

National Bosun's Call



Vol 2 No 5

Once Navy, Always Navy

June 2021

International Rescue



HMAS *Anzac*'s embarked MH-60R helicopter on 15 May transferred one of the Indonesian fisherman to a Perth hospital for urgent care for a badly injured hand.

Anzac's doctor, Lieutenant Michael Dobson, said the fisherman who was airlifted to Perth had an infection that needed surgery. "These infections can get nasty rather quickly and surgery is needed to treat the wound. Without that, the infection will remain or get worse," Lieutenant Dobson said.

Anzac arrived in Indonesia early in the morning of May 21 and sailed in company with the KRI *Yos Sudarso* into the harbour area of Benoa outside Denpasar.

On Friday 14 May HMAS *Anzac* supported the rescue of 20 Indonesian fishermen in the Indian Ocean, 670 nautical miles west of Perth which was co-ordinated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The Perth AMSA Challenger jet had dropped life jackets to the group on Friday before Australian Defence Force (ADF) aircraft deployed life rafts to the vessel on 13 May.

The crew of the fishing vessel *Bandar Nelayan* were at first picked up by the Japanese commercial fishing vessel *Fukuseki Maru No. 15* following a mayday call that led to an international search effort that included *Anzac*. The Indonesian fishermen had been clinging to their partially submerged vessel for a day in rough seas when they were found.

A Japanese-speaking member of *Anzac*'s ship's company was able to speak to *Fukuseki Maru No. 15* crew members to coordinate the transfer. All 20 fishermen were transferred to *Anzac* by *Anzac*'s sailors in a small-boat operation.

Anzac was just hours from returning home after a 10-week deployment throughout South-East Asia and the north-east Indian Ocean when it answered the distress call and changed course back to sea to aid the rescue effort..

A contactless transfer of the 19 fishermen was then done in conjunction with the Indonesian patrol vessel KRI *Escolar*.

Commanding Officer *Anzac* Commander Brendan Horn praised the response of his crew, as well as the Indonesian fishermen, the crew of the *Fukuseki Maru 15* and the civilian authorities involved in coordinating the rescue.

"RAN and ABC News



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Update to Government Response to the Productivity Commission Report, A Better Way to Support Veterans

An update to the Government response to the recommendations in the Productivity Commission report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, has been posted on DVA's website at <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/reporting/reviews-and-reports/productivity-commission-inquiry-system-compensation>

The update includes a short statement copied below of the Government's current position and a table showing status and next steps for each of the 69 recommendations which can be viewed on the website above.

On 8 October 2020, the *Interim Government Response to the Report of the Productivity Commission, "A Better Way to Support Veterans"* was tabled as part of the 2020-21 Budget process. The interim response delivered a package of \$211.1 million in targeted measures with a focus on mental health and increased transition support.

In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government is building on this response and is investing a further \$175.3 million for additional measures to support the health and well-being of veterans and their families.

To-date, the Government has invested more than \$386 million in addressing 35 of the report's 69 recommendations and

supporting the more immediate needs of the veteran community.

The remaining recommendations primarily relate to structural and legislative reform, including harmonisation of entitlements across the existing three veteran Acts.

Through engagement with defence force personnel, veterans, their families and ex-service organisations, it is clear that there are still considerable differences on the best approach to this legislative reform.

The Government will continue to consult with the veteran community to reduce the complexity of the legislative framework.

The Government recognises that the most recent legislation, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*, will be the primary veterans' legislation going forward and there will be a "long tail" of the two earlier Acts, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988*.

The Government will finalise any outstanding matters from the Productivity Commission report at the completion of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs will continue to progress administrative recommendations that improve operations between the Departments and deliver better outcomes for veterans.

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Patron In Chief:

HM The Queen of Australia.

National Patron

His Excellency General The Honourable David
Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of
Australia



More support for older veterans and their families in residential aged care

19 May 2021

Older veterans and their families will receive increased support through the Budget 2021-22 with \$246 million to improve the care delivered to veterans and their families through mainstream in-home and residential aged care.

As part of this measure, the Government is providing \$22.7 million to ensure the 17,000 DVA clients living in residential aged care facilities are able to access allied health, aids and appliances through DVA card arrangements, just as they did when they were living in their own home. Currently, only those clients classified as requiring low level care can access these DVA-funded services.

The expansion is a component of the Government reforms to Australia's aged care system. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recognised the importance of allied health in supporting ageing Australians to maximise independence and autonomy.

Veterans and their families have existing access to allied health and rehabilitation aids and appliances while living in their own homes. However, that access becomes limited once clients move into residential aged care. This initiative ensures that in addition to the services provided by their residential



aged care facility, DVA clients can continue to access allied health and aids and appliances through DVA card arrangements, so long as it is not duplicating services provided by the facility.

This initiative will commence on 1 October 2022 when the new Australian National Aged Care Classification funding model commences.

For further information on the broader aged care reform measures visit www.health.gov.au

2021/22 Federal Budget

Good afternoon colleagues,

I'm writing to provide you with an update on a number of recent activities and events.

In Tuesday's Federal Budget, the Australian Government is continuing its commitment to delivering a veteran support system that empowers veterans and their families to live fulfilling lives after service by creating and implementing simpler and more effective programs, services, and benefits. The Government invests over \$11.5 billion each year for DVA to support the continuation of important programs, services and support for veterans, as well as to keep our department running.

In this latest Budget, \$775.6 million has been allocated over four years with a focus on wellness, support, suicide prevention and additional resourcing for DVA. This includes \$463.1 million in funding directly allocated to DVA to improve, expand and enhance a range of programs, support and services for our veterans

and their families to support their lifetime well-being and transition from ADF to civilian life and to address the backlog of claims.

The Department will also receive an additional 447 staff, primarily to address the backlog of claims and manage the increased workload to better support veterans and their families. This funding will support all of our clients, comprising around 220,000 veterans and 100,000 dependants.

DVA's Portfolio Budget Statements and additional information sheets are available on our website: [Budget 2021-22 | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](https://www.dva.gov.au/budget-2021-22)

Further information on cross-portfolio measures are also available from the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services website – links are available on the above website page.

NAA response to DVA request for input to the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission on Veteran Suicide

28 May 2021



AGGREGATED NAA COMMENTS – ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERANS SUICIDE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1 Introduction

The Minister for Veteran Affairs released a statement on 21 April 2021 encouraging Veterans and their Families, ESO's, States and Territories to provide input for the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. All feedback maybe provided through the Attorney General's Department and through the site – royal-commission@dva.gov.au.

On 23 April the Secretary of DVA released a supporting statement indicating TOR Draft comments could be provided through DVA and will be passed to the AG Department unfiltered. Input via the DVA website can be provided until 21 May 2021. Following the release of the statement to lead ESO's through the ESORT Forum, our National President (NP) wrote to the National Council (NC) on 28 April 2021 regarding the TOR process. NP reported that in addition to personal submissions, further sessions of the ESORT will occur and discuss this issue and he will continue to update NAA members.

The National Secretary (NS) wrote on 30 April to the NC and State Secretaries to advise of the Min. Vet Affairs Press Release and to encourage members to take guidance from our NP, who is playing the key NAA role with DVA. Additionally, Sections and subsequently through them to Sub-sections and individuals were encouraged to develop their own thoughts and ideas and submit them directly if they felt strongly about the matter.

2. Overall Section Action

On 28 April the Tasmanian Section were provided with information by National Vice President Fuller of the Tasmania Section, regarding the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR). He had participated in a Joint ESO meeting on the matter in Tasmania and had circulated his comments to all Sub-sections in Tasmania. He forwarded those comments also to the National Council for information and to the NP for action. The comments have been consolidated in the overall comments in Section 3 of this report.

The Victorian Section have provided its comments to the NP, after ratification at their State Council meeting on Saturday 15 May. Additionally, their comments will also be added to the aggregation of comments in Section 3 of this report.

Queensland Section have also provided detailed feedback from both Section and individual members. Some of the submissions have also been separately submitted to the DVA website directly.

3. Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference in Aggregated Form

(a) Responses to the Draft TOR

Systemic issues and analysis of the contributing risk factors relevant to Defence and Veteran Suicide, including:

- **Contribution of pre-service (including training), transition and post service issues.**

Additional Input – contribution of pre-service, service as a member of the Trained and Training Forces, transition and post service issues.

- **The relevance of Issues such as service, posting history and rank of the Defence member or Veteran.**

Comment: - Processes change all the time, as do category structures.

Suggested Amendment – The recruiting process undertaken by each member prior to joining the ADF or the manner in which recruitment took place.

- **The manner of the recruitment of the person into the ADF.**

Amendment – The recruiting process of new members into the ADF.

- **The manner in which a person transitioned from the ADF.**

Amendment – The manner in which each person transitioned from the ADF.

- **The availability, quality and effectiveness of health, well being and support services.**

Amendment – the availability, quality and effectiveness of health, well being and support services delivered by the ADF Health care professionals, Contracted Health care providers, Defence Community Organisation and outsourced providers.

- **How Information about Individuals is shared by and within Government.**

Agreed with this TOR.

- **How Matters of Mental and Physical health are captured during enlistment and during and after service.**

Amendment – How matters of individuals mental and physical health are assessed during the Recruiting process and during and after service.

(Continued on page 5)

NAA response to DVA request for input to the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission on Veteran Suicide

(Continued from page 4)

- **The quality of support services for families, friends and colleagues affected by a Defence and Veteran death by suicide.**

Amendment – Agreed.

- **The risk factors of Defence members and Veterans who have attempted or contemplated suicide or have other lived experiences of suicide.**

Agreed to TOR

- **The protective and rehabilitative factors for Defence members and Veterans who have attempted or contemplated suicide or have other lived experiences of suicide.**

Agreed to TOR

- **The engagement of Defence members and Veterans with Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments about support services, claims or entitlements.**

Amendment – The effectiveness of communication channels established by Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments in responding to communications from ADF personnel and veterans about Government support services, claims or entitlements.

General Recommendation – The RC should be requested to consider matters that have been dealt with in other inquiries, investigations or criminal or civil proceedings. This is considered very important as if all relevant reports/findings/proceedings available is not included, it was felt nothing will change.

(b) General Member Feedback in Response to the Draft TOR

- The skill level and experience of DVA claim assessors when Veteran claims are submitted can influence the outcomes for complex and sensitive claims – particularly those related to Mental Health claims.
- Time frames associated with medical and psychiatric reports tend to be inordinately long and the delays may have dramatic adverse impact on claimants mental health. Long delays causing claimants to suffer in silence may be catastrophic. Differences of opinion between DVA appointed specialists/doctors/health professionals have caused significant anguish to claimants. A more collaborative approach between all health professionals involved in the claim process would greatly relieve a lot of tension and anguish.
- Some Veterans take their lives when they reach the end of their endurance mentally and physically, whilst many others slowly destroy them-

selves by abusing alcohol or other harmful substances, in order to cope. This is considered a very important issue for the RC.

- The impact of Veteran suicide directly and the risk it subsequently poses to the remaining family is a key element of the RC. It cannot be understated.
- Recognised suicide factors which need to be considered include:

Prior attempt(s).

- ◇ Misuse and abuse of alcohol and other substances.
- ◇ Mental disorders – depression and mood disorders.
- ◇ Access to lethal means.
- ◇ Knowing and experiencing a close friend or family member who has succeeded in a suicide attempt.
- ◇ Social isolation and chronic disease and disability.

- Sailors do not transition well. The issues of time frame to transition, place of the process and associated opportunities need to be considered.

Upon discharge, there was no awareness of the existence of services such as DVA or any helpful services that could be accessed.

Navy needs to examine if a sailor/officer is within 4 months of discharge, that person should be posted to a shore billet with opportunity to engage with the transition process. For those who are subject to medical discharge, they should be kept on the "books" until all aspects have been sorted out by DVA.

This Report is a compilation of input from the various Sections of the Naval Association of Australia, across the nation. It is produced for the National President to use in his discussions with relevant Government Agencies, in association with the proposed Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Russell Pettis
National Secretary
Naval Association of Australia

28 May 2021

Support for Veterans and their families

Visit the Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

The Mobile Service Centre can help you access Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) information and services:

- register a DVA online account
- find out about support and benefits available
- access other government services.

Australian Government Mobile Service Centres

If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.

Mobile Service Centres travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia and also to disaster affected areas to provide help and support.

Staff from Services Australia travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help you with Centrelink and Medicare payments and services. Our Mobile Service Centres also have disabled access.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the Mobile Service Centre and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff will provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the Mobile Service Centres.

Information and help you can access on board the Mobile Service Centres

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians

- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- self-employed people.

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Centrelink and Medicare information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.

More information

To view the latest itineraries for the Australian Government Mobile Service Centres, visit **servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice**. The stopping locations for Mobile Service Centres are promoted in each town and on social media before each visit.

Disclaimer

This information is intended as a guide only. The information is correct as at February 2020. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are current.

For more information, go to:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

[Forms - Services Australia](#)

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/forms



ACT Section Motion to clarify the Membership joining process

The ACT Section has forwarded the following motion to be put to the National Council:

“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 NAA By-laws 2.3.2 o and 2.3.3 be adhered to.

Reason

The current process in the NAA website for people expressing an interest in joining the NAA is contrary to the current NAA Rules and results in a significant number of people being accepted as members of the NAA without paying the required subscription and joining fee and without due consideration of the relevant section/sub-section to which they are allocated by the National Council.

Background

The current practice as per the NAA Website of two members of the National Executive approving the acceptance of a person who has expressed an interest (EOI) in joining the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) within seven days of the EOI being received by the NAA website has not been approved by the National Council in that it does not appear in either the NAA Constitution or NAA By-laws (Rules).

The current Rules state:

By-law 2.3.2 o

- o. Process for people registering to join the NAA and paying the Joining Fee and initial Subscription directly to the National Council.
 - (1) People wishing to become members of the NAA can register their intention through the NAA Website. They can also pay the Annual Subscription and Joining Fee via the NAA website on completing the Registration Note to join the NAA. They will be entered into the National Membership Registrar on payment of the Joining fee and Subscription and remain there until the National Membership Registrar is notified in accordance with By-law 2.3.2 o (7) or if not notification is received, by By-law 2.3.2 p. Advice of their desire to join is sent to the appropriate Section and then forwarded to the selected Sub-section to contact the applicant and initiate the joining process.
 - (2) The applicant must complete a New Member Application Form and be accepted by the relevant Section without Sub-sections or Sub-section.
 - (3) The applicant's date of joining is set in accordance with By-law 2.3.3 as the date of

paying the subscription and joining fee which is normally done on applying to join the NAA.

- (4) Membership is Provisional from the date of payment until the date of acceptance by a Sub-section at which time the membership is confirmed.
 - (5) Applicants registering via the Website and have paid via the website, remain Provisional Members in the National Membership Register until the National Membership Registrar receives a copy of the applicant's New Member Application Form, and advice that the Provisional Member has been accepted by either a Sub-section or a Section without sub-sections.
 - (6) Subscriptions forwarded directly to the National Council via the internet, cheque, money order or cash are retained by the National Council until Membership is accepted by a section without sub-sections or sub-section.
 - (7) A copy of the Provisional Member's New Member Application Form made through the section/sub-section MUST be sent to the National Membership Registrar to initiate the disbursement of the subscription and joining fee held by the National Council to the relevant Section Council and sub-section.
- 2.3.3 Date of Joining
- a. The date on which a person applying for membership pays his/her Membership Subscription and Joining Fee is the date on which an applicant's financial status as a member is established. The new member will be considered from that date as a Provisional Member of the membership class that he/she has applied to join.
 - b. The Provisional Member status shall be removed on the date that the relevant Section/Sub-section confirms that the Provisional Member is accepted as a member of the Section/Sub-section.
 - c. On confirmation of a Provisional Member's membership, date of joining is the date that financial status was established at By-law 2.3.3 a.
 - d. Should a Provisional Member not be confirmed by a Section/Sub-section,
 - (1) the Membership Subscription paid by the Provisional Member is to be returned to the Provisional Member; and
 - (2) the Joining Fee is to be retained by the Section/Sub-section.

At present a significant number of people express an interest in joining but do not pay in accordance with the above By-law. As a result they are not entered in accordance with the current Rules which results in them being unfinancial yet think they are members of the NAA..

Commemoration of Australian Peacekeepers

On 28 May 2021 the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said "Tomorrow on International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, Australian men and women, who were often referred to as the 'Blue Berets', have participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations for more than 70 years, with the aim of making the world a safer and more peaceful place,"

"The blue beret, worn by those who serve on United Nations peacekeeping missions, has become a symbol of international peacekeeping.

"The first Australian peacekeepers deployed in 1947 and since that time Australian military personnel, police and civilians have been involved in more than 50 multinational peacekeeping operations."

Australian peacekeepers have served on operations around the world:

- Indonesia 1947-1951
- Kashmir 1950 to 1985
- Korea 1953 to now
- Israel (under Operation Paladin) 1956 to now
- Congo 1960 to 1961
- West New Guinea 1962 to 1963
- Yemen 1963
- Cyprus 1964 to now (including Australian police personnel)
- India-Pakistan Border 1965 to 1966
- Sinai (under Operation Mazurka) 1976 to 1979, 1982 to 1986 and 1993 to now
- Israel-Syria Border 1974
- Lebanon 1978
- Zimbabwe 1979 to 1980
- Uganda 1982 to 1984
- Iran 1988 to 1990
- Thailand-Cambodia Border 1989 to 1993
- Namibia 1989 to 1990 (under UNTAG)
- Afghanistan 1989 to 1993
- Iraqi Kurdistan 1991 (under Operation Habitat)
- Iraq 1991 to 1999
- Western Sahara 1991 to 1994
- Cambodia 1991 to 1993 (under UNTAC)
- Somalia 1992 to 1995 (under Operation Solace)
- Yugoslavia 1992
- Rwanda 1994 to 1995
- Mozambique 1994
- Bougainville 1994 and 1997 to 2003
- Haiti 1994 to 1995
- Guatemala 1997
- Yugoslavia 1997 to now
- Kosovo 1999 to now
- East Timor 1999 to 2013 (under INTERFET, UNTAET, UNMISET, Operation Tower and Operation Astute)
- Solomon Islands 2000 to 2013 (under RAMSI)
- Ethiopia and Eritrea 2000 to now
- Sierra Leone 2000 to 2003
- Sudan 2005 to now (under Operation Azure)
- Darfur 2007 to now (under Operation Hedge-row)

As a leader in its region, Australia has led or taken a leading role in:

- UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) from 1992 to 1993
- Multinational International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) from 1999 to 2000
- Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) from 2003 to 2017
- Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) from 2003 to 2017 .

In earlier decades, people debated how to commemorate the service of peacekeepers. It's now recognised that although some aspects of peacekeeping are unique, the operational experience of peacekeepers is similar to service in war-like contexts.

The Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial records the names of Australia's war dead. The Council of the Memorial made an historic decision on 6 March 2013 to change the criteria for the Roll of Honour to include Defence personnel who died in non-warlike operations. The council added the names of 48 Australian service men and women to the Roll of Honour that day.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra was officially dedicated by Australia's Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, on 14 September 2017. The national memorial commemorates the contribution made 'in the service of peace' by Australian military, police and civilian peacekeepers.



New sculpture to Recognise the Sufferings of War and Service

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Following three years' work with veterans, their families, ex-service organisations and the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, a new sculpture will be placed on the grounds of the Australian War Memorial recognising the sufferings of war and service.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the sculpture would provide a permanent place at the Australian War Memorial in recognition of those who have experienced and witnessed the ongoing traumas that can result from military service.

"I have spoken with many veterans' families and friends, including those who have lost someone to suicide, about how military service has affected them and how this can be better recognised at the Australian War Memorial," Mr Chester said.

"This project has been driven by the ex-service community, particularly Karen Bird and Connie Boglis, and I am proud that the Government will provide the \$1.2 million to ensure its place at the Australian War Memorial.

"This sculpture will be an enduring recognition for those affected by military service and serve as a reminder to us all of the about impact of service on some of our personnel and their families, but importantly, provide them with hope and healing."

Members of the stakeholder committee unanimously selected artist Alex Seton's proposal, *Every drop shed in anguish*.

Sculpture commission committee member Karen Bird, the mother of the late Jesse Bird who tragically took his own life, said she sincerely believed that Alex Seton would enhance our ability to continue the conversation we have begun within the walls of the Memorial — this story must be transferrable to the national discourse — a truth telling of how war does come home and how accumulative service

does have consequences.

"Alex's vision while speaking to this truth opens the horizon to hope and new promise. The Australian veteran community and most significantly, their families, need to know and feel this hope and new promise," Mrs Bird said.

The commission will take two years to craft and be a significant work of site-specific, contemporary art and a major addition to the Memorial's National Collection. Alex Seton's proposal, *Every drop shed in anguish*, will be a field of sculpted Australian pearl marble droplets in the Memorial's Sculpture Garden.

"Every droplet has a unique shape, defined by its delicate surface tension, as if about to burst. Their rounded liquid forms suggest blood, sweat or tears — for every drop ever shed in anguish," artist Alex Seton said.

"Most importantly, when touched these forms reveal themselves to have an inner strength and resilience that provides hope and promise of healing."

Subject to final approval by the National Capital Authority, the installation is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023. For more information on this project, you can visit: www.awm.gov.au/sufferings-of-war-and-service

Media contacts:

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Australian War Memorial, (02) 6243 4575 or media@awm.gov.au

Left: Sculptor Alex Seton (b. 1977) Australian artist best known for his marble carving

Below: Artist's impression of the sculpture in its site in the Australian War Memorial's Sculpture garden



Their Duty Nobly Done

Kate Reid-Smith

HMAS COLAC (J242)



By 1945 the Bathurst-class corvette HMAS *Colac* had already seen plenty of action in World War Two. Part of the forerunner actions prior to the seminal Battle of Guadalcanal, in May the 650-ton Australian minesweeper was on station, undertaking shore bombardment off the coast of Choiseul Island in the Solomon Islands. From anchorage in the narrow sheltered harbour, taskings included close support operations in the bombarding of Japanese shore positions, blowing up ammunition dumps, and thoroughly covering camp areas and other enemy strongpoints. On 26 May she was also tasked with shelling Japanese landing barges that were attempting to transport Japanese reinforcements to Bougainville, where the Australian Army was successfully operating. Manning her 50-calibre machine guns in the hope of stopping the Japanese advancing, was Steward Brian MP Shute (F4189), and Able Seaman Stanley R Smith (22194). The Western Australian-born Shute had only recently turned twenty-one, and the former Tasmanian, twenty-five year old Smith had only been married for eighteen months. On this fateful day, two shells from Japanese shore batteries hit the quarterdeck, killing Shute outright and fatally wounding Smith. The only two wartime fatalities of the *Colac*, both sailors are remembered in the RAN memorial register at the Plymouth Naval Memorials in the UK.



HMAS PERTH 1 (D29)



Up until May 1941, most of HMAS *Perth's* taskings in the Middle East consisted of patrols, troop transport and near misses in *Luftwaffe* air raids. After participation in the fierce, hours long Battle of Matapan in April, *Perth* had returned to escort and convoy duties. By 28 May now tasked with sailing to Crete on evacuation duty, the ship was again attacked enroute by German aircraft, but sailed on relatively unscathed. During the return journey from Crete with a full ship's complement of roughly 622, and carrying 1188 passengers, *Perth's* luck ran out. Although their previous actions had already played a prominent part in preventing the Germans from landing by sea in Crete, the relentless *Luftwaffe* attacks eventually found their mark. German bombers continually swarmed around them, leading up to what was then the greatest battle between aircraft and warships in history. By 30 May the ship was in dire straits. After withstanding fierce and intensive bombing for hours *Perth* was almost dead in the water after the "A" boiler room was bombed. On board were four immediate RAN fatalities; nineteen-year old Cook Noel T Smith (23735); twenty four year old Leading Cook William B Fraser (21320); twenty-year old Stoker Second-Class Harry C (nickname Tiddles) Smith (W1621) and twenty-four year old Stoker Henry Straker (22535). All four were New South Welshman, and all four were killed outright. Alike their HMAS *Colac* compatriots, they too are memorialised at the Plymouth Naval Memorial in Devon, England.



Autonomous warrior enhances Navy's fighting edge

A new-look Autonomous Warrior (AW) series is tapping into Australian industry to discover new and disruptive technologies that could transform Navy capability.

Fifteen industry groups demonstrated leading edge technologies at the inaugural 2021 event, AW Discovery - a virtual conference, hosted by Warfare Innovation Navy.

Staff Officer Autonomous Warrior, Lieutenant Commander Bryan Cromie, said AW was Navy's flagship program to demonstrate and trial emerging robotics, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence (RAS-AI) technologies.

"The pace of change is increasing and we need to think differently to maintain our competitive edge to defend Australia from sophisticated and rapidly evolving threats," Lieutenant Commander Cromie said.

"Through AW, we gain a better picture of how RAS-AI systems integrate into our fleet to create a next-generation fighting Navy.

"We're taking a closer look at remotely piloted and autonomous air, surface and underwater vehicles, automated launch and recovery systems, and sensor technologies with applications in all war-fighting domains."

Director General Warfare Innovation Navy, Captain Adam Allica, said AW was important for building trusted relationships with Defence industry.

"Australia's Defence industry is world-class. We need to tap into this specialist expertise to identify



Lieutenant Commander Bryan Cromie from the Robotic Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence Team, Warfare Innovation Navy, with a remotely piloted aircraft at the virtual Autonomous Warrior event.

RAN

technologies that can be incorporated into real operations today to optimise our fleet now and into the future," Captain Allica said.

"Our goal is to give our people tools and technologies that will keep them safe, help them make faster and better decisions, and complete missions impossible for humans alone."

The Autonomous Warrior 2021 series of events combines discovery workshops, scientific trials, industry demonstrations and live operations.

AW is part of Navy's RAS-AI Strategy 2040, which outlines Navy's vision to enhance its fighting edge through cutting edge technologies.

Creating a future-ready ADF

As the role of robotic and autonomous systems becomes more important within the Australian Defence Force, building trust in autonomous systems is critical to the technology's uptake. Autonomy gives a robot the ability to become a teammate and work with human operators and other robotic systems. Achieving such a capability would be incredibly beneficial, but its realisation remains elusive.

Army released its Robotic and Autonomous systems strategy in 2018, RAAF has sought to accelerate the use of Ai and autonomy through Plan Jericho and the Navy is pursuing multiple acquisition programs that rely on autonomy.

In order to be considered robust, autonomous systems must be able to operate in difficult or contested situations. Algorithms must be stable in the face of unexpected system inputs.

Defence is also investigating approaches that would allow robotic systems to share their position and orientation information with others that would then fuse these estimates with their own data, enabling enhanced positioning accuracy.

Research is aiming to address how Ai might be able to explain its decisions to a human operator in

a manner that takes into account the operator's state. That is, the machine would seek to provide an appropriate level of detail based on its understanding of the operator's current cognitive load.

Trust is also gained through observation of repeated good performance. To ensure its technology works effectively and as expected, Defence is conducting research into verifiable autonomy.

With many Ai-based systems being specifically designed to learn and evolve, they do not necessarily behave in the same manner when presented with the identical inputs, such as sensor information. In such systems, traditional regression-based approaches to testing are not appropriate.

Future testing processes may need to be more akin to the issuance of a driver's licence, where a curriculum is designed and competency assessed, allowing for future improvement while performing a task. This concept is known as machine education.

Collaboration is at the heart of Defence's pursuit of autonomy for future robotic platforms. Defence funds collaboration with Australian academic institutions and international partner organisations through its trusted autonomous systems strategic research initiative.

Youth endeavour to seek adventure at sea

4 May 2021

Youth seeking an adventure of a lifetime can apply to join voyages in Australia's national Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* this year.

The Royal Australian Navy vessel's 11-day voyages are for youth aged 16-23 and the vessel will sail from May to December in waters off the coast of NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

Liam Mackay, aged 23, joined *Young Endeavour* for Voyage 1 in February, applying after his planned international exchange was postponed.

By stepping aboard, the youth crew accept the challenge of sailing a square-rigged tall ship and are taught by the Navy crew how to navigate, keep watch, cook in the galley, set and furl sails, climb the 30-metre mast and take the helm.

"The voyage exceeded my expectations – I was astounded by how much we learnt," Mr Mackay said.

"The first few days were overwhelming. We had to learn every rope, every sail, how to tie knots and to climb aloft.

"Once we were able to process the new information, we started to really enjoy ourselves."

Each voyage culminates in command day, where youth crew take command of the ship for 24 hours, putting the sailing and teamwork skills they have learned into action.

Liam was chosen as youth crew captain and said the challenge was rewarding.

"Command day really pushed me, it was a stressful 24 hours, but we gave it our best shot," he said.

"One of the things that stood out for me is that each youth crew member has to become a leader. It wasn't just the youth crew captain, sailmaster and navigator making decisions; we needed input from everyone.

"I learnt that being a leader doesn't preclude the help of others."

Aside from learning how to sail the square-rigged tall ship, Mr Mackay and his fellow youth crew had the chance to form strong bonds and to focus on personal development.

"I thought the differences in ages might make it difficult, but it was easy to get along with everyone and I made great friends," Mr Mackay said.

Youth crew are offered a place in *Young Endeavour* via a ballot that is weighted to ensure diversity.

No sailing experience is necessary.



Each voyage offers youth an opportunity to meet people from around the country, sail the Australian coastline and participate in the internationally recognised youth development program.

The program is delivered by a Royal Australian Navy crew who ensure the highest standards of safety and care, including new COVID-19-safe measures.

Due to those measures, main round offers will be made to applicants residing in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and the ACT. *(This may change since printing.)*

Applicants from all other states will remain on a waiting list until COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

The *Young Endeavour* was handed to Australia on January 25, 1988, after sailing from England in 1987.

The ship has completed 588 voyages, and 14,092 youths have participated in the program, spending a combined total of 7214 days at sea inspiring youth development experience that helps participants develop self-awareness and confidence, and gives them an opportunity to build their teamwork and leadership skills through sail training and self-development activities.

The ship has sailed more than 400,000 nautical miles, including two world voyages and four circumnavigations of Australia.

Australian youth aged 16-23 can apply online at www.youngendeavour.gov.au/apply-now-2021

RAN News

Admiral's story a 'piece of naval history'



Former Chief of Naval Personnel, Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths AO DSO DSC RAN Rtd, at the launch of his biography, 'Guy Griffiths: The Life & Times of an Australian Admiral', at the Australian War Memorial.

Photo: Petty Officer Bradley Davill

Guy Griffiths was just a teenager when the warship he was serving in as a young Midshipman was sunk in a devastating air attack by Japanese bombers during World War II

It was 10 December 1941, when the Royal Navy battlecruiser HMS *Repulse* was struck while in company with the battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* off the east coast of Malaya – 840 sailors died.

There were 1000 survivors from *Repulse* – among them, 17-year-old Australian Guy Griffiths who was four years into his career and serving with the Royal Navy.

What later became known as the Naval Battle of Malaya would become a defining moment in the story of now Rear Admiral Griffiths, a man who is considered one of the Royal Australian Navy's most distinguished leaders.

For the first time, that story is being shared publicly in the biography *Guy Griffiths: The Life & Times of an Australian Admiral*.

Authored by Vice Admiral Peter Jones, the biography was launched at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on May 27. At the launch were family, serving and former sailors and especially old shipmates including Lionel Mead from the World War II cruiser HMAS *Shropshire*.

Rear Admiral Griffiths, now aged 98 and the last remaining Australian survivor of *Repulse*, said the biography was a piece of naval history.

"Vice Admiral Jones had been asking me for some time to write this biography and, although I didn't want to do it at first – I have always felt my story is not unique – it came to a stage when I thought 'oh hell, let's do it'," Rear Admiral Griffiths said.

"I have both good memories and bad memories from my career – surviving *Re-*

pulse and two reasonably intense years aboard HMAS *Shropshire* – from 1940 to the end of the Second World War when we were up against the Japanese, as well as the battle in the Surigao Strait. This is all documented in the biography, of course. It is a piece of naval history."

Rear Admiral Griffiths joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Cadet Midshipman in 1937 at age 13 and was posted to *Repulse* in 1941.

Following the attack in Malaya, he joined the battleship HMS *Revenge* and later served in the destroyer HMS *Vivian* before posting to the cruiser HMAS *Shropshire* when it was commissioned in 1943.

For the next two years, he saw conflict in the South-West Pacific, including the Leyte and Lingayan Gulf operations in the Philippines and the Battle of Surigao Strait.

Rear Admiral Griffiths was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his contribution to the Lingayan Gulf operation.

He went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and command the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* – the Australian Fleet's flagship – from 1973 to 1975.

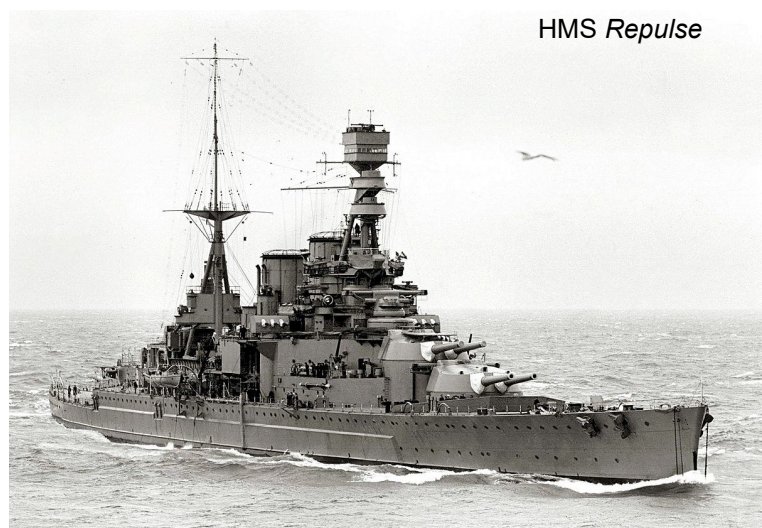
In 1976, he was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed Chief of Naval Personnel, a position he executed in high esteem until his retirement in 1980.

He was awarded a Distinguished Service Order in 1967 for "devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy" as Captain of HMAS *Hobart* during the Vietnam War, and the Order of Australia in 1979 for his service to the Navy over a period of 42 years.

Rear Admiral Griffiths currently lives in Sydney with his family.

The book is published by Australian Scholarly Publishing. For more details see <https://scholarly.info/book/guy-griffiths-the-life-times-of-an-australian-admiral-paperback/>

Lieutenant Sarah Rohweder



HMS *Repulse*

Mr Matt Anderson PSM
Director



7 June, 2021
EXEC-90-15938

Dear Supporters,

It has been some time since we have welcomed many of you in person to the Australian War Memorial.

I am pleased that travel restrictions have eased across most of the country and we have welcomed visitors in strong numbers during the April Easter period. We certainly hope this continues, and with school students also returning, it is a welcome sight.

Anzac Day 2021 commemorations were held in accordance with a COVID-19 safe plan and the exemption granted by ACT Health. The ticketed Dawn Service and National Ceremony with veteran's banner march saw us welcome some 6,600 attendees. A welcome increase on 2020!

The Memorial's large scale digitisation project of national collection materials continues with collections such as Second World War official diaries, film and photographic negatives as well as private and official archival records now digitised and further collections to be completed over the coming 13 months.

The planning of three touring exhibitions is underway, to be displayed at galleries and museums around Australia. *Art in Conflict*, showcasing the contemporary official war art and commissions, will commence touring in Sydney in August. *Ink in the Lines - Tattoos in the Australian Military* will be on display in Wagga Wagga this November, the first of eight venues. Further, the engaging exhibition *Action! Film & War* will tour to four venues commencing in late 2022.

The Memorial's Development Project continues to attract strong media interest. The last but important approval process is for early works commencement with the National Capital Authority, which has recently been granted. The onsite changes this brings will be communicated soon.

A number of early approvals have supported enabling project works to prepare us for the Development. This has included the extended Poppy's Café carpark, installation of construction site sheds and temporary relocation or storage of some sculptures and other National Collection gallery displays including Anzac Hall prior to the forecast construction schedule.

Gallery Development within the expanded gallery space is the crucial aspect of the project to tell the stories of our modern veterans. Extensive national consultation on the approach to the galleries has been completed in recent months. The appointment of representatives to five advisory groups has commenced, to inform and advise the project in the months and years ahead.

A Development Project of this scale is all consuming, but our sights are firmly on why we are doing it. The Memorial is for all veterans of all generations, and those from more recent conflicts have earned the right to have their stories told here at the centre of the nation's commemoration of Australian sacrifice. We will continue to lead remembrance and understanding of our wartime experience – *Our Continuing Story*.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Anderson

Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made. C.E.W. Bean

GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
tel: (02) 6243 4262
web: www.awm.gov.au

Support available

1 January 2021

Please remember that our focus at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is to support your health and wellbeing. So, if you need mental health or medical support, we strongly encourage you to get in touch with us. DVA is not part of any investigation. Our only concern is your wellbeing.

To anyone who is serving in the ADF, or has served, or is close to a serving or ex-serving member, please remember:

- You should be immensely proud of your service, or your loved one's service, and there is overwhelming respect in the Australian community for your service and sacrifice.
- If you need help dealing with the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry findings, reach out and get the specialist support you need. Support is readily available through DVA and is routinely used by thousands of serving personnel and veterans every year.
- Families, particularly children and teenagers, could also be affected by the Inquiry and there is support available for them as well.
- We don't need to know what happened overseas. We just want to make sure you're okay. And help you cope with what you are feeling today.
- DVA will prioritise the claims of any veterans who may be impacted by the Inquiry.

Where to get help

For all current ADF members and their families, the **Defence all-hours Support Line** is a confidential phone and online service and is available on **1800 628 036**. Families of serving personnel can also contact the **Defence Family Helpline** on 1800 624 608.

All current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families can access **Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling**. Open Arms is a national mental health service that provides 24-hour free and confidential counselling. It is not part of the Department of Defence. Importantly the Open Arms website provides a range of self-help resources and wellbeing tools. Visit

www.openarms.gov.au or phone **1800 011 046**.

In addition, **Safe Zone Support** is an anonymous counselling service that has been established to support veterans and their families impacted by the IGADF Inquiry. Safe Zone Support is staffed by specialist counsellors who have an understanding of military culture and experience and can be accessed at: **www.openarms.gov.au/safe-zone-support** or **1800 142 072**. **Calls to Safe Zone Support are not recorded**. Both current members of the ADF and veterans can access this service any time, day or night.

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 \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

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

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017
(Option 2 Allied Health)

Family of veterans or service personnel who are concerned about the impact the Inquiry may have on a loved one, can call DVA to seek guidance on the support available.

If you are unsure what support is available please contact DVA on **1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)**.

Information about support services can also be found on the **IGADF page of the DVA website**.

If you know someone in need, please pass on this important message – DVA is there to help.

Ex-service and non-government organisations

- Ex-service organisations (ESOs) play a vital and complementary role to DVA by providing mateship, advocacy and welfare support. You can [find ESOs on the DVA website](#).
- There are also a number of excellent non-service related community organisations available, such as Lifeline (call 13 11 14 for 24/7 crisis support or visit www.lifeline.org.au)



Left:
Robin Falls Northern Territory and
Below:
Camping ground at Robin Falls



If undeliverable return to

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The National Bosun's Call Vol 2 No 5



*The Bush Capital of Australia
Roadside scene 1 km from
Federal Parliament House*

9 June 2021