



National Bosun's Call



Vol 2 No 2

Once Navy, Always Navy

March 2021

Royal Australian Navy commemorates 120th birthday 1 March 2021



David Manolas, National President of the Naval Association of Australia attended the RAN's 120th Birthday Commemoration Service on 01 March 2021, at the RAN National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra. He laid a wreath on behalf of the members of the Naval Association of Australia which is on the left in this photograph'

A commemorative service at the Navy Memorial, Anzac Parade Canberra has marked the Royal Australian Navy's 120th birthday.

In addressing those present, the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, RAN said Navy can draw strength and honour from humble beginnings 120 years ago.

"We are far from the fledgling naval force formed in the autumn of 1901," VADM Noonan said.

Admiral Noonan acknowledged the importance of Navy people and roles they have played in this development.

"Our competitive advantage is our Navy family, all

those who have contributed past and present."

This service is demonstrated by looking no further back than 2020.

"In the past year, the Royal Australian Navy has faced new and unexpected challenges as part of the Australian government's responses to bushfires, a global pandemic and other humanitarian and disaster relief operations."

Vice Admiral Noonan discussed Navy in its upcoming 121st year.

"We will keep evolving, deepening our connection with the Nation and supporting our partners and neighbours."



National Newsletter
Naval Association of Australia

ADF up to the challenges of 2020



Above: INS Sahyadri, left, HMAS Hobart and INS Karmuk sail in company during a passage exercise in the north-east Indian Ocean.

Right: HMA Ships Hobart and Sirius exercise with Republic of Singapore Ships Tenacious, Valiant, Valour and Dauntless in waters off Singapore during Exercise Singaroo

Photos: LSMN Christopher Szumlanski



Last year was difficult and disruptive for our nation and was a defining year for Defence. At the beginning of 2020, as Australia burned, Defence swung into action with the largest-ever mobilisation of the ADF in response to a domestic disaster. More than 8200 personnel supported authorities in six states and territories as part of Operation Bushfire Assist. As this crisis abated another arrived in the form of a global pandemic.

A Defence COVID-19 taskforce was formed on March 9, with Operation COVID-19 Assist announced on April 1. Since that time, more than 13,000 ADF personnel have deployed across the nation to support state and territory governments. This support continues today.

Despite the horrors of the bushfires and restrictions of the pandemic, military operations, deployments

and joint exercises were conducted in and beyond our region throughout 2020. About 16,300 military and civilian Defence personnel deployed on domestic operations and about 4100 on overseas operations.

Navy had an average of 15 ships at sea a day and conducted 44 foreign port logistic visits across 15 nations. Air Force units completed more than 53,000 hours of flying and Army undertook 96 international engagement activities, resulting in the training of more than 500 foreign counterparts.

HMAS *Parramatta* deployed to South and South-east Asia from February to May, engaging in joint exercises with the US Navy.

A joint ADF task group participated in a Regional Presence Deployment from July to October. The task group consisted of five vessels, aircraft based in Guam, and 1500 personnel joining in activities with 11 regional partners. The centrepiece was Exercise Rimpac – the world's largest maritime exercise – involving 10 nations, including seven from the Indo-Pacific, in August.

HMAS *Arunta* deployed to East Asia in October and November and engaged in exercises with navies from Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. HMAS *Ballarat* participated in Exercise Malabar in early November – a quadrilateral activity with the US, India and Japan. Australia was last involved in this

(Continued on page 3)

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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

ADF up to the challenges of 2020

(Continued from page 2)

exercise 13 years ago.

Australia continued to protect its borders and off-shore maritime interests in the 14th year of Operation Resolute. The ADF, as part of Maritime Border Command's multi-agency taskforce, conducted security and surveillance activities. In 2020, there were regular Regional Force Security Group deployments and a Shadow tactical unmanned aerial vehicle supported maritime border surveillance activities for the first time.

The ADF continued contributing to Australia's environmental and scientific endeavours in the Antarctic as part of Operation Southern Discovery. Defence undertook geospatial and hydrographic surveys to support the development of the Davis Aerodrome and its all-season aviation capability. Air transport missions from Hobart to Wilkins Aerodrome in the warmer months delivered 194 tonnes of cargo, including three tractors and a snow groomer, while a C-130J Hercules undertook an initial proof-of-concept flight.

Under Operation Solania, which commenced in 1988, the ADF worked with 13 other nations as part of Operation Rai Balang in March to track and thwart multiple illegal fishing operations over more than 14 million square kilometres in the Southwest Pacific.

The ADF also engaged in partner capacity-building in Timor-Leste through the trilateral Exercise Hari'l Hamutuk with the US and Japan in September and October. It partnered with Fiji's Military Forces for construction works activity in the ongoing Exercise Coral Sapper.

RAAF Poseidon aircraft made important contributions to regional security. They flew from Malaysia's Butterworth Air Base to conduct maritime surveillance in the North Indian Ocean and South China Sea as part of Operation Gateway, and from the Kadena Air Base in Japan to help enforce UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea under Operation Argos.

Defence also contributed to life-saving humanitarian efforts in the Pacific. The ADF spearheaded the emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Harold in April, conducting relief flights that delivered supplies to Vanuatu and Fiji. In August, HMAS *Canberra* and her helicopters located lost fishermen on a remote Micronesian island.

The ADF also conducted a virtual scoping activity for Nauru under Operation Render Safe – a longstanding initiative to remove unexploded World War II ordnance from South Pacific nations.

Defence's activities and achievements in 2020 are testimony to the professionalism, resilience and dedication to duty of our military personnel and civilians. In 2020, ADF personnel continued to deploy in support of United Nations' peacekeeping

missions in the Middle East and Africa. This included around 39 personnel across Operations Charter in Cyprus, Paladin in Israel and its bordering neighbours, Aslan in South Sudan, and Orenda which started in Mali.

In Egypt, almost 30 of our personnel contributed to the Multinational Force and Observers' efforts towards the long-standing peace arrangements between Egypt and Israel as part of Operation Mazurka.

Across the broader Middle East region, about 600 ADF personnel deployed on Operation Accordion provided overarching support to Operations Highroad, Manitou and Okra, including communications, air mobility, movements support, and command and control.

In Afghanistan, as part of Operation Highroad, the ADF completed missions focused on mentoring and training Afghan forces – in Kandahar, and at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul – complementing the progress made by the Afghan defence and security forces.

With peace negotiations between the Afghan Government and the Taliban progressing – and the security capability of the Afghan forces strengthened – Australia has decreased its troop numbers in Afghanistan to 80 personnel. Australia also reduced its naval presence in the Middle East to prioritise defence activities in our immediate region as we contend with a less-benign Indo-Pacific.

The Navy ceased its major fleet unit rotation under Operation Manitou, with HMAS *Toowoomba* completing the last of 68 ship rotations for Australia over a 30-year period spent thwarting terrorism, obstructing organised crime and preventing piracy. Under Operation Okra, 110 ADF personnel continued to support the international coalition against Daesh to prevent the group's resurgence in Iraq and Syria. Australia completed its contribution to Task Group Taji in June, having trained more than 47,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces. Our Air Task Group finished its seven-year mission at Camp McNamara VC – a significant Australian hub for airborne operations against Daesh – handing the facility back to the US Air Force. Australia also maintained its commitment to Operation Steadfast – our contribution, since 2019, to the NATO mission to ensure resilient and sustainable Iraqi security institutions.

It is fair to say 2020 threw a lot at Australians. First bushfires, then a pandemic, a global recession and a changing regional and strategic environment which is presenting new challenges.

Throughout it all, Defence was there for Australians, supporting them and protecting our national interests.

WWII veteran visits base where his service began

A World War II veteran has returned to the shore establishment where his career in the Royal Australian Navy began almost seven decades ago.

Former Able Seaman Ron Bergman, aged 94, served in the Royal Australian Navy between 1942 and 1947 as an AA3 gunner.

He undertook his recruit and basic category training at HMAS *Cerberus* before serving at sea in HMAS *Warramunga I*.

On February 19, Ron Bergman, his brother Don, a former Army captain, and other members of his family were given a VIP tour of *Cerberus*.

"I remember that it was the petty officers from the First World War that provided the training to us and I can see that level of training has carried through to today," Mr Bergman said.

During his visit, Mr Bergman was presented with a World War II 75th anniversary commemorative medallion and certificate of appreciation by the Executive Officer *Cerberus*, Commander Martin Holzberger, who is a former HMAS *Warramunga II* crew member, giving the pair a unique bond.

"No matter where I served, I always enjoyed sharing a brew or a meal with those associated with *Warramunga*. That ship is very special to me," Mr Bergman said.

Mr Bergman was asked what words of wisdom he



Former Able Seaman Ronald Bergman, 94, is presented a World War II 75th anniversary commemorative medallion by the Executive Officer HMAS Cerberus, Commander Martin Holzberger, during Mr Bergman's visit to the base.

Photo: Leading Seaman James McDougall

could offer today's recruits starting their careers.

"Always be honest, no matter the circumstance, even if it goes against you. Be honest from the start," he replied.

Mr Bergman spent the majority of his post-military life living in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

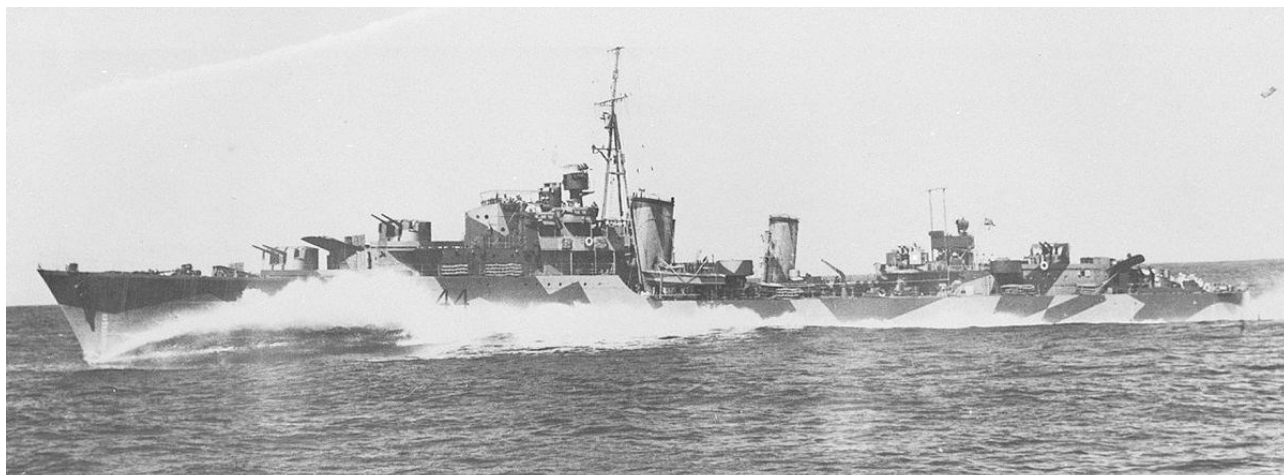
He was a master builder and telephone technician but has always tried to maintain close ties with his military family.

By Lieutenant Commander Dave Devlin

22 February 2021

Ron was a member NAA Melbourne SS to 1998

HMAS Warramunga 1 at speed (about 40 knots) in WWII She was paid off in December 1959



Navies exercise on virtual high seas

The Royal Australian Navy took part in a virtual trilateral naval warfare exercise this month.

Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint 20/72 was a week-long exercise in which HMAS *Parramatta* tested various tactical and operational elements of sea combat in a virtual environment with the United States and Royal Canadian navies.

While Australia and the US have conducted virtual naval exercises for the past decade, this was the first time the Royal Canadian Navy had participated.

Parramatta took part in the exercise using the Anzac-class frigate simulator at HMAS *Watson* in Sydney, fighting in real-time as part of an expeditionary strike group working in conjunction with a number of carrier strike groups to defeat an adversary force and secure friendly territory.

The other participating ships were linked via simulators in Hawaii and other locations in the US, Yokosuka in Japan, and Nova Scotia in Canada.

The US Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force also contributed simulated assets to the scenario.

To be able to exercise an Australian warship to her full fighting potential in a virtual domain alongside our American and Canadian partners is a fantastic way to refine our shared skills.

Director of the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Force Generation Directorate, Captain Pete Bartlett, said FST-J was important in proving the trilateral mari-

time warfare training possible between Australia, Canada and the US.

"It has provided us with the opportunity to test our combined training and tactics, share expertise and sharpen our complementary fighting capabilities," Captain Bartlett said.

"To be able to exercise an Australian warship to her full fighting potential in a virtual domain alongside our American and Canadian partners is a fantastic way to refine our shared skills and complementary capabilities."

Commander of the US Navy's Carrier Strike Group Five, Rear Admiral Will Pennington, said exercises such as FST-J strengthened the teamwork between allied and partner militaries.

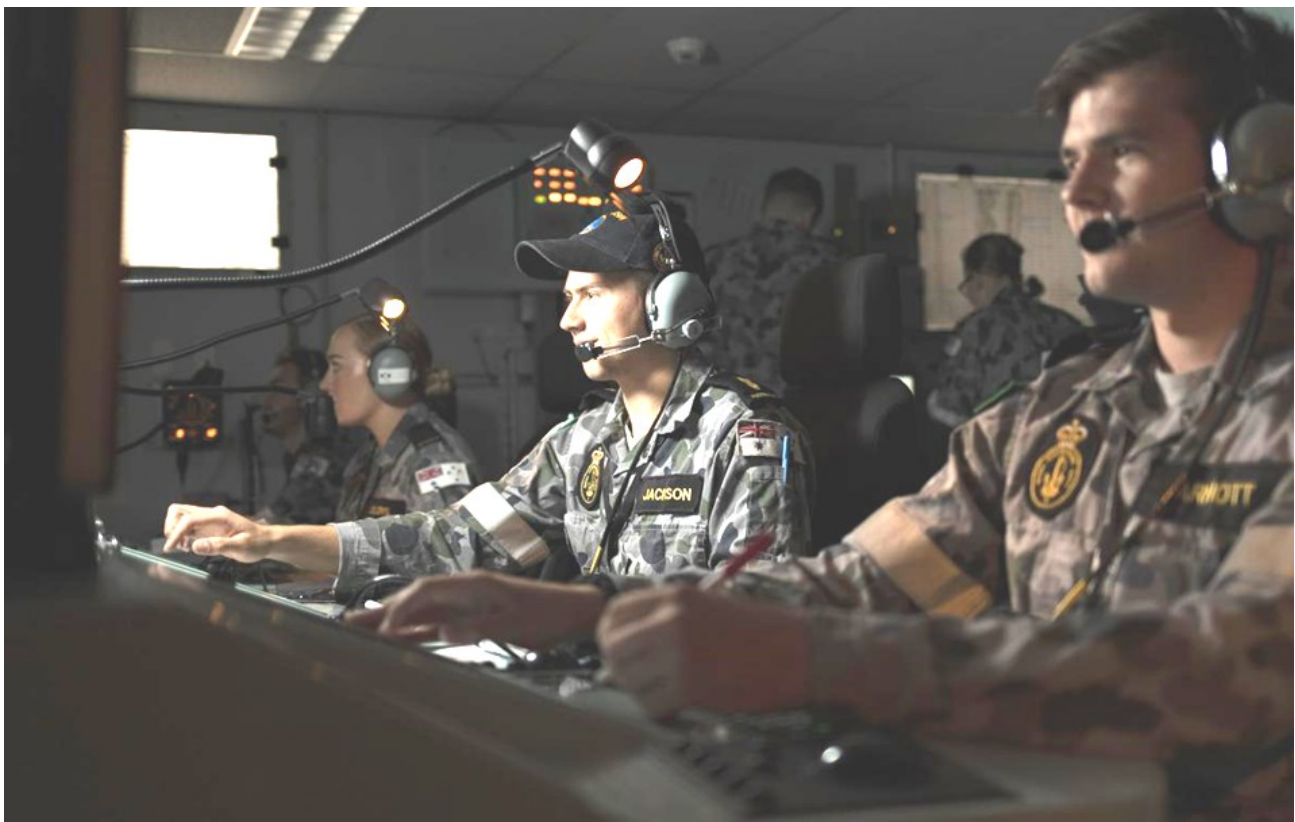
"The complex virtual scenarios probe future security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region and allow us to leverage the collective experience of our joint and international team," Rear Admiral Pennington said.

"Smart technology reduces costs and expands the problem set that we examine. It was especially useful this year in reducing risk within the COVID-19 environment

*By Lieutenant Ryan Zerbe
10 December 2020*

Able Seaman Combat Systems Operator Damon Jackson with fellow crew members in the operations room during the virtual exercise held in the Anzac-class frigate simulator at HMAS Watson in Sydney

. Photo: Leading Seaman Jarrod Mulvihill



Recognition for ADF members and families

Office of The Hon Darren Chester MP Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

21 January 2021

THE Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will consider recognition for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of their service, and their families.

Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said following preliminary consultation and advice from the Council of Women and Families United by Defence Service, it was now a matter for the Tribunal to examine.

"The Tribunal will undertake a broader consideration to acknowledge those who have been injured, wounded, or killed as a result of their ADF service, and the impact on their families," Mr Chester said.

"The Tribunal is the independent, expert body established to consider Defence honours and awards and is the most appropriate body to consider recognition for ADF members and their families.

"I am also very grateful for the work of the Council of Women and Families United by Defence Service

in its consideration for appropriate recognition."

The Tribunal is an independent statutory body established to review decisions of the Department of Defence regarding Defence honours and awards, and, at the direction of government, inquire into Defence honours and awards matters.

The Chair of the Council of Women and Families United by Defence Service Gabby Costigan said the council had carefully considered the most appropriate recognition for the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

"We feel the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal consideration is extremely important and we encourage individuals and organisations to contribute to the Inquiry."

The Tribunal will seek written submissions from ex-service organisations and government agencies, but anyone with an interest in this issue can make a submission to the Inquiry. Submissions to the Inquiry are expected to close in late March 2021 and further information can be found on the Tribunal's website:

<https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/>

Media contacts

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Directive



Australian Government

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE WHO ARE INJURED, WOUNDED OR KILLED IN OR AS A RESULT OF SERVICE

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) is directed to inquire into and report on recognition for members and families of members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service.

In particular, the Tribunal is to seek and receive submissions and consider whether it is appropriate that members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service, or their families, receive an Australian honour or award, or another form of recognition for that service.

The Tribunal is to consult broadly in conducting this inquiry, and is otherwise to determine its own procedures. The Tribunal may conduct its own research, consult with and interview individuals and organisations it considers appropriate in public or in private, and consider material provided to it that is relevant to the Terms of Reference. The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Minister for Defence Personnel on the findings and recommendations that arise from the inquiry.

In making its findings and formulating its recommendations, the Tribunal is to have regard to the integrity of the Australian honours and awards system and identify any consequential impact any finding or recommendation may have on that system. The Tribunal may make any recommendation it considers appropriate, that arises from the inquiry.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on 31 March 2021.

Recognition for ADF members and families

Is it appropriate that members of the Australian Defence Force who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of service, or their families, receive an Australian honour or award, or another form of recognition for that service?

The Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service (the Council) was established in December 2018 to ensure the needs of women and families united by defence service are understood and visible, and their voices are heard. The Council brings these voices together to provide timely and comprehensive advice to Government on matters that involve or affect them, drive coherent policy outcomes and advocate on behalf of these women and families.

The Council is built on the foundations of contemporary lived experience, inclusivity, collaboration, compassion and respect. The members of the Council represent a broad cross-section of the veteran community and include, partners, widows, parents, current and ex-serving members and reservists and chaplaincy and all bring an interest and passion for supporting veterans and their families.

It is stated in the Minister's media release of 21 January 2021 (at Page 3) that:

"The Chair of the Council of Women and Families United by Defence Service Gabby Costigan said the council had carefully considered the most appropriate recognition for the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

A well known award is the Purple Heart which is awarded by the President of the United States of America. It is an award that achieves the aim of the Council of Women and Families as stated in the media release. It does however, recognize those who are wounded by actions instigated by an enemy as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Specific examples of services which warrant award of the Purple Heart include:

- a) any action against an enemy of the United States;
- b) any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged;
- c) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party;
- d) as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces; or
- e) as a result of an act of any hostile foreign force.

The National President, has asked Lorraine Grey our National (White) Vice President to formulate a proposal to be submitted to the National Executive and then to the National Councillors for their appraisal on behalf of their Section's Members prior to presenting our Association's Submission to the Tribunal. As with all such processes there is always a deadline and more generally than not, it is limiting in its timing; here it is 31 March 21, for all submissions to be with the Tribunal. Hence the need to act promptly.

Saying goodbye to MyAccount

19 February 2021

Services that veterans and their families currently use in MyAccount are being moved into MyService.

The need for better online services has never been more important. Over the next six months, we will increase the services you can access on MyService. We will also be moving to a single, modern online platform for veterans to manage their business with DVA. To do this, MyAccount services are being moved to MyService over the coming months and we will say goodbye to MyAccount later this year.

In addition to managing your income support needs, you can already use MyService to book transport and claim for travel reimbursements for approved medical treatment.

From March, you will be able to use MyService to access official letters that confirm your DVA payments and concession entitlements. If you use My-

Account, the same letters will be available to you in MyService.

When the new services become available in MyService you will notice that we ask some questions differently. That's because we have taken on board feedback and not only simplified the way we ask for information, but reduced the amount we ask for.

'The questions MyService asks are simpler because MyService makes better use of information that you have already told us,' said Glen Yeomans, DVA's Director for MyService. 'This means that you don't need to tell us your story every time you want to make a claim.'

'MyService will be the place for all your DVA online needs when MyAccount is no longer available. Of course, if you prefer to call us or submit a paper form you will still be able to do that. We are excited to be providing you with simpler ways to transact with us online.'

For more information and to register for a MyService account, visit dva.gov.au/myservice.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs—ANZAC Day Statement

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

26 February 2021

Statement — Anzac Day spirit to continue in 2021

ANZAC Day is the most sacred day of commemoration on the Australian calendar.

It provides all Australians with the opportunity to remember and reflect on the service and sacrifice of our past and current service personnel as well as honour the more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in service of our nation.

On the health advice of Australian authorities due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, Anzac Day services overseas will not go ahead as normal in 2021. This includes the Australian and New Zealand led Anzac Day services in Turkey and the Australian services in France. The day will still be recognised in these countries however, with locally-based officials holding private commemorations in honour of all those who have served our country in uniform, and those who died in service.

This decision was made in the national interest for the protection of all Australians, at home and abroad, and on the advice of Australian health authorities, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and in consultation with host nations.

Along with our own travel ban, we have taken into consideration a number of factors, primarily concerns about the welfare of Australians and other visitors travelling to Anzac Day services as well as views of host nations regarding visitors and large gatherings as well as the impact on health systems of overseas nations.

Here at home, every year on Anzac Day we pause and say 'thank you for your service' to our current and former serving personnel. Despite some limitations on numbers and events to ensure things are done in a COVID-safe way, we can again gather together to commemorate the day this year.

A COVID-safe national service will be held at the Australian War Memorial and broadcast nationally, with all Australians encouraged to tune in and watch on the day.

Around Australia, commemorative activities will be planned, managed and delivered by the RSL, ex-service organisations and community groups, in line with public health guidance in each state or territory.

The Australian Defence Force will provide personnel to support as many services as possible around the country again this year.

Last year Australians came together like never before to mark Anzac Day during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

And this year, whether it's attending a local service

or standing in your driveway and lighting up the dawn, I encourage all Australians to continue the tradition of honouring our service personnel in a way that is solemn and respectful.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has a range of free resources available online for communities and individuals, to help them plan a commemorative service in their local area or at home. Visit the Anzac Portal for more information (anzacportal.dva.gov.au).

Details of the national service will be publicised closer to the date. Enquiries relating to services in your state or territory should be directed to local organisers or the relevant health authority.

Media Contacts

Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820 or

Cedric Szigeti 02 6277 7820

Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

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

Famous Philippines battle commemorated

A group of officers and sailors from HMAS *Stuart* had the honour of representing the Royal Australian Navy in October 2020 at the commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of World War II.

Members of the local community attending the ceremony greeted the 20-person party with handshakes, waves, words of gratitude and countless selfies.

Among the hundreds attending the event at MacArthur Landing Memorial were three Australian veterans who were involved in the battle: Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths (retd), David Mattiske and Leonard Roy McLeod. It was the first time Rear Admiral Griffiths had returned since he served as Fo'c'sle Officer and in an anti-aircraft position in HMAS *Shropshire* in the battle he described as "lively".

"The overwhelming welcome that everyone has given us has been incredible," Rear Admiral Griffiths said. "It's a unique honour. I never would have thought on October 20, 1944, that 75 years later I'd be back to have a look ashore to see why we did what we did."

The ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the Leyte Landing – and the famous return of US General Douglas MacArthur – was attended by Filipino, American, Australian and Japanese officials.

Leading Seaman Maritime Logistics-Supply Chain Gabrielle Singe was among the group representing *Stuart*.

"I am so blessed to be here as part of *Stuart*, on my first deployment, visiting this important place to commemorate a part of history." "It was an experience I'd never had before," Leading Seaman Singe said. "I didn't know a lot about the battle and the importance of this region until we were on the way here. Now I feel lucky to be here as a member of the Australian Navy to mark this anniversary."

The Australians were thanked for their role in liberating Leyte. About 4000 Australians took part in the battle and 30 were killed, including Captain Emile



The memorial of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, at the 75th anniversary of the Leyte Landing in the Philippines.

Photo: LSIS Tara Byrne

Dechaineux, when a Japanese dive-bomber struck HMAS *Australia*.

For Seaman Maritime Logistics-Supply Chain Darren Cruz, visiting the Leyte memorial was fulfilment of a life goal. His Filipino grandfather had once told him that the MacArthur Landing Memorial was the most special place a Filipino could visit.

"I got goosebumps when I saw the memorial," Seaman Cruz said. "I am so blessed to be here as part of *Stuart*, on my first deployment, visiting this important place to commemorate a part of history."

HMA Ships *Sirius*, *Ararat* and *Leeuwin* joined *Stuart* in further events to commemorate parts of the four-day battle.

The ships were in the region as part of two task groups taking part in multinational exercises and regional engagement activities across northern and southern Asia.

Task Group ships visited Guam, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam during their deployment.

Royal Australian Air Force centenary

Although it had its origins in the First World War with the Australian Flying Corps, the Australian Air Force was not formally formed until March 1921, becoming the Royal Australian Air Force in August of that year. Squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force have served in many conflicts from that time including the Second World War, the Korean War, various tasks during the Cold War, the Malayan Emergency, the Vietnam War, East Timor and the recent conflicts in the Middle East.

On 31 March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force will mark its centenary with a mass flypast over Canberra. This will be the largest flypast the Air Force has conducted in decades - a rare and exciting opportunity to see a wide range of current and historic military aircraft

More than 60 aircraft will fly in waves over Lake Burley Griffin from 10:30 am and this spectacular flypast will culminate with a full display by the Roulettes aerobatic team. If you cannot travel to Canberra, you can enjoy the flypast through ABC TV's live outside broadcast, commencing at 10 am local time. More details can be found at the Air Force centenary [website](#).

HARS Newsletter - March 2021

Change in fuels management adds to Navy capability

The management and operation of naval refuelling services in Darwin was handed back to Navy personnel from contractors this year.

The move is part of an ongoing transformation of the base and the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct.

The Commanding Officer HMAS *Coonawarra*, CMDR Moses Raudino said he was pleased to be able to sign off on the handover from the previously contracted workforce.

"The Defence Fuelling Installation is a key capability that ensures Navy is ready to respond to tasking at a moment's notice," he said.

"The complete control of our fuelling evolutions 'in-house' so to speak, is part of providing comprehensive service and support to HMA Ships at our establishment.

"Fuel operations and logistics is administered by the Fuel Services Branch as a joint ADF capability.

"It is important for this handover that we meet all the requirements set out in the policy and governance to keep our people and platforms safe."

Chief Petty Officer Peter Strzelecki leads the fuelling team.

"We kicked off by filling up HMAS *Ararat* with a fresh 28,780 litres of marine diesel as soon as it came alongside," Chief Petty Officer Peter Strzeleck said.

"It was the first fuelling evolution at *Coonawarra* conducted end to end by uniformed Navy personnel with our complete new team.

"These additional billets ashore (land-based jobs) ensure that uniformed personnel are providing a high quality service to our ships that is always available, even on weekends or after hours when it would be difficult to quickly get a contractor in.

"Increased billets ashore also offer our people up here respite from back-to-back sea postings as part of the new Navy Workforce Generation System reset phase."



NHQ Darwin 25 Dec 74. Rebuilt since and now the NT Administrator's Office

Cyclone Tracy Author at Work

I (Patricia Collins) served in the WRANS as an WRROS from 1973 to 1979 and was based at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin when Cyclone Tracy hit on Christmas Eve, 1974.

I am writing a book partly about that service, but mainly about the role of the WRANS and the RAN during Cyclone Tracy and the subsequent Clean-Up.

So far, my sources for research are the Navy News; Department of Defence Historical Monograph No. 15; National Library Archives; the lecture "Operation Navy Help – Disaster operations by the Royal Australian Navy post-Cyclone Tracy" by Commodore Eric Johnston AM, OBE, CstJ, RANEM, RAN; the comprehensive report by Rear Admiral N.E. McDonald, Flag Officer Commanding, East Australia Area, dated 20 May 1975; Northern Territory Library Service; the book "Winds of Fury – the full true story of the great Darwin disaster" by Keith Cole" and newspaper articles. There's a lot more out there but I'm concentrating on official reports as much as possible.

I am enhancing the reports with personal accounts by Naval personnel aboard the patrol boats HMA Ships *Advance*, *Arrow*, *Assail* and *Attack*, at HMAS *Coonawarra*, and those involved in "Operation Navy Help Darwin". Accounts by spouses, civilian employees of the RAN and civilian contractors are also very welcome.

Some contributors have written down their recollections of the time and emailed the documents and photographs to me. I've interviewed others in person or over the phone, recording our conversations. I provide those people with a transcript and also write up their story in a Word document, putting the events in chronological order, tidying up some grammar and adding a word or two if clarification is needed. The document remains essentially in their own words and can be kept for their own personal records.

We all enjoy a good laugh over our antics and the situations we got ourselves into during our service, but it's hard to talk or write about the tough times, like Cyclone Tracy and the Clean Up. Making the effort is important. Funny, sad – it's all good.

Of course, I provide contributors with a Consent Form to be filled out and returned to me, so that the interviews can legally be recorded, and their stories and photos can be used in my book.

Would you and anyone in your network like to participate? Any former naval personnel - WRANS and RAN – who would like to have their memories of that time included in my book can contact me on patriciacollins1@bigpond.com

Regards,

Patricia Collins

Last sortie for LADS

The Royal Australian Navy's Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) Flight has conducted its final sortie after 26 years of service.

The world-leading capability was developed in South Australia and since 1993 has been providing Navy and the Australian Government survey data for complex coastal and reef waters that are dangerous or difficult to survey by traditional ship-based methods.

Commanding Officer LADS Flight, Lieutenant Commander Mark Matthews, said LADS had likely prevented numerous groundings on what would otherwise have been uncharted dangers.

"LADS is an incredible capability that allows us to survey more than 20 square nautical miles an hour in places that are not suitable or practical for hydrographic ships," Lieutenant Commander Matthews said.

"For the past three years, LADS's primary mission has been to survey the Great Barrier Reef and other offshore coral reefs and atolls across northern Australia, resulting in major improvements in the charting of these areas.

"Over its life, LADS has charted vast areas of the Australian coast and has deployed to the Cocos Keeling Islands, the sub-Antarctic, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, collecting hydrographic data to improve the safety for all shipping."

"I am proud of the extraordinary work the LADS Flight has achieved and thank everyone involved over the years."

In total, the LADS Flight has flown more than 3000 sorties, conducted 186 surveys and covered an area of more than 50,000 square kilometres.

Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead, paid tribute to the more than 180 Navy personnel who have served in the LADS team and the many contractors who have delivered services in support of the LADS Flight.

"I am proud of the extraordinary work the LADS Flight has achieved and thank everyone involved over the years," Rear Admiral Mead said. "It is a sad occasion to see the end of service of a Navy unit, but it is an opportunity to reflect on an excellent job, Bravo Zulu LADS Flight."

In line with the Defence White Paper 2016, the current hydrographic capabilities of Navy will be replaced by commercial hydrographic companies through the Hydro-Scheme Industry Partnership Program.

More information on LADS Flight is available at: navy.gov.au/fleet/aircraft/laser-airborne-depth-sounder



Navy's Laser Airborne Depth Sounder Flight crew, from left, Petty Officer Jarrod McCann, Chief Petty Officer Luke Heard, Lieutenant Commander Mark Matthews, Lieutenant Cheyne Colley and Leading Seaman John Krasicki.

Photo: Able Seaman Jarrod Mulvihill

While relatively unknown, the Royal Australian Navy used to employ an extremely capable and effective airborne survey asset. The Navy's Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) Flight formed in 1992 after more than 20 years of research and development.

The first LADS aircraft used was a Fokker F27 built in 1976 and operated by East-West Airlines before being modified to for LADS operations, with modifications including a laser bay and doors under the fuselage, additional fuel tanks, precise navigation systems, and a stabilised platform for the laser.

The Fokker F27 was replaced in November 2009 with a de Havilland Dash 8-202.

The Dash 8 had previously been employed by Fugro LADS Corporation (formally Tenix LADS Corporation) to conduct similar LIDAR survey activities internationally. The Royal Australian Navy was the first and one of only a few military organisations in the world to have employed airborne laser bathymetry.

The heart of the survey system was a powerful laser that determines aircraft height information above the sea surface (and ellipsoid) whilst producing a scan width of up to 598 metres (typically 193 metres for IHO Order 1b surveys), recording depths up to 80 metres deep in pristine waters and topographic heights up to 50 metres above sea level.

Navy personnel operate the survey system from the main cabin of the aircraft. Back on the ground the data is processed prior to being sent to the Australian Hydrographic Office in Wollongong, New South Wales for incorporation into updated nautical charts.

Navy Website



HMAS Sirius conducts a replenishment at sea with Japanese Ship Ise in the southern waters off Hawaii during Exercise RIMPAC. Photo: Leading Seaman Christopher Szumlanski



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