



The Bosun's Call



Vol 26 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

July 2021

Brian Warren awarded Medal of the Order of Australia

Bravo Zulu Brian

Our member Brian received the OAM in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

Brian joined the Naval Association South Launceston Sub-section in 2003, moved to Canberra in 2013 and joined the ACT Section in 2014, moving to live in Goulburn in 2014. His award is for advocacy service to veterans and human resource consultancy work in both Tasmania and Canberra/Goulburn since 1987.

A member of the RAN from 1962 to 1972, he started off as a MOBI (Nirimba Apprentice), paying off as a WOETW4, having served in Type 12 Frigates and Daring Class Destroyers with a bit of shoretime inbetween.

He has been a consistent worker under the TIP system of veteran advocacy since 2005 and has played a significant part in the development of current DVA's Advocacy Training Development Program (ATDP) representing the Naval Association in DVA's ESO Consultative Group since 2014, founding member of the Capability Framework Management Group ATDP from 2016 to 2018 and the Operational Working Party 2015 to 2018.

Other members of the NAA who were recognised for their contributions to the veteran community are:

James McDermott, South Launceston Sub-section, Vice President and Welfare officer in the Launceston/Devonport area. Voyager collision survivor in which he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery for his actions as POME in Voyager's B Boiler Room.



Brian Warren at the honour roll at Belmore Park Goulburn.

Photo: Goulburn Post, Burney Wong

Elizabeth Scarce: WRANS SA Sub-section, RADM Kevin Scarce's wife and the late VADM Rod Taylor's sister for her active support of many organisations whilst Kevin was the South Australian Governor and being a member of the NAA.

STOP PRESS

**MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS CHANGED
BY BARNABY JOYCE**

**DARREN CHESTER PUSHED ASIDE FOR
ANDREW GEE TO BE THE MINISTER FOR
VETERAN'S' AFFAIRS**

Events coming up

1 Jul ~~Christmas in July Lunch Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club 1200~~ **CANCELLED**
28 Jul NAA National Council General Meeting and AGM to be held in Canberra at Tradies Dickson. Commencing at 0830 Observers welcome to the meetings and related social activity.



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

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

5 Aug Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Sep Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Oct Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
4 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

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

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

President's Message

Shipmates,

It is always very pleasing to see members of the NAA recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and we extend our congratulations to those who have been honoured in this year's list.

The NAA is a member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). ADSO is an alliance of 18 National Ex-Service Associations with a combined national membership of over 90,000 members. Whilst we would all wish to maintain an apolitical stance in Government matters, particularly the appointment of Ministers, ADSO had written to the newly appointed Leader of the Nationals expressing a desire to see the incumbent Minister for Veterans Affairs retain this very important portfolio, given a Royal Commission into veteran suicides is imminent.

Tonight (Sunday 27 Jul 21) the ABC News Website informed us that Minister Chester will be replaced by New South Wales MP Andrew Gee as the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

The Honourable Andrew Gee MP - Ministerial appointments:

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister from 25.1.2019 to 6.2.2020.

Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education from 6.2.2020.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment from 6.2.2020.

We now await the formal proceedings and further announcements following the latest change in portfolio appointments. We wish Minister Chester well and 'a fair wind and a following sea' in his future endeavours and extent to him our sincere appreciation for his efforts and accomplishments during his tenure as Minister for Veterans Affairs.

We stand by to welcome Minister Gee on assuming the duties inherent in this most important portfolio.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

**Committee meeting
East Lakes Gungahlin
1100 Thursday 5 August 2021**

Joint media release — Veteran health boost with Fussell House opening in NSW

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

The Hon James Griffin MP
NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Veterans

Fiona Martin MP
Federal Member for Reid

Friday, 18 June 2021

Veterans and their families will have improved access to health care with the opening of Fussell House at Concord Repatriation General Hospital in Sydney today.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the 19 room residential accommodation facility was available to current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families as they access comprehensive mental and physical health services at the world class National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare (NCVH).

"Fussell House is named after 25-year-old Lieutenant Michael Fussell who was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device," Mr Chester said.

"We can never fully repay the debt we owe to Lieutenant Fussell, but this facility will provide an enduring way for us all to honour his memory and sacrifice for our nation in ongoing support of our veterans and their families."

"I am proud to open this facility, which was made possible by a \$6.7 million investment from the Federal Government in our ongoing commitment to put the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families first."

Fussell House provides veterans and their families from across Australia with a home away from home at Concord as they access the care and support they need. The facility offers private and shared spaces and includes family suites, individual rooms, family lounge areas, kitchen, laundry and utility rooms and outdoor BBQ area.

The NCVH is operated by a multidisciplinary team of health professionals at Concord Repatriation General Hospital and offers a unique model of care, integrating a range of specialist outpatient services for mental and physical health and rehabilitation to assess, manage, treat and support the health and wellbeing needs of veterans.

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Veterans James Griffin said the NCVH would relocate into the new \$341 million clinical services building expected to open at Concord later this year.

"Providing on-site accommodation will be a key component of the NCVH as it will support the treatment for veterans and their families including those residing outside of metropolitan Sydney," Mr Griffin said.

Federal Member for Reid Fiona Martin said Concord Repatriation General Hospital had a proud history of serving Australia's veterans and their families and Fussell House marks a new chapter in that history.

"Fussell House is integral to the support available at the NCVH and ensures our families have a dedicated space to call home while veterans are receiving the treatment they need," Dr Martin said.

"Fussell House and the NCVH will benefit veterans and their families across Australia for generations to come."

For more information and details about how to access the services offered by NCVH, visit the [National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare web site](#).

Media contacts

Rachel Tharratt or Cedric Szigeti: 02 6277 7820

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon Darren Chester, Canberra ACT

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

Council of the Australian War Memorial reappointment

Mr Kerry Stokes AC has been reappointed as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial for a further 12 months.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said Kerry's extensive experience, leadership and dedication would continue to benefit the Council and its ongoing stability, particularly as the Memorial progresses through the early stages of its major upgrade.

"The work of the Council is crucial in raising national awareness of the service and sacrifice of our current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families, and as a member of the Council and during his time as Chair Kerry has done an outstanding job," Mr Chester said.

"Kerry is a passionate supporter and advocate for the Australian War Memorial and I thank him for his contribution to-date and congratulate him on his reappointment."

Veteran Family Advocate appointed to the MRCC

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Thursday, 4 March 2021

The perspectives of veteran's families will continue to be represented in veteran policy and the administration of veteran entitlement and compensation claims, after the Veteran Family Advocate was appointed as a member on the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC) today.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the inaugural Veteran Family Advocate, Commissioner Gwen Cherne, brought expertise and passion to the Commission that would result in even stronger outcomes for Australia's veterans and their families.

"Gwen was appointed as Veteran Family Advocate last August and as a standing Commissioner on the Repatriation Commission is already making a significant difference, providing me and my Department with important insights into the perspectives of veteran's families," Mr Chester said.

"I congratulate Gwen on her appointment and look forward to continuing to work with her as she expands on this important work. Her passion and experience in supporting the ex-service community

will help to ensure the Government continues to put veterans and their families first."

The appointment is made as part of the Government's commitment to ensuring the perspectives of veterans' families are represented on and directly inform the work of the Commission in setting veteran policy and the administration of veteran entitlement and compensation claims.

The MRCC was established under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA). The MRCA provides compensation and other benefits for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force who suffer an injury or disease due to service on or after 1 July 2004. It also provides for the dependants of members whose deaths were the result of an injury or disease due to service on or after 1 July 2004.

The Repatriation Commission is responsible under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) for granting pensions, allowances and other benefits, providing treatment and other services and generally administering the Act.

For more information on the Commissions, visit the [DVA website](#).

Media contacts

Rachel Tharratt or Cedric Szigeti: 02 6277 7820
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Biography — Veteran Family Advocate — Commissioner Gwen Cherne

Gwen Cherne was appointed as the inaugural Veteran Family Advocate, and standing Commissioner on the Repatriation Commission in August 2020. Gwen is an Australian War Widow and the mother of a currently serving Defence member.

Since the death of her husband to suicide in 2017 she has dedicated herself to advocacy for Australian war widows, defence and veterans' families, suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Gwen was appointed to the Council of the Australian War Memorial in 2019, was an inaugural Member of the Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service, served on the board of the Australian War Widows' NSW chapter, was an Ambassador for the Commando Welfare Trust and Gotcha4Life and was a 2018 Invictus Games Ambassador for ClubsNSW.

Born in the United States, her career has taken her all around the world, including the US, Australia, Afghanistan, Africa, Central and South America,

and the Caribbean, with a focus on stability, relief, and development for youth, women, and families living in crisis and extreme poverty.



In her early career she co-founded a school for low-income children in Brooklyn, NY. She worked in Afghanistan off and on for three years as an international development worker in the Central and South Regions and as Regional Director in Jalalabad and Kabul. After returning to the US Gwen worked as a Senior Trainer and Manager for Curriculum and Training for military, Foreign Service Officers and other civilians preparing for deployment.

More recently, she spent seven years working at the Australian Civil-Military Centre as a Program Manager and Assistant Director for Research.

Gwen has a Bachelors degree in Psychology with a minor in Women's Studies and a Masters degree in Public Administration with a concentration in International Policy from the NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

New Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Andrew Gee MP—Biography

Parliamentary service

State: Elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Orange, 2001. Resigned 30.5.2016 to contest the House of Representatives division of Calare, New South Wales.

Federal: Elected to the House of Representatives for Calare, New South Wales, 2016. Re-elected 2019.

Ministerial appointments

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister from 25.1.2019 to 6.2.2020.

Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education from 6.2.2020.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment from 6.2.2020.

Committee service

Joint Statutory: Public Accounts and Audit from 14.9.2016 to 1.7.2019.

House of Representatives Standing: Procedure from 14.9.2016 to 11.4.2019; **Environment and Energy** from 11.9.2018 to 11.4.2019 (Chair from 11.9.2018 to 25.1.2019).

Personal

Born 13.9.1968, Wagga Wagga, Australia

Married

Qualifications and occupation before entering Federal Parliament

BEC(Hons) (University of Sydney).

LLB (University of Sydney).

Barrister from 2003 to 2011.

State/Territory Government service

Elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Orange, 2001. Resigned 30.5.2016 to contest the House of Representatives division of Calare, New South Wales.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Deputy Premier and Regional Roads from 24.4.2015 to 4.5.2016.



Electorate : Calare

Location: Calare covers an area from Lithgow in the east to Eugowra in the west, Wellington and Mid-Western Regional Councils in the north to Blayney Shire Council and Oberon Council in the south. **The main cities and towns include** Bathurst, Blayney, Canowindra, Eugowra, Gulgong, Kandos, Lithgow, Molong, Oberon, Orange, Mudgee, Portland, Rylstone, Wallerawang and Yeoval.

Area: 32,666 Sq km

Electors enrolled: 118,099 (at 7.6.2019)

Industries: Mining, mixed farming, fruit, timber, vineyards, meat and wool processing, transport, tourism, light engineering, white goods manufacturing, tertiary education services, agricultural and pastoral support.

APH Website

Extracts from his first speech to Federal Parliament 14 September 2016

Mr GEE_(Calare) (13:21): I was born in the country, I was raised in the country, I am of the country and I believe in the future of country Australia. That is the reason I stand before you today. For the past five years, country communities of central-western New South Wales have put their faith and trust in me as their representative in our state parliament, and I am deeply honoured that those communities, and more still, have put their faith and trust in me to represent them in this place, our national parliament. When we are young, we all have dreams and goals, but I never once thought that I would be standing here today in this House delivering this address. It is a responsibility as heavy as it is humbling.

In my time in state politics, I saw constituents in their worst hours of need and I was privileged to be there with them in their moments of triumph. In the same way, I saw politicians soaring to their best, and I have also seen some at their worst. After five years of serving the communities of the west and being entrusted as their representative, there is one thing about politics that I know to be true: life is

short, and we are all just here in a blink of history's eye—and political careers are even shorter than that. So, while we are occupying these positions, we need to get things done. Politics is not about the offices we hold or the titles we have; it is about delivering lasting benefits that make life better for the people that we represent. That is the very essence of politics.

There is also something I know to be true about country politics: country people want and expect their representatives to stand up and fight for them. They do not mind if you do not always carry the day or if you get knocked down trying, but they expect you to fight the fight, to stand up and fight for them. And country Australia certainly needs its champions."

"The great divide exists in access to medical services. People in the country have shorter lives than those in the cities. We have worse outcomes for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, mental health and obesity. We die younger, and that is

(Continued on page 6)

Extracts from his first speech to Federal Parliament 14 September 2016

(Continued from page 5)

the cold hard truth. The divide exists, all right. People in the cities take going to the doctor for granted, but in some of our country communities it can still take weeks just to see a general practitioner. One way we can bridge that particular divide is by training more doctors for the country, in the country, and the university that wants to do just that is the regionally based Charles Sturt University, through the Murray Darling Medical School to be based at Orange, Wagga and Bendigo. The dream of a country medical school hosted by a country university has been years in the making, and I am here to tell you that the dream is still alive. I will be doing everything I can to make that happen.

The great divide exists in social disadvantage. The central west and Calare are dynamic and prosperous, but the reality is that country electorates host some of the most socially disadvantaged communities in Australia. Many in those places feel forgotten and overlooked by their wider communities and many have continually put their faith and trust in not only me but the National Party to have their voices heard. Over the past five years, I like to think I worked hard to make sure those people and those communities did have a voice and that their voices were heard, and I recommit to that today. They will not be forgotten on my watch.

There is no better way to literally bridge the great divide than to build a new expressway over the top of it or, indeed, tunnel underneath it—or both! A Bells Line of Road expressway from Sydney's north-west into Lithgow would open up the communities of the west. Let us not dither for another generation. If the money for an expressway cannot be found at present, the federal government needs to follow the lead of the New South Wales government in putting some serious funding down to help upgrade that road now. It is not impossible. We have had some success in recent times in finding scarce funding for projects the doomsayers and naysayers said would never happen. And I will also be aiming for funding for another Holy Grail of unfinished road projects in the central west: the famed crossing at Dixons Long Point between Orange and Mudgee, a project 80 years in the making. If the great divide is truly to be bridged, policies of decentralisation need to be actively pursued. The National Party has blazed the trail for decentralisation."

"Whilst I was young, my family lived for a time in Nairobi, Kenya and also San Francisco. We eventually settled in Maitland, in the Hunter Valley. My parents by then operated a small business: a wholesale and retail nursery. It was my parents who taught me the value of hard work, initiative, perseverance and resilience.

I was fortunate enough to attend Newcastle Grammar School. My modern history teacher was someone well-known to this side of politics in New South Wales, Patricia Forsythe. It was she who steered me towards Sydney University, St. Paul's College and politics, and she is with us here today.

After I finished law school and commenced life as a solicitor, my brothers, David and Matthew, and I

decided we would move to Asia and start our own business licensing consumer products and promotions for international entertainment companies. My brothers went to Singapore and I headed to Hong Kong. It was a long way from Largs in the Hunter Valley. Building a business from scratch across multiple countries was hard work, but I look back on those years with pride, not least because my brothers and I did it together.

When I returned to Australia, my first job as a solicitor was at the illustrious firm of Colin Biggers & Paisley, or 'the fighting CBP' as it is known to its many friends. There I was lucky enough to be schooled in the art of litigation by two outstanding solicitors, Antony Riordan and Alex Ostermayer, who are also in the gallery today.

After completing my bar reading, I moved around the corner to Queen's Square Chambers in Macquarie Street. But the call of the country was strong. We wanted a better quality of life and a true sense of community, so my family, like so many before us, crossed the Great Divide to find a new life in the magnificent electorate of Calare. I practised as a barrister both there and in Sydney until the New South Wales election of 2011."

"In my time as a state MP, it was the community campaigns that marked the time in the electorate: the fight for Gulgong hospital and ensuring that promises made were promises kept; saving the Drip near Mudgee and having it declared a national park; the fight for a 24-hour rescue helicopter service; the fights for better radiotherapy at Orange and also better roads; and saving the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health.

In Sydney, the last five years or so were marked by regular scans and check-ups at the Sydney melanoma unit after being diagnosed with stage 3 melanoma during a state election campaign of 2010. Professor John Thompson is not here today, but he and the cancer researchers like him are the unsung heroes in Australia, and I am very grateful to him for patching me up and getting me back on the paddock. In fact, when after my operation I asked him whether he thought I would be right to contest the 2011 state election, he replied that, if it was a political career I was contemplating, perhaps he should book me in for a brain scan. That is medical humour for you, but I appreciate all that Prof. Thompson has done for me."

"Today I also thank the people of Calare. When I entered politics in 2011, I committed to representing the people of our communities with the same qualities that they themselves possess: courage, passion and energy. I reaffirm that commitment today. But to communities of the west I further commit to this: I will fight for you, Calare. Every day I occupy this office I will fight. When I am out in our communities I will fight. When I am here in this place I will stand up and I will fight for you, Calare. I will fight and we, all of us, will fight with an unshakable faith in the future of the west and together we will make this time count for something. We will make these years Calare's years, and together we will make this Calare's time."

Captain Cook Graving Dock a National Monument

The Captain Cook Graving Dock at Sydney's Garden Island, built during World War II, has been recognised as a National Engineering Landmark by Engineers Australia.

The first ship to use the 347m dry dock was the 225m aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* and the latest is the 230m landing helicopter dock HMAS *Adelaide*.

President of the Sydney Division of Engineers Australia Jessica Qiu and Director General Maritime Support Branch Commodore Shane Glassock on June 17 unveiled a plaque at the historic site to mark its new status as an engineering landmark.

Ms Qiu said the dock took four years to complete and at the time was Australia's largest engineering project.

"It's important that we recognise the people who built this landmark and how it contributed to our community," Ms Qiu said.

Construction activity peaked in 1943 with more than 4000 men employed on the project.

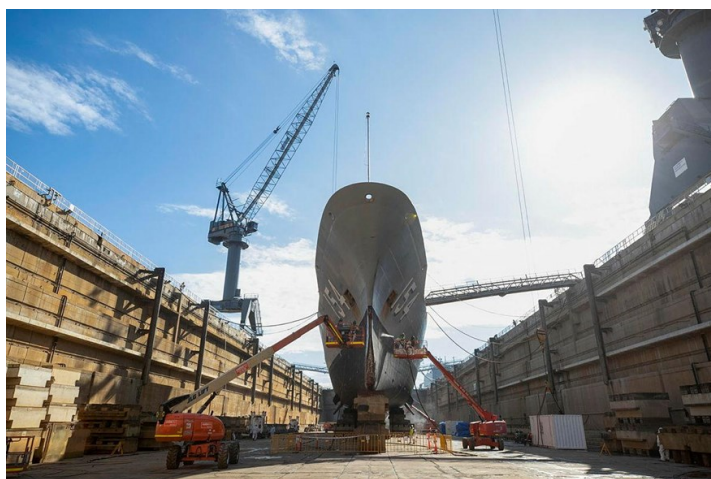
Commodore Glassock said the graving dock was a product of incredible foresight and remained a national strategic asset.

"It continues to support maritime sustainment through the ability to dry dock our largest Royal Australian Navy ships, foreign navy ships and regional commercial vessels," Commodore Glassock said.

"While the design and construction of the dock have very much stood the test of time, planning is now underway to ensure this critical asset remains available and operational in the decades ahead."

Resembling a giant bath tub, the dry dock is the last remaining facility in Australia capable of docking ships that have a displacement of more than 12,000 tonnes, and its importance is highlighted in the 2020 Force Structure Plan.

Colin Randall, from the Naval Historical Society of Australia, first saw the process as a 13-year-old in 1961 when his father worked in the Dockmaster's



HMAS Parramatta in the Captain Cook Graving Dock 2020

Office as a maintenance engineer.

"This was a wonderful place for a kid," he recalled.

"My favourite fishing spot was the last bit when they drained the dock. When there were Spanish mackerel, everyone was in there with a bucket."

Since 1999, the graving dock has been operated and maintained by Above Water Systems, which is part of Thales Australia, on behalf of the Navy, symbolising the close ties Navy has with Defence industry.

Above Water Systems vice president Max Kufner said the company appreciated the responsibility of the role and the trust placed in it.

"The trust shown in us by the Royal Australian Navy has instilled an enormous sense of pride and accomplishment across Thales Australia," Mr Kufner said.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Kuttubul* Captain Matthew Shand said a significant ceremony was planned last year when the dock turned 75, but was called off.

"Unfortunately a thing called COVID-19 hit and the world was, almost overnight, turned on its head," Captain Shand said.

He thanked the historical society president for his efforts to ensure the dock's many years of service were not forgotten.

"Through David Michael's sheer persistence, we celebrate the 76th anniversary of the dock and formally recognise what was, and still is, an engineering feat of national proportions," Captain Shand said.

Defence News

President of Engineers Australia - Sydney Jessica Qiu and the Director General Maritime Support Commodore Shane Glassock unveil a plaque next to the Captain Cook Graving Dock at Garden Island in Sydney.

Photo: Leading Seaman Leo Baumgartner



Their Duty Nobly Done

Kate Reid-Smith

HMAS MATAFELE

There's an enduring mystery of ships missing at sea, and HMAS *Matafele* is just one of them. The last vessel to escape Simpson Harbour, Rabaul (New Guinea) just as the Japanese landed in January 1942. The *Matafele* had been a small cargo and passenger boat operating Pacific Island routes.

Sailing undetected by the Japanese and safely arriving in northern Australia, *Matafele* was one of many placed under the control of the Australian government, initially being assigned to transport military stores in and around coastal northern Australia. As the war progressed, so did *Matafele's* war service, as the only ship of the RAN to be commissioned while at sea on 1 January 1943. Now with extra ballast installed, bulletproof plating around the bridge, a 12-pounder anti-aircraft gun fitted aft, and the eighteen civilian European crew replaced by a naval complement, operational taskings expanded to include not only store transport, but also supplemental survey and navigation duties. Given the choice to leave the vessel on commissioning, thirteen Pacific Islander crewman volunteered to stay onboard for the duration.

Deployed as part of the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) and initially based out of Port Moresby, *Matafele* became an integral shipping component between Milne Bay and various Queensland ports. On a routine cargo run carrying roughly 215 tons of naval stores, the vessel left Townsville on 18 June 1943 for the four day run to Milne Bay. The usual route was north through the Coral Sea and China Straight on to the Solomon Sea, but when *Matafele* failed to arrive and with complete radio silence, the worst was feared. On 24 June, a RAAF overfly reported seeing a vessel underway but in distress and floundering close to the coast in heavy weather. An air and sea search launched from both Cairns and New Guinea found nothing, as did three subsequent Naval Boards of Inquiry.

Although mystery still surrounds what happened to the *Matafele*, especially because there was no known enemy submarine activity in the area at the time, the tragic loss of all crew is remembered both at the Tasmanian Seafarers' Memorial in Triabunna (Tasmania), and in a stained glass window at St Mary's Anglican Church, in suburban Kangaroo Point near Brisbane.



HMAS VAMPIRE (1)



When Commander William Moran assumed command of the V-class Destroyer HMAS *Vampire* in Singapore in December 1941, little did he know that the elderly warship would live up to her motto of being 'unseen and unexpected'. A World War One veteran and one of the famed Scrap Iron Flotilla, *Vampire* was still earning her battle honours in no less than three theatres of war.

Vampire consistently proved her metal, whether undertaking military and mercantile convoy, anti-submarine patrol duties in the Mediterranean, Allied reinforcement and evacuation operations from Greece, or escort duties as part of the Tobruk Ferry Service in the Western Desert Campaign. After two years fighting against the *Kriegsmarine* in the European theatres of war, *Vampire* had joined the British Eastern Fleet at Ceylon (Sri Lanka), taking up the fight against the Japanese in December 1941 engaged in Indian Ocean intercept and hunting duties, including looking for the German cruiser the *Admiral Graf Spree*.

When Japan's Fast Carrier Task Force which already controlled the neighbouring Bay of Bengal, began attacking the harbour in Colombo, *Vampire* sailed as escort with the British aircraft carrier HMS *Hermes* in the hope of avoiding any chance of follow-up strike or aerial bombing while in port. *Vampire's* luck at being unnoticed ran out in a short but defiant action against sixteen Japanese Aichi D3A Val dive bombers. On the morning of 9 April 1942 both vessels came under ferocious attack just south of the Ceylon coast, with the *Hermes* sunk with the loss of 300 crew. *Vampire's* tenacity surprised the Japanese shooting down at least one aircraft, and when despite being hit by 250kg of bombs, breaking in half and sinking within half an hour, crew losses amounted to nine, including Moran.

A Golden Cypress tree at the Shrine Reserve in Melbourne still stands in living shrine commemorating the fallen crew of HMAS *Vampire* (1).



Veteran shines light on 1964 naval tragedy of HMAS Melbourne-Voyager collision and sinking

ABC Eyre Peninsula
By Jodie Hamilton Edited

Posted 24 Jun 21

A veteran from the HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager collision on February 10, 1964 that killed 82 people believes changes to floodlighting on the aircraft carrier caused Australia's worst peacetime disaster.

John Werner, 77, who worked on HMAS Melbourne in weapons electronics-gunnery systems, has spoken about the crash for the first time at a Port Lincoln Returned Services League event commemorating the 110th anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy.

He was the duty electrician that night and set up floodlighting on the aircraft carrier to light the deck and island section for the aircraft. John Werner believes new red floodlights were responsible for Voyager mistaking Melbourne's position. HMAS Melbourne had undergone a re-fit and he noticed the floodlights now had red filters.

"I thought 'things have changed'. In the past they'd been just normal white floodlights," Mr Werner said. "After thinking about it and talking to a couple of other guys on the Melbourne, I understood that the bridge on the Voyager mistook these for the red steaming light of the Melbourne and cut across what she thought was the stern, which in fact was the bow. It occurred just on sunset when both the navigation lights and the red-filtered portable floodlights were turned on. [Collision occurred at 2056K]

"At least one of the red filtered floodlights was facing to starboard — it overshadowed the green navigation light, being mistaken on Voyager's bridge as the port navigation light," Mr Werner said. Professor Frame [Tom Frame author 'Where Fate Calls'] said some information would have been dealt with in-camera for security reasons.

"It was potentially misleading, the new floodlighting that was being trialled, potentially," he said.

"But the royal commission was aware of it, one, and secondly came to the view, as I came to the view, that it wasn't the cause of the collision.

"The navy in one sense did a pretty poor job of explaining to its own people ... why they thought it occurred and so it led people like John and others to think that the evidence that they presented was not given the recognition that it deserved."

Mr Werner is speaking out now because he has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from his career that only surfaced when he retired.

Editor's comment

In his book 'Where Fate Calls' published in 1992 ISBN 0 340 54968 8 at pages 19-20 and 96-97 Tom Frame writes in his examination of the 1964 Royal Commission: proceedings and outcomes

Pages 19 and 20

There was added interest in these particular night flying exercises as it was the first occasion on which the carrier's flight deck was floodlit. A check had been made by Commanders Kelly (NO) and Bailey (XO) while the ship was at anchor in Jervis Bay the previous weekend to ensure none of the red lighting was visible on the starboard side of the carrier. It consisted of one light near the base of the bridge island, and an experimental directional red floodlight set up on the gun direction platform giving a downward beam from near the top of the island. This light was being trained onto the angled flight deck until the senior Gannet pilot, Lieutenant Commander Toz Dadswell, who had been making 'touch and go' runs across the carrier's deck, informed Flying Control in Melbourne by radio that the glare from the light was blinding him during his approach. The light was then trained onto the forward lift."

Pages 96 and 97

"There was one more compelling factor that Street should have mentioned. At every point in her final manoeuvre, Voyager was able to see Melbourne's starboard side light. It was the only green light and witnesses have claimed it was visible from Voyager even at a range of 2,000 yards. Thus Voyager was constantly in a position to see she was on Melbourne's starboard side."

Street was Leading Counsel for the Stevens family in the 1964 Royal Commission into the collision

Sunset in Sydney 10 February 1964 was at 1858K

The full ABC report can be seen at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-25/john-werner-hmas-melbourne-hmas-voyager-theory/10022071>



Christmas In July Lunch

Thursday 1 July 2021

**UNFORTUNATELY CANCELLED DUE TO ACT COVID-19
PERSONAL PROTECTION RULES**

Successor to Royal Yacht Britannia flagship to 'promote British trade on the world stage' following Brexit

30 May 2021

Boris Johnson has announced a successor to the Royal Yacht Britannia to promote British trade on the world stage following [Brexit](#).

The vessel will be used to host trade fairs, ministerial summits and diplomatic talks as the UK seeks to build links and boost exports following Brexit.

It will be the first national flagship since Britannia, which was decommissioned in 1997, but the new vessel will be a ship rather than a luxury yacht.

A name for the ship has not been announced, but the Prime Minister has faced pressure from campaigners and Tory MPs to name it after the Duke of Edinburgh, who played a role in designing Britannia.

The old Royal Yacht is currently berthed in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Government intends to build the ship in the UK, at a reported cost of up to £200 million.

Boris Johnson has announced a successor to the Royal Yacht Britannia to promote British trade on the world stage following Brexit

Mr Johnson said: 'This new national flagship will be the first vessel of its kind in the world, reflecting the UK's burgeoning status as a great, independent maritime trading nation.'

'Every aspect of the ship, from its build to the businesses it showcases on board, will represent and promote the best of British - a clear and powerful symbol of our commitment to be an active player on the world stage.'

The announcement of the vessel comes at the end of a difficult week for the Prime Minister, which has seen him savaged by former aide Dominic Cum-

mings, who claimed the Government was responsible for tens of thousands of needless deaths during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Johnson said: 'This new national flagship will be the first vessel of its kind in the world, reflecting the UK's burgeoning status as a great, independent maritime trading nation'

Construction of the new ship is expected to begin as soon as 2022 and it will enter service within the next four years.

The tendering process for the design and construction of the vessel will launch shortly, with an emphasis on showcasing British design expertise and the latest innovations in green technology.

The ship will be crewed by the Royal Navy and is expected to be in service for around 30 years.

Shadow Treasury chief secretary Bridget Phillipson said: 'Right now our country faces huge challenges, and there's no sign the government has a plan for the recovery.'

'We want to see public money used for targeted investment in a green economic recovery, resources for our NHS, and supporting families to succeed.'

'If this ship is going to be part of a genuine plan for Britain's future, the government must set out clearly how it will boost trade, jobs and growth in every corner of our country.'

'We'd want to see it built in Britain, supporting jobs and skills in shipyards here, and with a real focus on value for money at every stage.'

By JEMMA CARR FOR MAILONLINE
Edited copy



Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 3 June 2021

Meeting started at 1335 with the Odes recited by David Manolas and John Small.

Present: 9 members as per attendance book.

Apologies: Darren Rush, Harry Beardsell, Kate Reid-Smith, Clare Hobbs, Bob Ray, JJ Harrison, M. Hardwick, Joe Slaats.

Minute of Last Meeting. The minutes of the general meeting on 6 May 2021 appeared in the June 2021 edition of the Bosun's Call. It was considered there was no outstanding business from that meeting.

Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 May 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Dennis Lyons. Seconded: Alex McGown. Carried.

Reports.

President. Represented the NAA at the Greek Memorial service.

Vice President. Coming up is a Last Post Ceremony for the loss of HMAS Matafele.

Secretary. Business as usual.

Treasurer. Financial records remain in a healthy state, there being little activity in the last month.

Membership. Membership renewals slowly continue bringing the potential full membership to 70. There are 18 restricted and club members.

Welfare. No new reports.

Social. Bev Joce reminded members of the July lunch in lieu of a meeting and the venue would be the **Gungahlin Lakes Club**.

General Business:

The President provided commentary on a range of news items and activities, some of which involve members participation. They are:

- **Royal Commission on Veterans Suicide.** A national submission has been completed and forwarded to the relevant people.
- **Vietnam Requiem.** This is a musical salute to Australia's actions in war. Performances will occur throughout Australia and ultimately the material will be held by the Australian War Memorial. From there some of the material can be made available to organizations for use.
- **RN Naval Attache.** The British High Commission has a new Naval Attache, CMDR M. Magzoub RN. As such he is offered Honorary membership of our Section for the duration of his posting.

Motion: CMDR M. Mazoub RN be offered Honorary Membership of NAA (ACT Section).

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell. Seconded:

Alex McGown. Carried.

- **NAA joining process.** Person wishing to join the NAA via the NAA Website have undergone a process that does not accord with the existing By-laws. This has introduced complications for Sections and Sub-sections. To rectify this situation the ACT Section Committee is proposing a motion be forwarded to the National Council.

Motion: That the process by which people expressing an interest in joining the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) are accepted as full members of the NAA at the conclusion of seven days from their EOI be expunged from the NAA website and that the Rules as laid down in the By-laws 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 be adhered to.

Moved: Peter Cooke-Russell. Seconded: Graeme Quinn. Carried.

Action: Secretary to forward motion to National Secretary for necessary action.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 5 August 2021 at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club starting at 1330 following lunch starting at 1200.

Meeting closed at 1405.

Alan Masters

Secretary / Treasurer

NAA (ACT)

Notes from Committee Meeting 3 June 2021 Held at Eastlakes Gungahlin Club

Present: David Manolas, Alan Masters, Peter Cooke-Russell, Alex McGown, Dennis Lyons, John Small, Joe Slaats
Apologies: Kate Reid-Smith

Matters discussed are included in the General meeting minutes.

Next meeting. Next meeting will be on 5 August starting at **1100** at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club.

Alan Masters
Secretary
NAA (ACT)

Turn into the Wind; Volume II



Turn into the Wind, Volume II.

US Navy, Royal Navy, Royal Australian Navy, and Royal Canadian Navy Light Fleet Aircraft Carriers in the Korean War and through end of service, 1950-1982

Cdr. David D. Bruhn, USN (retired)

American and British light fleet aircraft carriers, an expedient of war at a time of dire need in World War II, answered their nations' call a second time during the Korean War. While larger US Navy fleet carriers plied their trade in the deeper Sea of Japan

off Korea's east coast, their svelte sisters — USS Bataan, HMS Glory, HMS Ocean, HMS Theseus, HMS Triumph, and HMAS Sydney — were consigned to the Yellow Sea. Operating off the west coast, ragged and heavily indented with numerous small islands, aircraft aboard the carriers repeatedly struck the

Winters were cold, with occasional gales and blinding snow squalls; summers were hot and humid, with heavy rains and fog. While the piston-engine aircraft attacked enemy supply lines, fortifications, and troop positions, enemy MiG jet aircraft were a constant threat, some flown by Russians. Carrier air also provided protection to friendly islands, from which guerillas mounted operations behind enemy lines.

Following the Korean War, Australia acquired two additional former Royal Navy light fleet carriers, and Canada three in succession, as centerpieces for naval fixed air programs. Former CVLs served in new roles during the Cold War/Vietnam War: USS Wright as a "doomsday" afloat White House, HMAS Sydney as a troop transport, and USS Arlington as a communications link between the Pentagon and commanders in the field. One hundred fifty-five photographs, maps, and diagrams; appendices; and an index to full-names, places, and subjects add value to this work.

This is a follow on from

Turn into the Wind, Volume I.

US Navy and Royal Navy Light Fleet Aircraft Carriers in World War II, and Contributions of the British Pacific Fleet

Cdr. David D. Bruhn, USN (retired)

In the Pacific in World War II, the dearth of US Navy fleet aviation capabilities became acute following the loss, in 1942, of four aircraft carriers to combat action. New Essex-class fleet aircraft carriers were being built, but would not be ready soon enough. Time was of the essence.

For Every Drop Shed in Anguish

The Australian War Memorial is commissioning a work of art to recognise and commemorate the suffering caused by war and military service. The sculptural installation will provide a place in the Memorial's Sculpture Garden for visitors to grieve, to reflect on service experiences, and to remember the long-term cost of war and service. To be completed by 2023.

Right: Artist's impression of the memorial to be sculptured by Alex Seton an Australian sculptor best known for his marble sculptures



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS38 2021

Action to renew membership for 2021 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 2021 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, Snapper has reopened but will shut about May for renovation to the CYC, re-opening, we hope, sometime in September. Hence the use of the Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club.

1 Jul	Christmas Lunch in July Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club Cancelled
15 Jul	Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin 1100
19 Aug	Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin 1100
16 Sep	Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin 1100
21 Oct	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
18 Nov	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
2 Dec	Christmas /New Year Lunch Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club
16 Dec	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200

Bev Joce

Social Secretary

DVA CONTACTS

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

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

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

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



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**A Happy Birthday to you in
July 2021**

13 Richard Hobbs

17 Kiwi Rooks

20 Lionel Mead

28 Glen McNamara



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



Paste Address label Here

The Bosun's Call Vol 26 No 6