service.

It was unanimously agreed the commemorative service should go ahead on Friday, 7 August 2020 at the HMAS Canberra Memorial and the agreed format would be:

- A shortened service confined to wreath laying, starting time to be 1100,
- The wreath laying would be limited to defence and ex-service organisation representatives, and
- at the conclusion of the Ode the service be ended by the still from a Bosun's pipe.

No seating will be provided, no catafalque party will be mounted and the service will end some time between 1115 and 1130. Further details will be provided, as needed, in the BC preceding the service.

### Meetings at the Kaleen Sports Club

Future meetings at the Kaleen Sports Club are in doubt whilst restriction prevail. We are dependent on decisions made by the Sports Club as to when

we can resume meetings. Advice will be provided in the BC when we can get together.

### Co-opting of Alex McGown to Committee.

Alex had offered his services to the Committee as a committee member. He was duly appointed to fill one of the vacant positions.

### NAA Centenary Activities.

In the absence of Acting President, David Manolas, due to illness, the Committee deferred discussion on how the Section would conduct activities to support the centenary celebrations.

### Bus Trips

The bus trips are a victim of the coronavirus restrictions. Limitations on bus seating arrangements and availability of services at destinations make future trips in doubt.

### Treasurer's Report

The financial situation of the Section is largely unchanged. Membership renewals have almost ended and with little activity happening there is little transaction of funds.

Alan Masters

Secretary/Treasurer

## Census night 2021 will count our veterans

**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
**Minister for Veterans' Affairs**  
**Minister for Defence Personnel**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 19 June 2020

## Census night 2021 will count our veterans

The Federal Government welcomes the announcement of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that the next Census will be held on 10 August 2021 and final confirmation that it will include a question about service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Census will provide a better understanding of how many veterans we have and where they live, allowing us to deliver the right services in the right areas to support their needs.

"Historically, just because a person served in the ADF doesn't mean they required services or support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), making it hard to give a definitive answer on how many veterans are in Australia," Mr Chester said.

"The Census will provide better data to help guide services and support for Australia's veterans, and will help inform our policy response to issues facing veterans, such as health, housing and employment."

The resulting data will have the potential to help the federal, state and territory government agencies, and ex-service organisations better target and improve services and support.

Veterans' Affairs Ministers from across Australia recognised the importance of this issue, unanimously agreeing in 2017 that 'a question about veterans should be included in the next Australian Census'. This was reinforced in 2018, where Ministers recognised the need for robust data on veterans' issues and strongly endorsed the need for a veteran indicator in the 2021 Census.

**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 2020 is \$38

**1. Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section).** Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 . Account Number 162 834 097** *Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.*

**2.** Payment using the mail system. Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.

**3.** Direct payment to Treasurer. The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

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

### *Social Program*

**Fish 'n Chips is on the program, however Snapper closed on 22 June for hail storm repairs to the CYC. Its date of reopening is not known at this point.**

**Christmas in July lunch has been cancelled.**

16 Jul	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200 (doubtful)
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
<b>3 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas lunch</b>
17 Dec	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200

*Bus trip program is in abeyance*

**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:**

1800 550 457 (Select Option 3, then Option 1)

**POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:**

Health Approvals & Home Care Section  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

**DVA WEBSITE:**

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:  
[health.approval@dva.gov.au](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  
(Option 2 Allied Health)



**A Happy Birthday to you in  
July 2020**

**Richard Hobbs**

**Michael (Kiwi) Rooks**

**Lionel Mead**

**David Rendell**

### 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

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 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)



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

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