



National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 5

Once Navy, Always Navy

June 2022

HMAS *Ararat* rescues Solomon Islands Police

24 May 2022

In response to a search and rescue request from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) HMAS *Ararat* rescued a police vessel's crew last Saturday (21 May 22) after it was reported missing.

The crews of an Australian-contracted Forum Fisheries Agency King Air aircraft and helicopter contracted by the Australian Federal Police were able to locate the stricken vessel and contact those on board prior to *Ararat's* arrival.

Commanding Officer of HMAS *Ararat*, Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen, said the rescue was a collective effort between partners.

"I am very proud of how professionally the team in HMAS *Ararat* responded to assist our friends in need," Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said. "The team was simply outstanding. We assessed the situation and quickly closed the search area from over 200 nautical miles (370km) away.

The rescued RSIPF personnel and other passengers on board were in good health when they were found. They were transferred to *Ararat* where they were provided with fresh meals and water during the journey back to Korovou, Shortland Islands. The RSIPF vessel was also towed

to the islands

Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said; "The crew of *Ararat* was privileged to be able to provide assistance to our friends and fellow mariners from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. When we arrived on station, the vessel's crew and passengers were smoothly embarked in *Ararat* to ensure their health and wellbeing. The stricken vessel was then taken under tow. After an overnight escort, the vessel and our guests were safely repatriated to the Shortland Islands the following morning. Today's events highlight the Australian Defence Force is ready and willing to respond when our Pacific family call on us for assistance."

HMAS *Ararat* is providing maritime surveillance support in the area at the request of the Solomon Islands Government..

*An edited version of the original article by
Captain Lilly Charles*



*South Pacific
Ocean*



National newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Commemorations

Loss of HMAS Kuttabul

HMAS Kuttabul was commissioned on 1 January 1943 and the name enshrines the former Sydney ferry HMAS Kuttabul. On the 31 May 1942, three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour and launched an attack on shipping in the harbour. Just after midnight, the accommodation vessel HMAS Kuttabul was hit by a torpedo and was sunk with the loss of the lives of 19 Australian and 2 British sailors. 6 Japanese submariners lost their lives in the action

Below: Commodore Flotilla, CDRE Paul O'Grady, DSM, CSM, RAN, Ambassador of Japan to Australia, His Excellency Mr Yamagami Shingo with his wife Mrs Kaoru Yamagami view the conning tower from the Imperial Japanese Navy midget submarine M22 following a memorial service to mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the requisitioned ferry HMAS Kuttabul, held at Garden island, Sydney.

Photo ABIS Jarryd Capper



Above The Memorial Service for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea at Newstead Park, Brisbane.

Photo: Defence

Battle of Crete

Left: On 17 May Canberra's Greek community gathered together this week to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Battle of Crete with a special event and wreath laying ceremony at the memorial in ANZAC Parade.

The NAA National President laid a wreath at the ceremony.

Photo: Greek Embassy

The Naval Association of Australia Inc
ABN 56 653 989 978
 221 Centenary Avenue
 MELTON VICTORIA 3337
 Editor: Peter Cooke-Russell

Patron In Chief: HM The Queen of Australia.
National Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia

Contact peter.cookerrussell@gmail.com



ADSO Policy Objectives 2022– 2025 ADSO Election Statement

Hello Folks,

As a follow-up to the formal release on 22 April of ADSO's 2022 – 2025 Policy Objectives via a Media Statement, we further sent letters to relevant Ministers both on the Government's side and on the Labor Opposition's seeking advice from them as to which of our policies they are able to support heading into the 47th Parliament.

A posting has been made on our ADSO web site (here) [2] reflecting the advice we are seeking from both sides of politics. Please consider re-posting this information on your own web sites as you may think appropriate, and distribute widely encouraging your members, if possible, to make representations to their local electorate candidates for both the House and the Senate.

Best Regards

Alf

Alf Jaugietis
Secretary
Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

DFRDB Federal Court hearing update

Veterans Support Centre
Belconnen

Subject: FW: Federal Court DFRDB

Hi All,

For those of you that could not watch the court proceedings I offer the following short summary.

Clinton McKenzie presented a very sound case, he displayed thorough knowledge of the Act and raised some issues that drew very positive questions from Justice Perry. The ADFRA research team wish to congratulate Clinton on his representation of the case.

The respondent CSC were represented by a Barrister and two backup solicitors. Our view of the counter arguments put forward indicated CSC expected a walkover and their case did not flow in a logical sequence. The Barrister made a statement that the Life Expectancy table were not Life Expectancy (even though that is what they are called in the Act) What he was getting at was that they were really a "divisor" as was put forward by the Ombudsman in his infamous review, thus not reflecting in any way the expectation of life.

The Act is the Act and that is the document on which Justice Perry will develop her findings.

Good Morning Folks,

Further to my email below [at left], on behalf our National Spokesman and likely all of us, I report with high disappointment that neither the Coalition Government nor the Labor Opposition have given any indication of their support of our published Policy Objectives. Each side of politics did publish veterans' policies but, while some touched on numerous areas of long-standing deep concern, not the least of which included a strong focus on overcoming the lengthy waiting times of compensation claims that are known to have been the cause of serious stress among many veterans, not one touches Military Fair Indexation and related grievances we've had, nor on many other issues that have been important to us.

Falling far short of our Objective and the long-standing key one for the TPI Federation itself, the Opposition in its policy manifesto did seem to react to last year's Senate FADT Committee's Inquiry Report into TPI Payments in which they expressed the view that it was 'amenable' to a modest increase in the TPI Payment'. A one-off payment of \$1,000 falls far short of our collective claim to have the 'economic loss' component of the Disability Payment benchmarked in perpetuity to the tax adjusted minimum wage.

A posting has been made on the ADSO web site here [1] expressing our disappointment at the failure to respond to our request to be advised of which of our policies each side is able to support heading into the 47th Parliament.

Forwarded for information and wider distribution as may be possible.

Best Regards

Alf

Alf Jaugietis
Secretary
Alliance of Defence Service Organisations
Phone 02 6265 9530 Mobile 0438 282 284
PO Box 14 MAWSON ACT 2607

It could be several weeks before the court is reconvened and then Justice Perry will inform us of her decision. These proceedings will also be available to watch online. Should the verdict go in our favour there is a possibility CSC will appeal the decision and then we could end up before the full court.

Regards

Jim

Thank you for your support over the years and we have not finished yet.



Royal Commission
into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Canberra Hearing Address by Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM (Chair) 4 April 2022

My fellow Commissioners and I would like to thank current and former members of the Australian Defence Force who make unique sacrifices on behalf of the nation. We honour them and their families for what they do and all they have done.

As we have said previously, this Royal Commission is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the lives of current and former Defence members. So there is a sense of urgency as we strive to prevent further deaths by suicide.

We've had feedback from people who are not certain about the various ways to engage with the Commission – and it's important we clarify these issues so that anyone who wants to have their say knows they'll be supported to do so.

- The Commission is informed in a range of ways, which includes formal hearings, submissions, and private sessions, as well as roundtables, published literature and our own research.
- You can make a submission. So far we've received more than 1,300 and we expect that number to continue to grow.
- Not everyone who makes a submission can be asked to give evidence at a public hearing like this. That doesn't make your contribution any less valuable. Every submission is carefully analysed and will help inform the interim and final reports – and ultimately our recommendations.
- You may be uncomfortable putting your name to a submission or speaking in public. Let me be clear: there is no requirement to do so. You can do so anonymously.
- We've had over 300 requests for private sessions. If you're in Defence and want to speak to a Commissioner, you can do that at a private session. And, we will ensure your identity remains confidential. If you have any questions – please look at the Royal Commission website or call our enquiries line.

The Commission needs your help to help others. Your experiences will help to shine a light on the risk factors that contribute to suicide as well as the factors that may be protective. Our focus, as set out in our terms of reference, is on systemic issues.

At this public hearing, we'll focus on urgent issues,

ahead of our interim report in August.

We'll hear from Commonwealth witnesses about culture and complaint handling.

We'll also probe DVA claims processing and consider how that may be improved. The Commission has heard claimants are experiencing a significant decline in their mental health during the claims process. These issues must be addressed as soon as possible.

The impact of Defence life on families – and the support available during and after service - will also feature at this hearing.

I wish to say something about the lived experience evidence which the commission has heard.

As the Commission has made clear on several occasions, lived experience evidence is a chance for the Commission to hear the subjective impressions of certain witnesses – including mothers or other loved ones – drawn from their experiences relating to Defence and veteran suicide or suicidality.

Lived experience witnesses have not been cross-examined, and are encouraged to give their oral evidence at hearings in a way that avoids specific allegations against identifiable individuals.

The Commissioners will not make specific findings based on lived experience evidence. Lived experience evidence about events that are referred to has not been tested before this Commission, such as by cross-examination.

However, the evidence of lived experience witnesses is extremely valuable. That evidence throws light on systemic issues that are of concern and need to be inquired into at a general level. We will use the lived experience accounts that we hear to inform ourselves generally about the need for reforms that we may recommend.

The work of the Commission will continue during the caretaker period in the lead up to the election. The Royal Commission remains independent of government.

We'll continue to ask questions and seek answers, with the key purpose of addressing the issue of death by suicide of serving and ex-serving ADF members. We are committed to pursuing recommendations that will result in real, lasting systemic change.

Complete address may be read on:

[Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#)

New Ministry

Minister for Defence (Deputy Prime Minister)	The Hon Richard Marles MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs	The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Defence Personnel	The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Defence Industry	The Hon Pat Conroy MP
<i>Assistant Minister for Defence</i>	<i>The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP</i>
<i>Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs</i>	<i>The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP</i>

Defence

Richard Marles



Born in 1967, Richard was raised and educated in Geelong and went on to study Law and Science, achieving a LLB (Hons) and a BSc from the University of Melbourne.

Richard lives in Geelong with his wife Rachel and has four children, Sam, Isabella, Harvey and Georgia. He is a devoted Geelong Cats supporter, golf fanatic and local history enthusiast.

“ the critical ingredient in all of this is confidence knowing that we in Geelong can do things as well as anybody else in the world”

First Speech to Parliament, February 18 2008

Richard Marles is the deputy Prime Minister of Australia and the Federal Member for Corio.

His previous appointments include

- Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
- Shadow Minister for National Reconstruction, Employment Skills and Small Business,
- Shadow Minister for Science,
- Shadow Minister for Defence,
- Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
- Minister for Trade,
- Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
- Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs,
- Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation and Industry, and
- Chair of the House of Representatives standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Affairs

Veterans' Affairs

Matt Keogh



Matt was elected as the first member for the Federal Division of Burt in the south-eastern suburbs of Perth at the 2016 Federal Election. Matt grew up in the Kelmscott Hills, attended school in Armadale and has strong ties to the local community.

Matt has worked closely with community organisations throughout his life in what is now known as the seat of Burt in Perth's south eastern suburbs. He continues to strive to “change the story” in the area.

Matt was responsible for the Shadow Portfolio areas of Defence Industry and Assisting for Small Business, providing a uniquely Western Australian perspective to both of these vitally important portfolios.

In both of these areas he focused on building job opportunities as well as supporting businesses in an effort to provide much needed employment opportunities and growth for our nation.

Matt believes that Australia should be a country where people can get a good, secure, well paid job to look after their families, with a vibrant resources and manufacturing sector.

Before Federal Politics Matt worked with a leading international law firm in Perth. He specialised in corporate crime including regulatory work, anti-bribery and corruption. Prior to this Matt worked as a Federal Prosecutor, prosecuting corporate crime.

Throughout his legal career Matt worked alongside various organisations to benefit the community including as Chairperson of Starick Services, President of the Law Society of Western Australia, a Director of the Law Council of Australia and Chairperson of Law Access.

Through these roles Matt has fought for better access to justice for all Australians, especially those that can't afford it. Matt is married to his wife Annabel, who he met at university, they have two young boys.

A Changing Navy—Navy Mastery

To prepare for the future fight and our new capabilities we are building better: better prepared people, better careers, better partnerships and better workforce sustainability leading to better regional security. Over the course of a career in the Navy, personnel are provided with professional development opportunities to lead them to a fulfilling career and assist them to become experts within their preferred fields - all while meeting organisational needs and delivering lethal effects.

Mastery is the process of progressively acquiring - through learning, practice and mentoring - comprehensive knowledge and skills in a specific domain, together with the ability to apply it intuitively. To ensure our people are progressing their professional development, Navy has introduced the Navy Mastery System.

The Navy Mastery System provides the concepts, programs and mechanisms to deliver value to every sailor's and officer's career. Navy Mastery is centred on 'learning by doing' through the three core elements of Mastery: Maritime, Technical and Social.

Navy Mastery enables personnel to move beyond job proficiency and rank-based career progression, to prepare them for Joint Service. It supports and encourages a focus on lifelong learning, skills acquisition, competence and expertise. The highest level of Mastery comes through unconscious competence. It means you become so adept in your field you instinctively know what to think and do in any situation.

What is Navy Mastery?

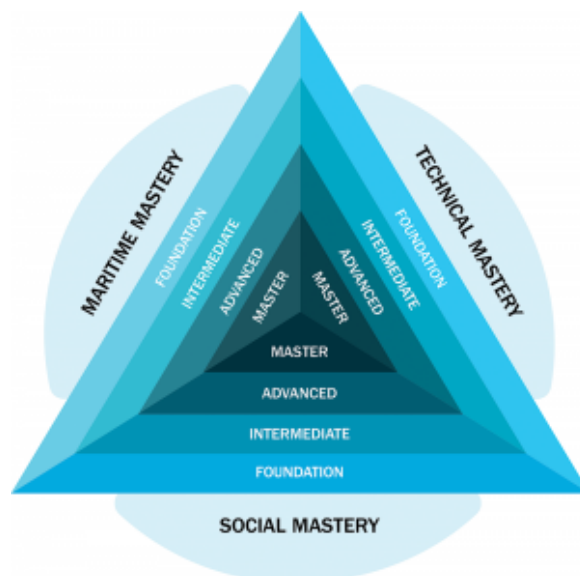
Mastery is the process of progressively acquiring - through learning, practice and mentoring - comprehensive knowledge and skills in a specific domain, together with the ability to apply it intuitively. To ensure our people are progressing their professional development, Navy has introduced the Navy Mastery System.

The Navy Mastery System provides the philosophy, models, frameworks and tools to deliver value to every sailor's and officer's career and the Navy.

Navy Mastery is centred on 'learning by doing' through the three core elements of Mastery: Maritime, Technical and Social.

Why Mastery?

We are working within a rapidly evolving regional environment. As a Navy and as part of a joint Force, we operate in an increasingly complex, congested and contested operating environment. The character of maritime warfare is ever-changing, and these changes have out-stripped some components of the current workforce system. We must



deliver the operational effectiveness and lethal force required for the future fight.

Historically, Navy has prioritised technical expertise of our people ahead of the two other key areas of personal and professional development: knowing how to operate effectively in the maritime domain and how to contribute to, and lead, teams effectively.

Navy's ability to deliver maritime capability to the Australian Government depends on having Suitably, Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP). In a rapidly evolving global environment, Navy recognises that the current workforce system does not adequately match the changing character of maritime warfare, or the complex and contested environment in which the Navy operates.

Navy is committed to ensuring that each and every one of its members is able to achieve mastery by providing an environment that fosters the development and obtainment of mastery. What this means for the Navy workforce is that, for the first time, rank will not be the most important signal of success.

As personnel acquire deeper knowledge and develop more complex skills, their Mastery will move them towards a more advanced phase in their career. True Mastery comes through unconscious competence¹. For individuals, it's about becoming so adept that you instinctively know what to think and do in a given situation. For the organisation it's about delivering SQEP.

Navy Mastery allows personnel to move beyond job proficiency and rank-based career progression and prepares them for their Joint service. It will support people's focus on lifelong learning, skills acquisition, competence and expertise.

1. The Dunning and Kruger effect - "It takes competence to judge competence". McIntosh, R. D., Fowler, E. A., Lyu, T., & Della Salla, S. (2019).

A Changing Navy—Navy Mastery

Wise up: Clarifying the role of metacognition in the Dunning-Kruger effect. Journal of Experimental Psychology: General. 148(11): 1882-1987.

Mastery Stages

The Navy Mastery Model involves four Mastery stages that guide the development of Technical, Maritime and Social Mastery across an entire career. A Mastery stage is a period of development within a career, defined by the interaction between competency development (through skill acquisition)² and professional development across different environments.

2. Dreyfus, S.E., & Dreyfus, H. L. (1980). *A Five-Stage model of the Mental Activities involved in Directed Skill Acquisition* Washington, DC: Storming Media.

The four Mastery stages are:

FOUNDATION

In the Foundation Mastery stage you're a 'doer', delivering on capability. You have completed your Initial Employment Training, and you are able to demonstrate foundational techniques and skills. The focus here is on the breadth and depth of learning required to make you an effective contributor to the organisation.

Implementation Timeline

Navy Mastery began in 2020 and is gradually being introduced in different parts of the organisation. It is a fundamental change to our workforce and involves integrating career pathways, training, policy, reporting and systems, to name a few. Such a large change will be a multi-year journey with the schedule as shown below.



NMM Navy Mastery Model

Mastery Stages: Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced, Master (FIAM)

The NMM was originally inspired by the work of Dreyfus and Dreyfus' (1980) model of skill acquisition. The model was applied to the learning environment as a method to understand how skills develop through formal instruction and practicing. The model initially had five distinct stages that students pass through from novice, competence, proficiency, expertise and mastery. In addition, there were four binary qualities that characterised each stage:

- Recollection (non-situational and situational)
- Recognition (decomposed or holistic)
- Decision (analytical or intuitive)
- Awareness (monitoring or absorbed)

INTERMEDIATE

In the Intermediate Mastery stage you are a narrow Subject Matter Expert (SME), leading on a specific capability. At this stage, the focus is on enhancing skills and experience by excelling at work and directing and guiding others.

ADVANCED

In the Advanced Mastery stage, you are a deep SME, leading others, and generating tactical and technical effects. The focus of this stage is on maximising the demonstration of technical effects integrated across the unit and force, leveraging the knowledge and skills you attained in the Foundation and Intermediate Mastery stages.

MASTER

In this, the final Mastery stage, you are a SME enabler and evolver, and you take your own and Navy's capabilities further, through integrating expertise into theatre and joint operations. The emphasis in this stage is on strategic future-focused thinking and providing integration between teams and other effects.

Navy Mastery | Royal Australian Navy

The model was adapted for the use in the Navy Mastery Model to signal to the workforce the expected levels of competence from foundation, intermediate, advanced and master (FIAM). This is anticipated to reform the existing approach to training whereby through this new lens, training solutions will have to categorise the level of mastery before endorsing competence.

The mastery levels also serve another purpose - to guide the transition through various work stages which are also aligned to FIAM. The details of these mastery stages have been developed specifically for the Navy and are contained in various documents and policies to guide workforce planning, workgroup design and professional development through Education, Exposure and Experience (EEE).

A Changing Navy—Family

20 Mat 2022

When Warrant Officer Natasha McRoe first went to sea in the early 2000s, options to connect with her family from the ship were limited.

"We could only call home on a phone that you had to book well in advance," she said.

"Now we can call home most days. The ongoing communication at sea makes it a lot easier now I have kids."

She joined from Hobart at age 18 and her first posted was aboard HMAS *Manoora* as an officers Steward, having previously trained as a bosun.

The first in her family to join, Warrant Officer McRoe wanted to travel and meet new people.

Her role as a steward made her the "forward face" of Navy, being seen by foreign dignitaries during functions.

She later deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operation Slipper, had a seven-month Royal Navy posting and served on operations Relex and Resolute.

Along the way, Warrant Officer McRoe met a marine technician named Dan.

"We met at sea where we spoke on-and-off," she said.

"When I posted off the ship, we stayed in touch, got married and had kids. I sometimes think 'if I wasn't on that ship, at that point in time, we wouldn't have met and had our wonderful family'."

Nine-year-old Flynn and three-year-old Riley have become used to a life of moving with their parents, according to Warrant Officer McRoe.

Whenever a new posting is mentioned, Warrant Officer McRoe receives a barrage of questions from her boys about where they're going and what school they'll go to.

"Every time they see something about Navy on the news, their faces light up and they say 'is that Dad's ship? Are you going to sea, mum?'," she said.

"When they got to look aboard HMAS *Hobart*, they were so excited and wanted to see where dad's bed was.

"My eldest says he wants to join the Navy when he grows up – they might end up doing something dif-

ferent, but it's heart-warming to see we're a positive influence on them."

Warrant Officer McRoe's sister is also a Navy warrant officer and her brother was a petty officer in naval stores.

"Coming home and having conversations is pretty easy – everyone understands each other. Even mum has figured things out and got on board," she said.

Dan is currently posted to Sydney while Warrant Officer McRoe works for PSU Australia remotely from Navy HQ in Hobart, where she has her mum to help with the kids.

She said a lot had changed over 20 years in how Navy looked after sailors' wellbeing and professional development.

Navy provides great flexibility these days, which is wonderful," Warrant Officer McRoe said.

"We know that we're going to be looked after and listened to and there's a lot more focus from Navy now on keeping the family together.

"They helped Dan find a place in Sydney and that took a lot of stress off the family.

"There's always someone you can pick up the phone and talk to, who can give you that extra support."

Warrant Officer McRoe also welcomed a new policy where personnel would serve no more than 440 days at sea in a two-year rolling period.

"Sometimes in the old days, you'd rock up to work and they'd say we're going to sea for the next three or four weeks, and you accepted that.

"More people are going to want to go to sea because the conditions are changing.

"And they're going to be happier at sea because they know when they're going to have time at home."

Warrant Officer Natasha McRoe and her husband, Petty Officer Daniel McRoe, with their children, Flynn and Riley, at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart.

Photo: Defence



A Changing Navy—Workforce Transitions

2 August 2021

A former soldier and sailor has returned to Navy as a commissioned officer.

In July, HMAS *Coonawarra* Commanding Officer Captain Moses Raudino, along with sailors and officers from the base ship's company, welcomed former Army corporal Ben Anderson, who left his role with Maritime Border Command (MBC) Forward Command to begin an undertaking of service as a maritime logistic officer.

Commander Maritime Border Command Rear Admiral Mark Hill said he was delighted to hear about the commission and transfer.

"You have provided great service to the Australian Regular Army and Maritime Border Command," Rear Admiral Hill told the gathering.

"From supporting 2 Commando Regiment on domestic counter-terrorism operations, to detailed intelligence briefings to patrol boat commanding officers, you have supported a wide variety of whole-of-government missions.

"Upon promotion to corporal, you undertook leadership and mentoring roles supporting more junior people within MBC Forward Command.

"This dedication to your soldiers, and soon sailors, will serve you well as a naval officer."

Having served previously in the both the Army and Navy as a combat engineer, in Armoured Corps cavalry, as an electronics technician submariner and intelligence analyst, Midshipman Anderson said he was excited about the change in career pathway his commissioning and service transfer represented.

"I submitted an application for this as it's a great opportunity to continue to grow my career," Midshipman Anderson said.



Midshipman Benjamin Anderson with his Navy officer's cap and Army slouch hat after transferring services and commissioning as a maritime logistics officer with Navy.

Photo: Leading Seaman Shane Cameron

"Developing a skillset across the logistics stream will enable me to contribute to this effort and gain knowledge and experience be useful beyond the ADF.

"I feel prepared for the New Entry Officer Course with the breadth of experience I have had and the exposure to different leadership types my careers has seen so far."

The ADF total workforce model allows members to transfer between service categories and transfer between the services, as well as vary employment between part-time, full-time and contiguous employment.

Over a career, this means the ADF members can adjust their commitment to support their lifestyle while providing a continuous contribution to the nation.

By Lieutenant Gordon Carr-Gregg



Sailor selected in Commonwealth Games Team

Leading Seaman Suamili Nanai has been selected in the Australian weightlifting team to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, to be held from July 28-August 8. A Combat Systems Operator – Air, he is an instructor at the School of Maritime Warfare – West at HMAS *Stirling*.

Leading Seaman Nanai started weightlifting in 2020 and already has some impressive achievements to his name, but he has his eyes set on gold at Birmingham.

"I am sitting in silver/bronze at the moment with my current lifts, so gold is possible, and it would be dishonourable if that wasn't my goal," Leading Seaman Nanai said.

Leading Seaman Nanai will be competing on 3 August.

The rise of Australia's prize defence export

From Defence website

22 May 2022

Some of the world's largest warships are protected from missile attack by Nulka, an Australian-designed rocket that pretends to be a ship. Its developers struggled for decades to bring their ideas to fruition, until the sinking of the British guided missile destroyer HMS Sheffield in the Falklands War helped change military thinking.

On May 4, 1982, the guided-missile destroyer HMS Sheffield, part of the British taskforce during the Falklands War, was struck and heavily damaged by an Exocet sea-skimming anti-ship missile. 20 crewmen died and 26 were badly injured.

It was the first ship the Royal Navy had lost in battle since World War II.

In Australia, although the grim news gave no pleasure, it came as little surprise. Australian Defence scientists had for several years been working on an off board expendable electronic countermeasure to defeat such threats as the French developed, manufactured and widely proliferated Exocet.

This countermeasure would become the Nulka active missile decoy, Australia's most successful defence export.

Its development was as much a triumph of persuasion and diplomacy as well as technology: Defence scientists had to lobby a sceptical Royal Australian Navy and attempt to persuade reluctant United States Navy researchers to collaborate.

"We in the electronic warfare community made limited headway in convincing Australian decision-makers that the low altitude vulnerability problem was real, especially from missiles carrying advanced radar and navigation systems," says Mr Scot Allison, former Director of the Electronics Research Laboratory at the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), now DSTG.

"However, it was not until HMS Sheffield and the USS Stark [attacked on patrol during the Iran-Iraq war in 1987] were hit by Exocet missiles ... that wider recognition of the problem began to occur."

Nulka was named using an Aboriginal word meaning "be quick". It is a rocket propelled, disposable, off board, active decoy that hovers in mid-air while seducing the incoming anti-ship missile to follow it rather than the ship.

Mr Allison first imagined the idea of an active decoy as a junior scientist in the 1970s.

"At the time we got into this, the US focus was predominantly on how to defend yourself as a Naval task force against "blue water" attacks by the Soviets," he said.

Nulka consists of two distinct pieces of technology – the electronic warfare payload, the sophisticated circuitry designed to seduce the guidance systems of the incoming missile, and then the vehicle to carry it away from the targeted ship.

The payload required sophisticated components not then available in Australia.

And while the concept was relatively simple to describe, it was massively complex to turn into working hardware.

"However, these were problems that DSTO was well equipped to address. It was a broad community of many talents, and we had real resources, sufficient to develop and prove prototypes provided we could obtain funding to engage industry," said Mr Allison.

Able led by Bill Dickson, a capable and enthusiastic electronic warfare engineer, the Electronic Warfare Division established links with DSTO's Propulsion and Aircraft Systems Divisions as well as Defence industries such as the Government Aircraft Factory, and the Ordnance and Explosive Factories. These



System development rig

The rise of Australia's prize defence export

From Defence website

organisations teamed to develop what would become Nulka's hovering rocket.

While some were sceptical about the feasibility of a rocket that could hover in mid-air, then Chief Defence Scientist Tom Fink staked his and DSTO's reputation on funding its development, naming the project Winnin, an Aboriginal word meaning "to deceive".

Tests of the hovering rocket prototype at Port Wakefield in South Australia proved every bit as effective as all in DSTO had hoped they would be, and more so.

"It was spectacular. In fact, it was so spectacular that people started thinking of other uses for it," said Mr Allison.

Mr Allison was sent to the US to propose a collaborative program, taking with him tapes of the successful Port Wakefield trials and while the Americans were impressed and agreed to collaborate in R&D, they opposed any joint development and acquisition.

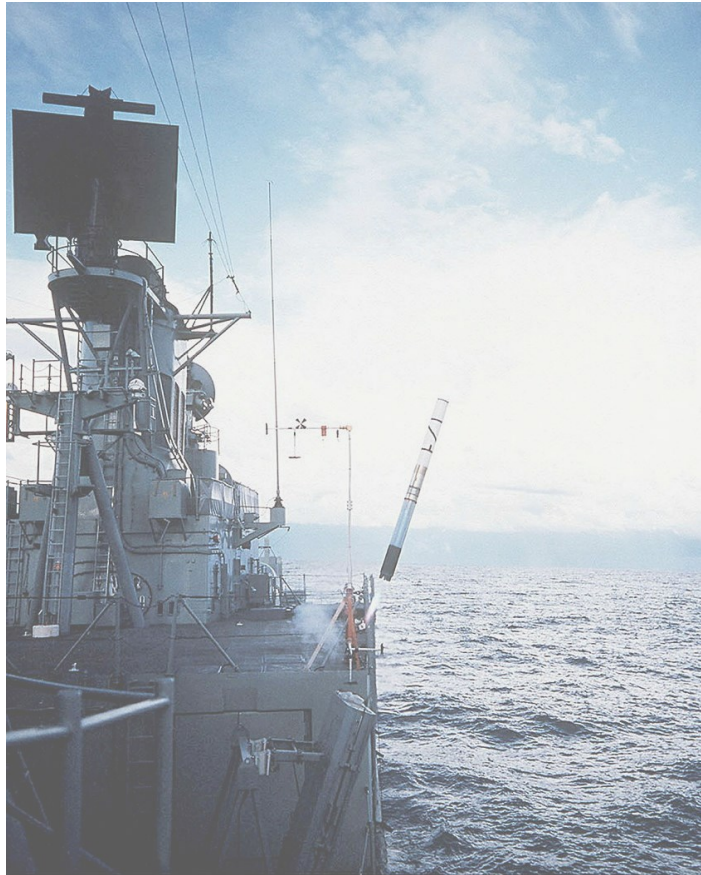
Soon after the meeting, HMS *Sheffield* was struck and military thinking began to change but the breakthrough in convincing the Americans to work with Australia only came when Kim Beazley, then Australia's defence minister, met Caspar Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, and presented the Winnin results. Weinberger agreed to support it.

Engineers John Curtin and Ken Harvey in DSTO's Electronic Warfare Division led a team that developed and tested at sea a successful prototype for the Nulka decoy payload that exceeded anything the US had at the time.

In 1986 it was agreed the US would develop the Nulka payload based on the Australian prototype, and Australia would develop the vehicle. BAE Australia was selected as the prime contractor and integrator for the decoy, and would also oversee vehicle development and production.

In 1988, AWA Defence Industries (now part of BAE Systems) was awarded a contract for the engineering development of the Nulka system and hovering rocket vehicle. ADI was sub-contracted to develop and manufacture the rocket motor at its Mulwala facility in NSW. A separate contract went to the American company Sippican Inc. to develop the electronic payload for the decoy. Meanwhile, between 1988 and 1992, Nulka was tested in DST's wind tunnel in Melbourne where its aerodynamic configuration was developed.

In 1994, the licence agreement for the Nulka Decoy was signed between the Department of Defence and AWA Defence Industries. In 1996, Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint production of Nulka decoys for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the US Navy.



The NULKA Active Missile Decoy is designed for quick response to attack by advanced radar homing anti-ship missiles.

In 1999, DSTO and BAE Systems signed a technology licence agreement for Anti-Ship Missile Simulation Software. This software has been incorporated into a Nulka Tactics Generation Model, which is used as a generic anti-ship missile defence modelling facility as well as for Nulka marketing and development. By 1999, Nulka was in full production for the RAN, US Navy and Canadian Armed Forces. It was used in active service in the Gulf War in 2003.

BAE Systems, the prime contractor for the Nulka system, received a Commendation in the Large Advanced Manufacturer category of the 2005 Governor of Victoria Export Awards for its overseas sales of Nulka. According to BAE Systems, the Nulka project has created more than 400 jobs in Victoria and South Australia.

It is one of Australia's largest and most successful defence exports. Thousands of Nulka decoys have now been produced and fitted to more than 150 Australian and US warships, including the US Navy's Nimitz-class aircraft carriers, and the now withdrawn Canadian Tribal-class destroyers.

To read more about the Nulka, visit: [Nulka Active Missile Decoy | DST \(defence.gov.au\)](https://www.defence.gov.au/nulka)

Battle of the Coral Sea—80th Anniversary



Left: Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Yamagami Shingo, lays a wreath during the Battle of Coral Sea 80th anniversary commemorative service at Russell Offices in Canberra.

Photo: Nicole Mankowski

Below: Able Seaman Will Foster sounds the Last Post during the Battle of the Coral Sea 80th anniversary commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Photo: Leading Seaman James McDougall

Below: A United States Marine Corps colour guard from the Marine Rotational Force in Darwin marches on the colours during the Battle of the Coral Sea 80th anniversary commemorative service in Darwin on Saturday, 07 May 2022.

Photo: Defence





10 June 2022

Chief of Navy, VADM Mike Noonan AO RAN, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr John Perryman for his exemplary service to the Royal Australian Navy and in particular for his later service in the history department of the RAN Seapower Centre in Canberra with particular reference to his influence and enthusiasm behind the 22 year project to find and identify AB Thomas Welsby Clark from HMAS Sydney (II)



Notes for DVA Travel Allowances Table on Page 14

* A meal allowance is not paid on a day where an accommodation allowance is paid, as a meal component is already built into the accommodation allowance.

† This column refers to the number of times an allowance is paid when an entitled person travels with a medically required attendant. For instance, if an entitled person shares a room with an attendant, only the allowance for one room is paid for (x1). If they each have a single room, the allowance for both rooms is paid for (x2).

Annual increase to travel allowances

Travel allowances for transport, meals and accommodation under DVA's Repatriation Transport Scheme will **increase from 1 July 2022** in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The increase applies to travel by private vehicle as well as accommodation and meal allowances for all eligible veterans, war widows and widowers (entitled persons) travelling for treatment purposes or disability and income support claims.

The increase also applies to eligible persons under the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Treatment) Act 2006 and the Treatment Benefits (Special Access) Act 2019.

The intention of the Scheme is to assist with travelling expenses for an entitled person and their medically required attendant, not necessarily to reimburse the entire cost incurred. To receive the maximum benefit, entitled persons should travel to their closest practical health provider.

- Veteran Gold Cards and Veteran White Cards (for specific conditions) eligible under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) are entitled to assistance with travelling expenses when travelling to receive treatment for an accepted service-related condition or for treatment of a condition covered under Non-liability Health Care (NLHC).
- Veteran Gold Cards under the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Treatment) Act 2006 and the Treatment Benefits (Special Access) Act 2019 are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses when attending approved treatment.

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

For any queries about travel for treatment allowances, contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Further information is also available on DVA's [Claim travel expenses under the RTS webpage](#)

Type of allowance	Measure	New allowance from 1 July 2022	Travel with a medically required attendant †
Private vehicle	Per kilometre	39.1 cents	x1
Public, community or air transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x2
Taxi transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x1
Commercial accommodation non-capital city - single*	Per night	\$161.40	x2
Commercial accommodation capital city — single*	Per night	\$191.70	x2
Entitled person and medically required attendant — commercial accommodation — shared*	Per night	\$262.50	x1
Subsidised accommodation — single*	Per night	\$100.80	x2
Private accommodation*	Per night	\$50.30	x2
Meal allowance — more than 50 km but less than 200 km from entitled person's home to the treatment location	Per day	\$16.10	x2
Meal allowance — more than 200 km from entitled person's home to the treatment location	Per day	\$32.60	x2