



National Bosun's Call



Vol 1 No 5

Once Navy, Always Navy

November 2020

November 2020—NAA 100th Anniversary

One evening in 1920 in the vicinity of Young and Jacksons Hotel on the corner of Flinders and Swanson Street, Melbourne, an ex-navalman out for a stroll with his wife spotted a former shipmate on point duty as a policeman.

From this chance meeting they decided to get together again with as many old shipmates as possible in the near future.

This led to a "Smoko" in May 1920 in the old Manchester Unity Hall in Swanson Street attended by about 100 ex-Navalmen who agreed to form the "Ex-Navalmen's Association", which was inaugurated in November 1920.

In 1922 the Association amalgamated with the China Naval Contingent Association whose members had seen service during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 - one of the then oldest such organisations in Australia. The China Naval Contingent Association was formed in 1900 and as it amalgamated with the NAA, it could be said that the origin of the NAA goes back to 1900.

In 1925 the NSW Section was formed in Sydney, and in 1947 approval was given to NSW to form sub-sections in other areas throughout the State. In 1960 the Associations name was changed to "The Naval Association of Australia" to better reflect its aims and to reflect a membership that included both serving and ex-naval persons.

From its beginning the Association was devel-



"Chloe" mainstay of the Young and Jackson's attraction to generations of sailors disembarking from the Crib Point Flyer. To see Chloe's back, look at the second window from the left on the first floor of the above photograph



oped as a self help organisation with the main objective being to "Unite former and serving Naval Personnel for the purpose of mutual benefit", and it adopted the motto, "Each for All and All for Each" and later "Once Navy—Always Navy".

The NAA's longevity is attributed to the fact that it is not a single issue organisation and has provided a sound social background for primarily ex naval people to get together and enjoy each others company. The NAA has taken up single issues during its life. One being to form and lead a Joint Committee to resolve the anomalies arising from naval service in the Far East Strategic Reserve during the Malayan Emergency 1956 to 1960. This Joint Committee achieved its objective in 2000 by gaining recognition of naval service in the Malayan Emergency to count towards entitlements under the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986, thus achieving equity with the members of the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force who had enjoyed these benefits from the time of their service in that theatre of operations.



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Australia and Singapore cooperation on show

HMAS *Adelaide* has provided a platform for the Republic of Singapore Air Force CH-47 helicopter crews to qualify and land on the RAN's largest vessels, HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Canberra*.

The deck landing qualifications were conducted over two days off the coast of Queensland, where *Adelaide* is conducting a range of amphibious and aviation training exercises.

Commander Air HMAS *Adelaide*, Commander Leon Volz said the qualifications would provide significant benefits and boost overall combined capability for the Australian and Singapore Defence Forces.

"This is a great opportunity to provide interoperability between both the Singaporean Air Force air crew and ourselves," Commander Volz said.

"Gaining these qualifications allows the RSAF crews to operate with *Adelaide*, with *Canberra* and also with HMAS *Choules*, which will provide a significant capability enhancer between both our Defence forces.

"So when we're both operating in the region, for example, then we can actually cross-deck and gain more experience in the way that both Defence forces operate in the maritime aviation environment."

The Singaporean CH-47 heavy-lift helicopter crews, which are permanently based at Oakey in Queensland, communicated with *Adelaide*'s flight control room and were guided by the ship's aviation team on the flight deck.

The timing of the deck qualifications also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Singapore Armed Forces training in Australia.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Adelaide*, Captain Jonathan Ley said qualifying Singaporean Air Force personnel to operate their CH-47 aircraft on Navy's amphibious vessels extended the shared history of cooperation between the two nations.

"Singapore's CH-47 aircraft worked alongside Army's 5th Aviation Regiment during the 2020 bushfire emergency in Victoria, so to have that combined capability at sea is an important element as we again move into the high-risk emergency season," Captain Ley said.

Adelaide is the Navy's high-readiness vessel and is available to support humanitarian and disaster relief operations domestically and in the region.

Published on 27 October 2020 LEUT Geoff Long (author), LSIS Nadav Harel (photographer),



A Republic of Singapore Air Force CH-47 Chinook helicopter lands onboard HMAS Adelaide during Exercise SEA WADER 2020, off the coast of Townsville, Queensland.

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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



**Naval Association of Australia Centenary
Wreath Laying Ceremony
Australian War Memorial, Canberra
Friday 20 November 2020, commencing at 1200**

Fellow Members,

Prior to my appointment I had, on behalf of the National Executive, initiated discussions with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to ascertain if we could conduct a Commemorative Service within the AWM to mark the Centenary of our Association and to pay our respects to those who have served in the RAN, at this most sacred place of remembrance. Initially, the COVID19 limitations appeared to be pointing us toward a very small gathering inside the Memorial but then it became possible to look at another option within the grounds wherein we could have a somewhat larger event but still with the possibility of cancelation or much reduced numbers, ever present in the planning process.

I am delighted to advise we have been able to formulate a NAA Centenary Wreath Laying Service for Friday 20 November 2020, at 1200. Regrettable, however, attendance will be limited to those invited due to AWM COVID-19 Protocols. We have been able to despatch invitations to our Patron, the Governor General; PM and respective Ministers in both the Government and Opposition; Chief of Navy; Naval Defence Attachés from the UK, NZ and USA; a myriad of RAN Ex-Naval and Naval Interest Organisational Representatives here in Canberra (remembering the interstate travel limitations to be contended with, some are representing their National President located in other States); Naval Widows and Families; the Australian Navy Cadets; the RSL and Air Force Association. We are delighted to have a Navy Chaplain, a RAN Band-Brass Quintet and Navy Vocalist in support. All VIPs will be invited to lay a wreath along with that of the NAA. We are now awaiting Invitation and Wreath RSVPs.

To have secured this opportunity under the prevailing circumstances has been most gratifying but knowing we could not all have the opportunity to attend does lessen such feelings to some extent. Remembering the aim was to do all that was possible to mark our

Centenary and to honour those '*whose grave is the cruel sea*' and, '*the many naval veterans*' past and present, I believe we have achieved a commendable outcome in being able to gather at the AWM, and there to represent every member of the Naval Association of Australia and our loved ones, in the conduct of this most important commemorative service. It is with every sincere hope that you will share in this historical event by way of a contemplative thought, prayer or gesture.

Whenever I am afforded the unique and privileged opportunity to represent you and our Association, I shall do so in full knowledge and respect of your expectations.

We in the National Executive, are fully aware that within Sections and Sub-sections much has been done and planned to mark the NAA Centenary in your own way and within the bounds that are impacting on us all. So that we may make use of the NAA National Web Site to advertise such events on your behalf, we ask that you provide us with those details at your earliest convenience (email address: nationalmembershipregistrar@navalassoc.org.au). Alternatively, please provide photos and supporting text of any Centenary activities so we can share that with others within the Association. Whilst 20 Nov 20 has been set aside as the day we will mark our Centenary, the time from then until that date next year affords us all with the opportunity to conduct special events to mark this most important milestone in our collective NAA history.

It is very encouraging to see the shackles of COVID-19 being eased and as we dearly hope life will move on towards that which we knew, we do acknowledge and offer prayers for those who have suffered in being confronted with pain or heart-breaking loss.



(David Manolas)

National President
Naval Association of Australia

31 October 2020



Once Navy, Always Navy

Government Interim Response to the Report of the Productivity Commission *A Better Way to Support Veterans*

DVA Foreward to the Interim Report

I welcome the Productivity Commission's report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans* ("the report") and thank the Commission for its diligence and thoroughness in undertaking its inquiry. I especially acknowledge the many submissions from veterans, their families and ex-service and other organisations.

The Government has considered the findings and recommendations of the Productivity Commission in detail and provides this interim Government response. The Productivity Commission report provides a comprehensive review of the veteran support system. It found that, while Australians can be proud of the support system we have, after a century of providing support and services to veterans and their families, there is a case for major reform.

The report outlines recommendations and findings to deliver substantial and enduring reforms, to ensure crucial support for veterans and their families can continue for the next 100 years. The Government believes that major reforms, particularly of the legislative framework and involving entitlements for veterans and their families, must be carefully assessed and incrementally implemented.

The Productivity Commission recognised that Australia needs its own unique and dedicated veteran support system. The Government agrees with the Productivity Commission's view that the system needs to move from a predominant focus on the illness or impairment of veterans, to a model that supports the lifetime wellbeing of serving and ex-serving members and their families, a shift that has been underway for several years.

The Government's approach to reform of the veteran support system, in particular in relation to legislation, will be evolutionary and we will pursue sensible elements of the Commission's legislative harmonisation plan over time.

The Productivity Commission recognised the efforts made so far with the transformation activities in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), and in the efforts made by Defence to trial injury prevention measures for those serving, to share information with DVA early, and to engage with the families of serving personnel. The Commission supported the continuation of these initiatives, including Veteran Centric Reform (VCR) in DVA, through to completion.

The Government reiterates its commitment to VCR as the primary vehicle for reform and has funded the first four years of this crucial transformation program.

This response outlines the Government's position on the report, focussing on those recommendations that will be funded in Budget 2020-21, those that



are already implemented, or are being progressed, and those that will be implemented.

There are some recommendations that the Government has decided not to implement. In response to strongly expressed veteran community concerns regarding the Productivity Commission's recommendations to change Gold Card eligibility, the Government is providing assurance to current serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families that those proposals will not be taken forward.

While significant economic challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic must be managed through this Budget process, the Government is continuing to invest in key veterans' services. As part of the 2020-21 Budget the Government has announced a targeted package of initiatives that will assist veterans and their families to maintain their wellbeing, support good mental health outcomes, transition successfully to civilian life, including to find meaningful employment, and help them to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and recover strongly post-pandemic. This veteran specific package complements and builds upon the existing government commitments to support the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians, including veterans, through the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a strong focus in this package of support for veterans transitioning from the ADF into the civilian community and on support that will assist veterans seeking to start their own business. The Government is focused on assisting veterans to find meaningful employment and contribute to economic recovery.

The Government has agreed to the Commission's recommendation to establish a Joint Transition Authority led by Defence that will improve the integration, synchronisation and assurance across Gov-

(Continued on page 6)

Government Interim Response to the Report of the Productivity Commission

(Continued from page 5)

ernment of the transition of ADF members to civilian life. The JTA will take a whole of system approach to transition to better support transitioning ADF members and their families.

In recognition of the risks associated with the potential impact of the pandemic on the mental health outcomes of our veteran community, there are measures in the package that offer additional support to veterans and their families to ensure they are supported to build and maintain good mental health during this challenging time.

Addressing the tragedy of suicide is a national priority and an issue of vital importance to the Government. In addition to the Government's commitment to the establishment of a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention and the recent appointment of Ms Gwen Cherne as the inaugural Veteran Family Advocate, I announce measures to increase the fees paid by DVA to mental health providers to deliver mental health care for veterans from February 2021. I also announce measures to expand services provided by Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling and the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program, and to maintain DVA's service delivery levels and responsiveness for veterans who are waiting for decisions on their claims.

The ADF has faced an unprecedented operational tempo and deployment complexity, both internationally and domestically over several years and, in light of the *2020 Defence Strategic Update* and *2020 Force Structure Plan*, this is anticipated to continue. It is therefore critical that DVA's information sharing capability and connectivity with Defence is enhanced. I recently announced the appointment of Major General Stuart Smith AO DSC (Ret'd) to the Repatriation Commission to progress this work. This will allow both agencies to understand better the wellbeing of our current and ex-serving members, to improve care for vet-

erans and families with complex circumstances, and to mitigate risk factors for veteran suicide.

DVA has been undergoing a significant transformation over the last three years, but there is still room for further improvement. The Government will use the Productivity Commission's report to guide and inform future reform efforts and will provide a final response in next year's Budget. The Government will also respond to the *Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study* report and the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade *Inquiry into transition from the Australian Defence Force (ADF)* report, in the 2021 -22 Budget context.

In making these commitments, the Government acknowledges and recognises the unique nature and importance of military service, which is fundamental to the delivery of comprehensive care, benefits and support services to Australia's veterans and their families. In return for their service, the best possible system is owed to all of Australia's current and future military veterans and their families.

The intent of those who have designed and administered veteran support has always been to make this system the best it can be; and we will continue that effort and commitment.

For what they have done, this we will do.



DARREN CHESTER
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Key features of the Government Interim Response

The Government releases this interim response to the Commission's report, which also encompasses the Government's response to the Independent Review into the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) payment conducted by Mr David Tune AO PSM in 2019.

In this 2020-21 Budget, the Government provides a package of initiatives to support our veterans and their families with the following key features (dollars figures over four years):

- \$94.3 million for mental health, social worker and community nursing provider fee increases and simplification, to improve mental health outcomes for veterans and ensure

older vulnerable veterans are well supported in the community, as well as providing funding for psychiatry training in military and veteran mental health (Recommendation 16.3);

- \$5.0 million to support mental health in the veteran community and address the rate of veteran suicide, especially in regional and remote areas, with the expansion of Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling services (Recommendation 17.2);
- \$2.4 million to expand eligibility for the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program to White Card holders with chronic mental health conditions (Recommendation 16.1);

(Continued on page 7)

Further Economic Support Payments

The Australian Government is providing two additional Economic Support Payments to continue its support of the Australian community through the coronavirus pandemic.

21 October 2020

As part of the 2020–21 Budget, the Australian Government is providing two additional Economic Support Payments to continue its support of the Australian community through the coronavirus pandemic.

The one-off payments of \$250 each will be automatically paid to around 5 million eligible Australians from 30 November 2020 (with a test date of 27 November 2020) and 1 March 2021 (with a test date of 26 February 2020). There is no need to lodge a claim.

Eligible veterans and family members who reside in Australia and receive certain DVA benefits on the test dates will receive the payments to assist with essential living expenses and help them through this uncertain time, particularly in the lead up to the festive season. The eligible DVA benefits are:

- Service Pension, Partner Service Pension, Income Support Supplement or Veteran Payment

- Disability Pension (separate to the \$6.20 fortnightly payment)
- Special Rate Disability Pension
- Permanent Impairment compensation (including lump sum payments taken in the past)
- War Widow(er)'s Pension or Wholly Dependent Partner payment
- Gold Cards, Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards and Pensioner Concession Cards
- Age Pension paid by DVA

The additional payments build on support the Australian Government has provided to the veteran community, which so far includes one-off payments of \$750 in March and July 2020, reduced deeming rates for income support payments, the Coronavirus Supplement paid to financially support eligible children of veterans through their studies, and support through the JobKeeper payment helping to keep veterans and their families in paid employment.

For more information, visit the [Department of Social Services website](#)

Key features of the Government Interim Response

(Continued from page 6)

- \$6.0 for million for a range of veteran employment initiatives to increase support and opportunities for civilian employment, including a focus on self-employment;
- \$59.8 million to support the need for a sustainable and properly resourced DVA, providing funds for the Department to maintain service delivery levels and current claims processing capacity to 30 June 2021;
- \$17.7 million for the creation of a Joint Transition Authority within Defence (Recommendation 7.1) to improve the transition support for ADF members and to enhance outcomes for ADF members and their families in their transition to civilian life; and
- \$25.9 million to provide additional financial support in the form of rent assistance to TPI Pension and other Disability Pension recipients who also receive an income support payment and pay private rent. The recommendation would see the payment arrangements simplified, removing the need for the Defence Force Income Support Allowance, in response to the Independent Review into the TPI Payment.

In addition, the Government reaffirms its commitment to a stand-alone DVA and has already funded the first four years of the multi-year VCR transformation program. This program is improving the design and accessibility of DVA's services and supports for veterans and their families.

In response to concerns raised by the veteran community, the Government will not implement Recommendations 16.4 and 16.5 that proposed limitations on future eligibility for the Gold Card and restrict extensions of the Gold Card to new groups.

The Government will also not implement Recommendation 11.2 that proposes an annual premium be levied on Defence. Instead, the Government has announced Stage 1 funding of \$0.5 million for the development of a platform to bring together Defence and DVA de-identified data in one place to build a better understanding of the cost of service injuries and to inform prevention strategies without impacting on capability.

Website address

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/reporting/reviews-and-reports/productivity-commission-inquiry-system-compensation>

Pension Rates as set at 20 September 2020 to 31 December 2020

Friday, 20 September 2020

Veteran pension payments will remain as set in March 2020. No advice has been received from DVA to indicate the indexation process at this point in time.

The pension rates were effective from pension payday 9 April 2020.

The table below highlights the current fortnightly rates.

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

Pensions are normally indexed twice a year in March and September. For a full list of pension rates, please [visit the DVA website](#) or call [133 254](#) or [1800 555 254](#) from regional Australia.

Service pension fortnightly rate changes

Service pension	Previous rate (fortnightly)	Current rate (fortnightly)	Change (fortnightly)
Single person	\$944.30	\$944.30	\$0.00
Couples (each)	\$711.80	\$711.80	\$0.00
Single person – transitional	\$789.30	\$789.30	\$0.00
Couples (each) – transitional	\$636.80	\$636.80	\$0.00

War widows fortnightly rate changes

War widows	Previous rate (fortnightly)	Current rate (fortnightly)	Change (fortnightly)
War widow(er)'s pension	\$960.40	\$960.40	\$0.00
Income support supplement	\$284.20	\$284.20	\$0.00

Disability pension fortnightly rate changes

Disability pension	Previous rate (fortnightly)	Current rate (fortnightly)	Change (fortnightly)
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,451.80	\$1,451.80	\$0.00
Intermediate rate	\$ 985.80	\$ 985.80	\$0.00
EDA	\$ 802.30	\$ 802.30	\$0.00
100 per cent	\$ 516.20	\$ 516.20	\$0.00
10 per cent	\$ 58.55	\$ 58.55	\$0.00

Veteran payment fortnightly rate changes

Veteran payment	Previous rate (fortnightly)	Current rate (fortnightly)	Change (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,021.80	\$1,021.80	\$0.00
Couples (each)	\$ 796.30	\$ 796.30	\$0.00

Media Contacts:

Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon Darren Chester, Canberra ACT

Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone [1800 011 046](#) (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Changes to opioid prescribing

While opioids play an important role in providing pain relief for many people, the Australian Government, through the Department of Health, has implemented a number of regulatory changes to minimise the harms caused by opioid prescription medicines to Australians each year.

29 October 2020

The changes will ensure the safe and effective prescribing and use of opioids while maintaining access for patients who need them.

The changes may affect Australians accessing opioid medicines through Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) arrangements and eligible veterans accessing them through the DVA Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (RPBS).

Since 1 June 2020, the regulatory changes require opioid 'sponsors' (pharmaceutical companies) to:

- register smaller pack sizes for immediate-release opioids that will provide a more appropriate option for short-term pain relief, for example after injury or surgery, and reduce the risk of harm from unused opioids (the existing larger pack sizes will still be available for those who need them)
- add additional warning statements to the approved Product Information for all opioids to remind doctors (and other prescribers such as nurse practitioners) of the appropriate circumstances for opioid prescribing and potential adverse effects
- improve the information available to prescribers and consumers to encourage best-practice prescribing and to be better informed about the potential risks with opioid use and how to minimise them

- update prescribing 'indications' (the circumstance/s for use) for opioids to ensure patients are prescribed an opioid only where the benefits outweigh the risks.

There have been various changes to the PBS to support the regulatory changes, for example funding for smaller quantities, changes to the 'indications' (conditions for use) that will be funded, and changes to the authority process that doctors must follow for opioids to be subsidised.

From 1 October 2020, additional changes came into effect, including:

- unrestricted access to opioid medication for palliative care patients
- restructuring of the current listed opioid medicines into initial and continuing treatment phases to help simplify the prescribing process.

Please see your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about your prescribed opioid medicines. We encourage your doctor to contact the Veterans Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC) on 1800 552 580 if they have questions about prescribing opioid medicine through RPBS arrangements.

More information about the changes to opioid prescribing can be found at:

[PBS Revised opioids PBS listings from 1 October 2020](#)

[TGA Prescription opioids: Information for consumers, patients and carers](#)

If you need support, Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046 or openarms.gov.au.

Better transition outcomes for veterans

Since 2017, Defence has significantly improved transition and now all ADF members with at least one day of permanent service can access comprehensive support for up to 24 months after they leave. Support is based on individual needs, and additional support is provided to younger, at-risk members and those transitioning medically with complex needs.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) also has Veterans Support Officers located on more than 55 Defence bases across Australia, offering face-to-face, personalised advice to support members with their transition to civilian life, such as assistance registering with DVA or advice on available pathways to additional support or help with entitlements.

"Since 2016, ADF personnel who have joined or transitioned from Defence are automatically registered with DVA and provided with a Veteran White

Card, providing access to a fully-funded comprehensive health assessment every year for five years and access to free mental health care for the rest of their lives," Mr Chester said.

"The Joint Transition Authority (JTA) will build on these improvements to ensure all transition services and support mechanisms are working together for the benefit of transitioning ADF personnel and their families."

The JTA will operate within the Department of Defence and partner with DVA and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. Over the coming months, the transition system will be reviewed to identify where improvements can be made, including opportunities to better integrate services and share information.

The establishment of the JTA acts on Recommendation 7.1 from the Productivity Commission report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*.

Task Group certification shows cutting edge of mine warfare

Three minehunters and more than 150 personnel have completed two weeks of realistic training at sea and ashore under the command and control of Navy's Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Task Group, as part of Exercise CUTTLEFISH 2020.

The exercise was run by the Fleet Force Generation Directorate (FGD) with a Maritime Observer Trainer Team consisting of members of Sea Training Group, Force Generation Directorate, COMMHPFOR, COMTRAIN, and a previous COMMCDTG, providing mentorship and training to the Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Task Group (MCDTG) and participating Minehunter Coastal vessels.

The MCDTG is a deployable staff capable of planning and executing Mine Warfare operations using units from the Mine Warfare, Clearance Diving, Hydrographic, Meteorological and Patrol Force.

The exercise scenario challenged the participating units to secure Jervis Bay from a simulated adversary force who had littered the area with different types of underwater mines and continued to operate a local militia capable of surface strikes with small boats.

Operating from a mobile headquarters at approximately 20 kilometres away, the MCDTG maintained command and control of Mine Hunters HMA Ships *Gascoyne*, *Huon* and *Yarra*.

In order to make the exercise as realistic as possible, dummy mines imitated the shapes and profiles of real-life ordnance with some of them even equipped with electronic sensor packages, enabling them to respond to attempts at detection.

Exercise Director, Captain Pete Bartlett of the

FGD said the exercise was all about thoroughly testing the MCDTG's readiness to command and control mine warfare operations wherever required.

"The Task Group certification is an important activity because it's at a larger scale than normal and presents a greater challenge for the MCDTG staff who need to prove their ability to manage the battle space in real time," Captain Bartlett said.

"Conducting mine hunting across three ships using a combination of remotely operated vehicles and diving teams, exercising force protection is a robust test for the MCDTG's command and control.

"Along with the Maritime and Amphibious Task Groups who are responsible for blue-water sea combat and littoral combat receptively, the MCDTG is a significant part of our maritime warfare capability and needs to be rigorously tested through scenarios as this certification has presented."

Commander of the MCDTG, Commander Richard Brickacek, said the certification event tested his staff's ability to plan for, scale and sustain mine warfare operations in an evolving scenario.

"The minehunters carried out mine countermeasure operations and defended themselves against fast attack craft with heavy and light machine guns, all under the tactical command of and reporting back to the MCDTG.

"Minehunters often work together and a big part of doing this effectively depends on good communication and command and control to synchronise their individual capabilities, needs and tasks to achieve the mission.

"Mine warfare poses significant potential risk to commercial shipping and safe sea-lanes and this

has been an effective way to test Navy's readiness in this domain in enabling maritime

*Published on 31
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Ryan Zerbe
(author), CPOIS
Cameron Martin
(photographer)*

*Minehunter HMAS
Yarra at anchor in
the early morning
light in Jervis Bay.*



Navy's Maritime Trade Operations Element gains Battle-worthiness Certification

In recognition of their mission readiness status, the Maritime Trade Operations Element recently gained their inaugural Battle-worthiness Certification.

Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) Team One successfully demonstrated its mission readiness, this being the team's operational response capability, during Exercise VITAL PROSPECT 20.

Located in Queensland at HMAS Moreton, Maritime Trade Operations are an established lodger unit that provide a nationwide capability and significant interface between the Australian Defence Force and civil maritime industry.

The Maritime Trade Operations capability is utilised across the full spectrum of maritime military operations, from pre-contingency shaping through to high end warfare.

Navy's expertise in the commercial maritime industry and shipping sector is provided by the niche skill sets of Maritime Trade Operations that does not reside elsewhere within Navy.

Battle-worthiness is the highest level of readiness certification in the Royal Australian Navy, and the recent achievement by the Maritime Trade Operations Element was recognised with the certification presentation by Captain John Cowan (Maritime Observer Training Team) in a small ceremony at Moreton.

"During the exercise the Maritime Trade Operations Element was able to bring a different viewpoint and approached challenges with a different perspective.

"The team fitted in seamlessly adding great value throughout, it is good to see Navy's Maritime Component Command Element capability augmented by the effective use of the Maritime Trade Operations capability," Captain Cowan said.

For the Maritime Trade Operations Team One Operations Officer Lieutenant Commander Rick Christensen, this was an important achievement for the future of the Maritime Trade Operations capability's operational response component.



Captain John Cowan with Lieutenant Commander Christensen holding the Maritime Trade Operations Element Battle-worthiness Certification.

"The way our team performed and interlaced under challenging circumstances was great, I look forward to broader MTO employment in future exercises," Lieutenant Commander Christensen said.

Director Maritime Trade Operations Team One Captain Michael Beard was proud of the team's achievements and this inaugural recognition for Maritime Trade Operations team one.

"This is the first time the MTO Element has attempted a Battle-worthiness Certification, it is good to know Maritime Trade Operations Team one can now confidently support contingency operations with the delivery of the Maritime Trade Operations effect through a fully certified operational team," Captain Michael Beard said.

"Moving forward, Maritime Trade Operations Team one now maintains an established presence at Moreton, with the Operations Officer position forming the capability's point of contact.

"This inaugural certification outcome is significant in a warfighting sense, particularly in terms of Maritime Trade Operations Team one continuing to meet its Chief of Navy's Preparedness Directive obligations and in helping deliver Plan Pelorus outcomes."

Published on 19 October 2020 SBLT Nancy Cotton (author),

Chloe:

The location of the Young and Jackson's painting of Chloe was checked out by the NAA National Council in 2017 when it had dinner in Young and Jackson's. She was hung in a lounge on the first floor and completely covered a window. On leaving the hotel later that evening and waiting to catch a tram back to our accommodation in Spencer Street you could see the window and the back of the painting from the tram stop in Flinders Street.

Editor

The Running (Cinder) Track in HMAS Cerberus (FND)

The photograph of LSPTI Pope checking times reveals the change in the running track at HMAS Cerberus since 1956 when it was a part of the sporting facilities integral to the Royal Australian Naval College (RANC) (re-established in HMAS Creswell in 1958).

The cinder track, as it was known then, was one of the few that existed in Victoria prior to the 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne.

Franz Stampf visited the RANC in 1955 giving coaching lessons on the cinder track to the Cadet Midshipmen. Two of the College staff also attended lectures given by Franz Stampf in the Melbourne University.

In late 1953 Stampf coached Chris Chataway and Chris Brasher, and advised (Sir) Roger Bannister in his quest to break the four-minute-mile barrier. On 6 May 1954 in blustery conditions at Iffley Road track, Oxford, Bannister - paced successively by Brasher then Chataway, and guided by Stampf, who bellowed 'relax' in lap two—ran the distance in 3 minutes 59.4 seconds. Stampf, supporting an exhausted Bannister at the tape, was integral to surpassing the ultimate human physical obstacle of its day.

By May 1955 Stampf had been engaged to coach by the Victorian AAA and Women's AAA, the Department of Education, the National Fitness Council, and the University of Melbourne. After arriving in Melbourne in August, he trained potential Olympians and praised their prospects. To encourage the participation of women in athletics, he advised them that they would not 'lose their charm' by competing. That year he was appointed as a lecturer in physical education at the University of Melbourne.

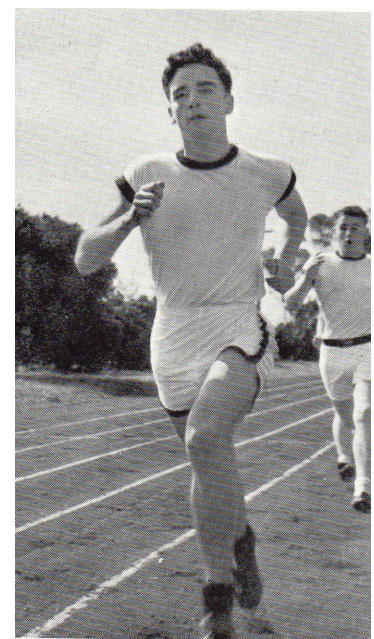
The track was used by 1956 Olympic competitors for training prior to their event in the Olympics. Czechoslovakian Emil Zátopek was one of them. He came 6th in the marathon.

Emil Zátopek was once the world's best loved

athlete – many runners still consider him the greatest Olympic champion of all. But in 1968 his life took a turn for the worse. His brave stand against the Soviet tanks that invaded his native Czechoslovakia saw him fall foul of the Communist authorities – and vanish from public life. Today, he is all but forgotten.



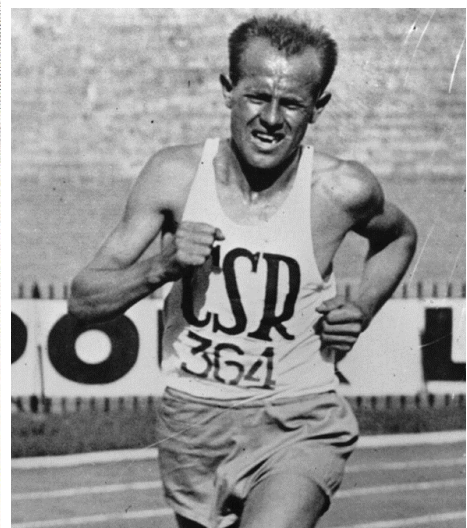
Above: Leading Seaman Physical Trainer Robert Pope checking the times during the 'Relay for Lockdown' fitness challenge at HMAS Cerberus.



Right: The track as it was in 1956 with C/Mid H Donohue running the mile in 4 min 43.6 secs

Below Left: Franz Stampf second from right coaching C/Mids F Foster and A Johnson

Below right: Emil Zátopek



DSH Insurance – Eligibility expanded from 1 January 2020

What has changed?

From 1 January 2020 we expanded the eligibility requirements for our home building insurance to include all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with at least one day of full time service (including reservists and peacekeepers, as well as widows and widowers of those ADF members).

Prior to 1 January 2020, DSH (Defence Service Homes) Insurance's eligibility requirements were generally limited to those who had seen war like service or those who had at least four years' service in the ADF (eight years for reservists).

This change has addressed the disparity in eligibility criteria and means that all current and former members of the ADF can now access our home building insurance regardless of their type or length of service.

Who is a current or former member of the ADF for the purposes of DSH Insurance?

A current or former member of the ADF includes any officer, sailor, soldier or airman.

Who is a peacekeeper for the purposes of DSH Insurance?

A peacekeeper is any person who has served with an Australian Peacekeeping Force.

What does one day of full time service mean?

From 1 January 2020 if you have served in the ADF for at least one day or you are the widow/widower of a member who has, then you are eligible for our home building insurance.

When did the expanded eligibility take effect?

The expanded eligibility for home building insurance took effect from 1 January 2020.

What do the eligibility requirements relate to?

The eligibility requirements only apply to home building insurance underwritten by DSH Insurance.

I'm a reservist, but I haven't completed any continuous full time service (CFTS). Can I still get DSH Insurance?

Yes. From 1 January 2020 if you have served in the ADF (including reserves) for at least one day or you are the widow(er) of a member who has, then you are eligible for our home building insurance.

My parent was in the ADF, am I eligible?

No. The eligible person is the one who has completed the service in the Australian Defence Force (or their widow / widower).

If you are not eligible for home building insurance through DSH Insurance but are part of the Defence community, we can arrange a home building policy through our arrangement with QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited.

What do I need to provide to validate my eligibility?

We should be able to verify your eligibility with the information we already have if you:

- are a client of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
- have a Defence Service Homes or Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme loan, or
- have registered with "My Service".

Navy Engineer humbled by award

The Australian Defence Magazine (ADM) Women in Defence Awards ceremony was live-streamed around the country last week as finalists gathered at various events in front of televisions, phones and computer screens to hear the winners announced.

Navy's five finalists, Captain Tish van Stralen, Lieutenant Commander Siobhan Sturdy, Ms Samantha Roald, Chief Petty Officer Jessica Buley, and Petty Officer Natalie Stephens

Present at the live streaming event were Commander Submarine Force Captain Doug Theobald and Deputy Commander Submarine Force Commander Chris Forward who were both thrilled to see Lieutenant Commander Sturdy's work and contribution to the Submarine Force recognised.

"Submarine Force is very proud of Siobhan, who is a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award," Commander Chris Forward said.

"Siobhan has been an outstanding example of the many high achieving women currently serving in the Submarine Force, Navy and Defence."

Another Navy winner was Captain Tish van Stralen, who received a Judge's Special Mention in the Project Management category.



Lieutenant Commander Siobhan Sturdy receives the phone call advising that she has won the Engineering category in the Australian Defence Magazine's Women in Defence Awards 2020



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