



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 28 No 10

Once Navy, Always Navy

November 2023

## Last Post Ceremonies



Last Post Ceremony commemorating Lieutenant Gilbert Norman Webb Harvey RANVR who was killed in the sinking of HMS Hythe in the Mediterranean Sea on 11 October 1943. Wreath Laid by Tiger Lyons (back row, third from right) with VIP Mr Muhammad Herindra M.A. M.Sc, Deputy Defence Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia Ministry of Defense accompanied by Brigadier Matthew Campbell, Head of Australian Defence Staff, Jakarta on 11 October 2023. Tiger also laid a wreath on 19 October remembering Ordinary Seaman William McGregor who was killed by enemy bombing in HMS Victory, Portsmouth UK on 27 April 1941 whilst undergoing the RANR Yachtsman Training Scheme Course

Photos: Flickr

### Events coming up

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 27 Oct | Last Post Ceremony AB Geoffrey C Reeve HMAS Australia South China Sea         |
| 19 Nov | Last Post Ceremony Loss of HMAS Sydney (II)                                   |
| 19 Nov | Last Post Ceremony Shipwright Harry E Lillywhite HMAS Sydney (II) 20 Nov 1941 |
| 7 Dec  | Christmas lunch—Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin                              |



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the  
**Naval Association of Australia**

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

## Naval Association of Australia

### ACT Section

**Founded 1 July 1944**

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

#### Office Bearers 2023

|                |                     |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| President      | David Manolas       | 0427 504 564        |
| Vice President | Alex McGown         | 02 6258 6167        |
| Secretary      | <b>Alan Masters</b> | <b>02 6281 5630</b> |
| Treasurer      | <b>Alan Masters</b> | <b>02 6281 5630</b> |

#### Committee Members

|                   |                            |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Welfare</b>    | <b>Alex McGown</b>         | <b>02 6258 6167</b> |
| <b>Membership</b> | <b>Peter Cooke-Russell</b> | <b>0412 757 505</b> |
|                   | <b>John Small</b>          | <b>02 6258 1216</b> |
|                   | <b>Tiger Lyons</b>         | <b>02 6254 3453</b> |
|                   | <b>Alaric O'Neill</b>      |                     |
|                   | <b>Joe Slaats</b>          |                     |
|                   | <b>Stewart Gordon</b>      |                     |
| <b>Editor BC</b>  | <b>Peter Cooke-Russell</b> | <b>0412 757 505</b> |
| <b>Social Sec</b> | <b>Joe Slaats</b>          |                     |

#### Contact Details

The President ACT Section  
0427 504 564  
stbdstayportgiveness@gmail.com

#### The Secretary ACT Section

NAA ACT Section  
26 Nelson Place,  
CURTIN ACT 2605.

secretary.naa.act@gmail.com  
Tel 02 6281 5630

#### Membership Registrar/BC Editor

peter.cookerussell@gmail.com  
0412 757 505

### General Meetings Dates and Locations Programme

#### 2023

2 Nov Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

#### 2024

1 Feb Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

7 Mar Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

7 Mar **AGM on completion of General Meeting**

4 Apr Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

2 May Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

6 Jun Eastlakes Club Gungahlin 1330

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

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

## President's Note

Dear Shipmates,

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Mr Kahlil Fegan, the newly appointed Repatriation Commissioner. I look forward to follow-up discussions with him on a number of issues identified from within the Association and will duly report on these proceedings.

The NAA National Executive have met via Zoom to consider our recommendations and discussion-points for the forthcoming National Council (NC) Meeting in Launceston, 08 November 2023. Within the National Executive, planning is underway for our next Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be conducted in Canberra, probably in May – June 2024.

Consideration is also underway as to the means by which National Executive representatives could visit and meet with Section and Sub-section members in the first quarter of next year for the purposes of providing an up-date on Association matters and information gathering on the needs and aspirations of members.

We wish you well with your preparations for Remembrance Day; 'Lest We Forget'.

Best wishes

David Manolas

President ACT Section

By Editor

Brief on items for discussion at National Council:

1. Alter at National level, By-laws to improve badge and certificate payment system.
2. Reduce timing of Long Service Certificate awards to 10, 15, 20 and 25 years.
3. Review NAA Membership types.
4. Discuss introduction of a NAA dress code.
5. Life Members to make a donation in lieu of the Section/ Sub-section paying capitation.
6. Set up a National Anchor Fund to help sub-sections which are struggling financially.

Regards

Peter C-R

**Committee meeting  
Eastlakes Gungahlin  
1100 Thursday 2 November 2023**



## Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

16 October 2023

The Chair of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has thanked past and present Defence members and their loved ones for their important contribution to the inquiry following the closure of submissions.

The Royal Commission received 5,889 submissions during its 27-month public consultation period – including 391 (~7%) received in the final 24 hours up until midnight on Friday (13 October 2023).

About 80% of submissions were from serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel, and their families and friends.

The five most common themes identified in submissions were –

- suicide and suicidal behaviour
- ADF culture, governance and accountability
- mental illness
- Department of Veterans' Affairs claims and compensation, and
- ADF mental health support and responses

Chair of the Royal Commission, Nick Kaldas, thanked everyone who made a submission to the landmark inquiry.

"This Royal Commission has been greatly assisted by the thousands of submissions that it has received," Commissioner Kaldas said. "To everyone who shared your deeply personal stories with us, thank you."

"The experiences you've shared have shone a bright light on the cultural and systemic issues that are failing serving and ex-serving ADF members, and their families – as well as the risk and protective factors for suicide and suicidality."

The final number of submissions could be higher given the Royal Commission will continue to accept submissions by mail which are postmarked prior to Friday's closing date, while a small number of people have had their requests for a time extension granted after careful consideration of their specific circumstances.

The Royal Commission will continue to read and analyse all submissions over the coming months as it works towards its final report – and developing recommendations to Government which are realistic, fit-for-purpose and implementable.

Commissioner Kaldas reiterated that the Royal Commission is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address a national crisis: the high rates of suicide and suicidal behaviour in Australia's military community.

"We strongly urge Government and the leadership of the ADF, Defence and DVA to see this inquiry as an opportunity to drive the long overdue change that is required to ensure past and present personnel, and their families, have the support they need and deserve – and to end the senseless loss of life," he said.

### ***What happens after submissions close?***

After submissions close, the work of the Royal Commission continues. We will continue to read and carefully consider submissions. The Commissioners are continuing to hold private sessions with individuals who have lived experience of suicide. We will continue to meet with community members, consult with stakeholders, conduct research, hold workshops and roundtables, and evaluate policy. We will also release a report on the body to follow the Royal Commission.

The insights that we have gathered over the course of our three-year inquiry will come together to inform our final report.

The support of the Defence and veteran community is now vitally important, and we encourage people to continue to advocate to Government for change. You can support the Commission's work by raising awareness about the inquiry, and, when the time comes, reading our final report, considering the recommendations, and using your voice to compel Government to act so we can achieve long-lasting and meaningful change for the Defence and veteran community.

As the highest form of public inquiry, the Royal Commission focuses its inquiry on systemic issues that may be contributing to Defence and veteran suicide.

The Commission will be able to make recommendations about any policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms.

The Royal Commission will be informed by individual stories and experiences but it cannot resolve individual disputes. It cannot fix or award compensation or make orders requiring a party to a dispute to take or not take any action.





## Joint Communiqué - Veterans' Ministerial Council

6 October 2023

**The Hon Matt Keogh MP**  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

Federal, State and Territory Ministers responsible for veterans' matters met in Perth today, committing to strengthening national collaboration on the services and supports available for veterans and their families.

The Veterans' Ministerial Council was joined by the United Kingdom Minister of State for Veterans' Affairs, the Rt Hon Johnny Mercer MP, who is currently visiting Australia. Minister Mercer provided an update on matters of importance to UK veterans and families and shared insights into the UK veteran landscape.

### **Harmonisation of veteran recognition and concessions**

Given the transient nature of defence service and the probability of a veteran family relocating following service, Ministers acknowledged the need for clearer and more consistent veteran concession arrangements. Ministers discussed opportunities for national harmonisation and mutual recognition of relevant identification documents, such as concession cards. Ministers agreed to work collaboratively towards this goal, recognising the need to improve collaboration in support of currently serving defence personnel and families who frequently move around the country.

Similarly, Ministers acknowledged this transient lifestyle had an impact on Defence and veteran families, particularly children. They considered the merits of including a 'Defence and/or Veteran Family' identifier on school enrolment forms to help identify the children of current and former Australian Defence Force personnel and other strategies to simplify access to education. This initiative is currently being progressed in the ACT and South Australia. Ministers noted the potential benefits of this initiative, intended to improve the school based supports for children from veteran families. Ministers agreed to explore this in their relevant jurisdictions.

### **Veteran Mental Health Support**

The Council agreed that the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has made it abundantly clear that more needs to be done to support the mental health and wellbeing of Defence personnel, veterans and families. The Council was briefed on the development of the inaugural joint Defence and Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy; progress of the Veterans' and

Families' Hubs program; the recently released Veteran Transition Strategy; and the implementation of the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

With this commitment to improving mental health outcomes for Australian veterans and families, Ministers discussed the desirability of a national approach to psychiatric assistance dog accreditation and agreed to work together to progress national standards.

### **Research underway**

Representatives from the Western Australian and South Australian Governments delivered a presentation on the work they are doing to better support and understand veterans in the corrective services system. The Council discussed the need to improve data collection relating to veterans' incarceration and homelessness, with research into these issues currently underway.

### **Ministerial attendees**

- *Australian Government (Chair): Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel*
- *Australian Capital Territory: Ms Emma Davidson MLA*
- *New South Wales: The Hon. David Harris MP (virtual)*
- *Northern Territory: The Hon Paul Kirby MLA (virtual)*
- *Queensland: Mr Bart Mellish MP*
- *Tasmania: The Hon. Guy Barnett MP (virtual)*
- *Victoria: The Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP*
- *Western Australia: The Hon. Paul Papalia MLA*
- *Guest: United Kingdom Minister of State for Veterans' Affairs, the Rt Hon Johnny Mercer MP*

### **Media contact**

Stephanie Mathews | [0407 034 485](tel:0407034485)

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling** provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046) or the [Open Arms website](#). **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on [1800 142 072](tel:1800142072). **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on [1800 628 036](tel:1800628036) or the [Defence Health Portal](#). **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on [1800 624 608](tel:1800624608)

## Voice in the Australian Capital Territory

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT a strong democratically elected voice. The seven members are elected to represent the interests and aspirations of the local Indigenous community. The members are:

Tanya Keed (Chairperson)  
Paula McGrady (Deputy Chairperson)  
Maurice Walker  
Joanne Chivers  
Leah House  
Lynnice Church (on leave)

### ACT Reconciliation Council

The ACT Reconciliation Council plays a vital role in promoting reconciliation across Canberra, encouraging all members of the community to learn more about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Reconciliation is a continual process of renewal and re engagement with the community to build a shared understanding of our past and future. The Council act as community ambassadors, encouraging community conversations about the importance of reconciliation throughout the year.

Council members bring a diverse range of experience and great enthusiasm for promoting community conversations about reconciliation and overseeing preparations for Reconciliation Day Link each year. The current Council members are:

Ms Selina Walker – Co-Chair  
Professor Richard Baker – Co Chair  
Ms Hayley Vincent – Member  
Ms Naomi Shirley – Member  
Ms Natalie Howson – Member

### ACT Public Service Indigenous Network (Murranga Murranga)

The ACT Public Service Indigenous Network was established in January 2008 and provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed in the ACT Public Service to contribute to improving program and service delivery by the ACT Government.

The network is known as Murranga Murranga, a Ngunnawal word given to the network by the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. Murranga by itself means 'hand' and together Murranga Murranga means 'hand in hand'.

The Network has an executive team consisting of 2 co-chairs and 2 team members. The Network also consists of four working groups:

employment  
mentoring and leadership  
workforce retention  
cultural integrity

Secretariat and administrative support for Murranga Murranga is provided by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

### United Ngunnawal Elders Council

The United Ngunnawal Elders Council is a significant Aboriginal body providing advice to the ACT Government in relation to heritage and connection to land matters for the Ngunnawal people. The Council also provides advice to the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in accordance with Section 9 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008.

The Council is made up of representatives nominated by each of the Ngunnawal family groups. The Council meets up to four times a year in Canberra.

The ACT Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs provides funding to assist the council meetings.

### ACT Government action

In 2017, the Government announced a review into the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system in the ACT.

The systemic review into the child protection system provided a better understanding of how we – government and the community – can reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care and ensure children remain connected to community and culture, supporting parents and families to safely care for their children.

Most importantly, Our Booris, Our Way was a wholly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-designed and led review, and a national leading example of practical self-determination.

### Our Booris, Our Way Review Steering Committee

A Steering Committee for the *Our Booris, Our Way* Review was established in January 2018. This was following two co-design workshops in November and December 2017 to establish the committee, membership, governance and the Terms of Reference for the Review.

The Steering Committee members hold a diverse set of capabilities and lived experience in child protection and related areas such as child and women's services, justice, legal support, human rights and service delivery. Members included:

(Continued on page 6)

## Voice in the Australian Capital Territory

(Continued from page 5)

Barbara Causon – Chair  
 Alana Harris – Winnunga Nimmityjah  
 Robyn Martin – Beryl Women's Inc  
 Ray Simpson  
 Peter Williams - Gugan Gulwan  
 Sharon Williams – Carer  
 Natalie Brown – Deputy Chair  
 Caroline Hughes – Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
 Islander Elected Body  
 Jo Chivers – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Is-  
 lander Elected Body

The *Our Booris, Our Way* Review sought public submissions to support the understanding and analysis of opportunities for change across the ACT child protection system. The review welcomed submissions from people with lived experience of Child Protection/Out of Home Care, peak bodies, advocacy groups, academics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and other interested individuals.

The *Our Booris, Our Way* Review made 28 recommendations and 8 sub-recommendations to government. These recommendations were made iteratively over a two-year period with the final report presented to government in December 2019. The ACT Government response was published the following year.

### Our Booris, Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee

In June 2020, the *Our Booris, Our Way* Implementation Oversight Committee was established to monitor implementation and provide a cultural lens to guide the systemic reform necessary to meet the expectations set out in the review.

The Oversight Committee meets monthly to consider various elements of the work, with detailed quarterly updates provided by relevant directorates. The committee members are:

Natalie Brown – Chair  
 Barb Causon  
 Robyn Martin – Beryl Women's Inc  
 Sharon Williams  
 Maurice Walker – ATSIEB  
 Justin Church  
 Charmaine Barratt

### ACT Government response and progress reports

The ACT Government is working closely with the *Our Booris, Our Way* Implementation Oversight Committee to progress the 28 recommendations and 8 sub-recommendations contained in the final report. Each of the actions listed under these recommendations contribute to a systemic reform of the child protection system in the ACT.

On 13 August 2020 the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Rachel Stephen Smith tabled in the Legislative Assembly the formal ACT Government response to each of the rec-

ommendations. The first implementation report covering the period July to December 2020 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 May 2021. The minister committed to table a report in the ACT Legislative Assembly every 6 months detailing progress against each of the recommendations:

*Reference: Committees and Representative Bodies - Community Services (act.gov.au)*

### Six monthly Update (July – December 2022)

#### Executive Summary

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people continue to be overrepresented in the ACT's Child and Youth protection system, and the recommendations of the *Our Booris Our Way* hold the solutions to addressing the system failures that drive this outcome.

In this fifth progress report, the ACT Government's efforts from July to December 2022, along with our next steps, are shared. Key highlights in this six monthly period include the establishment of an Aboriginal Services Development Unit that will support the development and enhancement of current, emerging and new Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations across the ACT region.

The setting up of an identified Secretariat Team to support the *Our Booris, Our Way* Implementation and Oversight Committee. Complementing this team is the Implementation team that is working with the Directorates to deliver on the intent of the recommendations.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner Bill was passed on 29 November 2022. This role will bring cultural support and advocacy to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families while holding the Government accountable. The Government will undertake a national recruitment process for the role in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the new Commissioner will be appointed in 2023. In the meantime, Barbara Causon, former Chair of the *Our Booris, Our Way* Implementation Oversight Committee, has been appointed as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Advocate to support children and families.

The Aboriginal Legal Service continues to work hard to stand up the care and protection legal and advocacy service. They have been recruiting staff, working with stakeholders on referral pathways and developing materials to share with the community about what the service is and how to access it.

The Children and Youth Protection Service is also working hard to establish a First Nations Family Support Team. This team will develop new ways of working so they can come together with families and communities to ensure children and young people are safe and well.

The Community Services Directorate (CSD) has also been working closely with the Chair on the

(Continued on page 7)

## Voice in the Australian Capital Territory and Wreck Bay (JBT)

(Continued from page 6)

recruitment of identified staff to various key roles.

CSD provides data to the Committee through a quarterly Data Report. CSD continue to work with the Committee on the current data and its presentation and to consider what additional data could be included in the report.

The new 2022-2024 Commissioning Roadmap was launched in December 2022 and outlines the strategic approach for commissioning that supports self-determination through fostering the growth of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) within the Canberra community and cultivating culturally responsive services across Canberra to improve equitable access and choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Significant effort continues to be expended training staff on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle with 80% of staff trained.

Family Group Conferencing awareness and participation continues to increase.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Curijo have established a research project on understanding the experiences of kinship carers and ways in which they can be supported to provide care and improve outcomes for themselves and the children or young people in their care. A focus of the project will be on identifying the needs of kinship carers, particularly in the first twelve months.

The Committee has been very strong on the need for more active efforts on restoration to parents and kin. In responding to their feedback, and following the review conducted by the Children and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) Restoration Panel, a Restoration Taskforce has been established. The Taskforce works with families, CYPS staff and ACT Together to carefully consider individual circumstances relating to restoration.

A new initiative called 'Spotlight on Practice' has been developed that engages CYPS staff in ongoing learning and reflection about good practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.

CSD has been examining how to improve family connection practices within CYPS and with ACT Together. A Monitoring and Review Framework has been used to uplift practice in a range of areas with ACT Together including family connections and contact arrangements. The framework has been in place for over 12 months and has monitored and reviewed 125 children with a focus on ensuring family connection is frequent, facilitates high quality relationship building and is in natural settings to facilitate the growth and maintenance of family relationships. Overall, findings show a demonstrated improvement in maintaining connection with the child's and young person's own culture and community.

*Reference: Our Booris Our Way Review six monthly update July to December 2022 (act.gov.au)*

The **Jervis Bay Territory (JBT)** is an internal territory of Australia. It was established in 1915 from part of New South Wales (NSW), in order to give the landlocked Australian Capital Territory (ACT) access to the sea.

It was administered by the Department of the Interior (and later by the Department of the Capital Territory) as if it were part of the ACT, although it has always been a separate Commonwealth territory. The perception that it is part of the ACT stems from the fact that under the terms of the Jervis Bay Territory Acceptance Act 1915, the laws of the ACT apply to the Jervis Bay Territory. In 1989, when the ACT achieved self-government, the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories took over responsibility for the JBT's administration; it has since been administered by various Commonwealth departments responsible for territories.

The Jervis Bay Territory is counted as part of the ACT for the purpose of the ACT's representation in the Senate; it forms part of the Division of Fenner for House of Representatives purposes.

For most purposes, the territory is governed under the laws of the Australian Capital Territory, by the Jervis Bay Administration, which handles matters normally concerned with local or state government. It also provides primary school teachers and Australian Federal Police staffing. Residents have access to the courts of the ACT, but are not separately represented in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Although they are subject to ACT law and some services are contracted by the Australian Government to nearby (New South Wales) councils, Jervis Bay Territory residents have no voting rights at ACT Assembly or NSW local elections. They do however have access to the decision-making process through community organisations. Further, Aboriginal persons who are registered members of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council have voting rights both at meetings of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, and to elect the executive of that Council.

Section 61 of the Defence Force Discipline Act (DFDA) makes all Australian Defence Force members and "Defence Civilians" subject to the criminal laws of the Jervis Bay Territory regardless of where the offence occurred. This is a legal mechanism that makes Defence personnel subject to the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth), the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) and offences against the criminal law of the ACT, as military law, even if the offence is committed elsewhere outside Australia.

The Commonwealth contracts the ACT government to provide various services like courts, education and welfare, the Government of New South Wales for rural fire services and community health, Shoalhaven City Council for waste collection and library services, and commercial providers for electricity and water supplies.

*Reference: Wikipedia*



## Making commemorative services work

20 October 2023

An important part of DVA's role is to acknowledge and commemorate all those who have served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

Commemorative events raise community awareness and understanding of the service and sacrifice of our military personnel and families, and promote improved veteran wellbeing outcomes through recognition and respect.

For a veteran, it's about remembering those you tragically lost, those you served with, engaging with the families, and an opportunity to reflect on what you did as an individual, a unit and most importantly with your mates,' says Paul Richardson CSC OAM, Director of Commemorative Events at DVA. 'It goes towards making veterans feel proud about their service. And it's an education process – making the younger generation aware of what these veterans did for us.'

A veteran himself (see side story), Paul heads up three small teams in the department's Commemorations Branch that are responsible for organising the annual Anzac Day services in Gallipoli, Türkiye, and Villers-Bretonneux, France as well as significant domestic commemorations in Australia as directed by the Government.

He says the two major challenges in delivering appropriate commemorations are the logistics and getting the narrative right. He takes as an example the National Commemorative Service marking the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, which took place on 18 August in Canberra.

'The key for us to get that right was to listen to those who served in Vietnam,' Paul says. 'The hard part was telling their story appropriately and accurately – not just the Army but the Navy and Air Force as well as National Servicemen, civilians, nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and families.'

'Families are that critical link. They were stuck at home, not knowing what's going on. The Vietnam War became unpopular. All of that was a pretty difficult dynamic for a family member to take on. There were some people who never met their fathers because they were tragically killed. Others came back drastically different as a result of their service. Families were critical in helping them deal with what they had been through, and the families themselves can be affected by that.'

That's why the DVA team ensured that both veter-



*Paul Richardson, with Anzac Day services on Gallipoli, old & new, in background*

*Photo: DVA*

ans and families were directly involved in the National Commemorative Service. In particular the descendants, widows and other relatives of some of the 523 personnel killed.

Paul's teams start planning for events like Anzac Day about six months out from 25 April. But for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, planning began in 2021.

'Apart from developing the commemorative medalion and certificate, the main reason was engagement,' Paul says. 'We met with a Vietnam Consultative Committee every couple of months, where we asked their views on every aspect of the service. We have a unique linkage with the ex-service organisations who represent the 35,000 surviving Vietnam veterans. We relied on them to filter information through to their members. Then when it got closer to the event, we broadened our reach to those unit level associations and that was to make sure that they were aware what was going on. Talking to Vietnam veterans was important to ensure that we understood how they felt our preparations would be viewed by Vietnam veterans.'

A big focus of the commemorative program was ensuring that the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans was acknowledged, regardless of their role or the duration of their tour.

'Even though it was a memorial service, we wanted to thank those veterans for their service and their contribution to society,' Paul says. 'And draw that link between the current Australian Defence Force and themselves. We introduced a general salute for the veterans, which I believe was well overdue and well received. We also went to great lengths to make sure all the associations were represented,

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Making commemorative services work

*(Continued from page 8)*

where possible. Every one of them laid wreaths as that was considered to be essential by the veterans. We extended the service to accommodate that.

'Because it's not about what you did. It's about acknowledging service and sacrifice equally. Everyone's exposure and reaction is different. No matter where you served, you're affected by the experience. Commemoration is what brings that all together.'

'The biggest lesson we learned was to listen. To find out what veterans wanted and expected. Being a veteran myself makes that easier because I still speak military-speak. There are some other veterans in the team too and that helps.'

His one regret about the service was that a flypast of two Vietnam-era Caribou transport planes and a Huey helicopter all flown by Vietnam veterans couldn't go ahead due to poor weather. But otherwise Paul feels that it achieved exactly what it set out to.

'Organising it was demanding but extremely rewarding for all of our team,' he says. 'I think it went a long way to making those veterans who felt their service had never been appropriately acknowledged, now has been.'

'But I appreciate that you can't heal all old wounds and that tragically many Vietnam veterans still struggle as a result of their service. I have mates I have also served with who also struggle as a result of their service.'

'I can confidently speak on behalf of my team when I say that it was an absolute privilege to deliver these commemorations that honoured the service and sacrifice of all those who

served during the Vietnam War, including those who tragically did not return.'

'The Vietnam era taught us that we need to continue to recognise veterans' service and we must continue to support them and their families now and well into the future, particularly those who are struggling.'

Though just a handful of DVA staff planned the event, around 40 staff from elsewhere in the department turned up on the day to ensure things went smoothly. Paul's team also relies on other staff to provide support in France and Türkiye.

Paul is hoping to get the Anzac Day host nations more involved in the future.

'What we deliver is based on very traditional customs and protocols but we have to add contemporary elements to it,' he says. 'It would be great for instance if a Turkish teenager could take part in the pre-service activities at Gallipoli, giving their great-great-grandfather's perspective of the campaign. Getting Australian and New Zealander kids involved would be great too, just to pass on that understanding.'

*By DVA*

*DVA's Rory Walker and Elspeth Forster are ready for the start of the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative service*

*Photos: DVA*



## Recent and upcoming updates to the MyService experience

16 October 2023

Under the Modernisation Program, DVA is working to improve the claiming process in MyService. We are pleased to announce that from Sunday 15 October 2023 you will see some new features in MyService. The following improvements will first be applied to Initial Liability claims, but over time you will see these changes applied to other claims:

- Prompts to help you provide the information needed to support a claim at the time you submit it.
- Notification through the myGov Inbox if we need further information about your claim, along with a link to a MyService task that provides you with all the information you need to provide the additional information.
- An enhanced MyService experience for uploading documents to your claims, as well as viewing details of your documents and claims.
- The ability for you to view information and provide documents via MyService for all claims whether submitted through MyService or other channels, reducing the need to send that information by paper or email. This capability provides you with a more intuitive document upload experience, including the ability to add any 'Other' documents they like to their claim up until determination, and view all the documents uploaded in MyService against their claim at any time.

For more information see the [Updating and Enhancing MyService factsheet \(PDF 637 KB\)](#) or if you need any assistance, please call [1800 VET-](#)

## Notes from the Committee 5 October 2023

Present: David Manolas, Alex McGown, Peter Cooke-Russell, Dennis Lyons, Alan Masters, Alaric O'Neill, Stewart Gordon

Apologies: Joe Slaats.

A range of items was discussed with the focus on items for the general meeting.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 2 November 2023 at 1100.

Alan Masters  
Secretary  
NAA (ACT)

## Advocacy handbooks

[ERAN \(1800 838 372\)](#)

**Last updated:**

24 April 2023

On DVA website

- [Rehabilitation and Compensation Handbook](#)
- [Wellbeing Handbook](#)
- [Wellbeing Support Officer \(WSO\) Handbook](#)
- [Compensation Support Officer \(CSO\) Handbook](#)
- [GARP](#)

### **Rehabilitation and Compensation Handbook**

- [Rehabilitation and Compensation Handbook \(PDF 11 MB\)](#)
- [Rehabilitation and Compensation Handbook \(DOCX 3.6 MB\)](#)

### **Wellbeing Handbook**

- [Wellbeing Handbook \(PDF 2.3 MB\)](#)
- [Wellbeing Handbook \(DOCX 3.6 MB\)](#)

### **Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) Handbook**

- [Wellbeing Support Officer Handbook \(PDF 400 KB\)](#)
- [Wellbeing Support Officer Handbook \(DOCX 200 KB\)](#)

### **Compensation Support Officer (CSO) Handbook**

- [Compensation Support Officer Handbook \(PDF 1 MB\)](#)
- [Compensation Support Officer Handbook \(DOCX 6 MB\)](#)

Handbooks for Support Officers are under review. Any questions or enquiries regarding Advocacy Handbooks should be directed to [ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au).

### **GARP**

[Guide to the assessment of rates of veterans' pensions](#) (GARP) is used to assess the extent of incapacity from war caused or defence caused injury or disease for the purposes of determining the rate of pension.



## Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 5 October 2023

**Meeting** started at 1330 with the Odes recited by David Manolas.

**Present:** 14 members and three visitors as per attendance book.

**Apologies:** M. Hardwick, J. Small, K. Reid-Smith, J. Slaats, A. Vickers, H. Beardsell, W. Lissing, R. Ridgeway, R. Horne

**Minute of Last Meeting.** The minutes of the General meeting on 7 September 2023 appeared in the October 2023 edition of the Bosun's Call

*Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 September 2023 be accepted.*

*Moved: A. O'Neill Seconded: S. Gordon Carried.*

**Business arising from the Minutes.** Nil

**Reports.**

**President.** The President advised members the National Conference will be held in Hobart in 2024

**Vice President.** Volunteers are sought to lay the Section wreath at Last Post ceremonies. Names to the Secretary please, see dates in Bosun's Call.

**Secretary.** Business as usual.

**Treasurer.** Section funds remain in a healthy financial state and incoming subscription renewals are matching expenditure.

**Membership.** Numbers remain static. Mark Hill's application was considered and accepted. Geoff Wolford's resumption of membership was welcomed.

*Motion: Mark Hill be accepted as a Full member of the NAA.*

*Moved: P. Cooke-Russell Seconded: G. Quinn Carried*

**Welfare.** John and Wendy Small, Jack Aaron, and Tony Vickers remain on the sick list. The Secretary met up with Life Member Peter McNay and his wife Judith, an Honorary Member, and both were in fine spirits.

**Social:** Fish'n Chips has resumed. See social notes for dates

*Motion: The reports be received.*

*Moved: A. O'Neill Seconded: D. Lyons Carried*

**General Business:**  
Nil

**Meeting Closed.** There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 1357.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, 2 November 2023 at 1330 at the Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin.

Alan Masters  
Secretary  
NAA (ACT)



**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**7 DECEMBER 2023**  
**COMMENCING 1200**  
**EASTLAKE FOOTBALL**  
**CLUB**  
**GUNGAHLIN**



**NAA ACT Section  
Nomination Form  
2024 Committee Elections**

## Position

\_\_\_\_\_

## Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer:** Name (Block Letters) .....

Signature .....

**Second:** Name (Block Letters) .....

Signature.....

Date:.....

**Endorsement by Nominee .....**

**Nominations are to be delivered to**

## The Secretary, s NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 22 February 2024

**Subscription and Records Update 2024**  
**Annual Subscription for 2024 \$40.00 (Due now)**

Surname.....

**Given Names** .....

**Signature .....**

**Please complete the following details to bring our records up to date**

**Preferred Title.....Post Nominals.....**

Home Address.....

**Town/Suburb.....State/Territory.....**

Post Code.....

Telephoner (H) .....

Fax .....

Email .....

**Spouse/Partner Given Name .....**

## Note

**When completed please return this form together with your payment to; The Membership Registrar, either at a General meeting or by post to**

**4 McEachern Crescent MELBA 2615 or pay via the banking system to Nav Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section). transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account BSB: 633 000 Account Number 162 834 097**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### \$40 for 2024

Action to renew membership for 2024 can now undertaken in a number of different ways. The following, in order of preference for the Treasurer, are listed below, but any of them can be utilised.

The use of e-banking provides for ease of payment and your bank records act as your receipt. The annual subscription for 2024 is \$40

1. **Direct transfer of funds to the NAA (ACT Section).** Using e-bank facilities, transfer funds to Naval Association of Australia –ACT Section Account **BSB: 633 000 . Account Number 162 834 097** *Please ensure you have identified yourself as the payer in order that the Treasurer can correctly credit your payment.*
2. Payment using the mail system. Please do not send cash through the mail system. Cheques can be forwarded to Membership Registrar, 4 McEachern Crescent, MELBA ACT 2615. Receipts will NOT be mailed to payers.
3. Direct payment to Treasurer. The Treasurer will gladly accept cheques or cash from members at General Meetings. A receipt will be given to payers.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS SUCH AS HOME ADDRESS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE ADVISE THE MEMBERSHIP REGIS-

### *Social Program*

Fish 'n Chips is on the program, Snapper has reopened . Sun will shine.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2 Nov        | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200          |
| 16 Nov       | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200                  |
| <b>7 Dec</b> | <b>Christmas Lunch 1200</b>             |
|              | <b>Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin</b> |

#### 2024

- |        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| 18 Jan | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |
| 1 Feb  | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200 |
| 15 Feb | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |
| 7 Mar  | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200 |
| 15 Mar | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |
| 4 Apr  | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200 |
| 18 Apr | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |
| 2 May  | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200 |
| 16 May | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |
| 6 Jun  | Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200 |
| 20 Jun | Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200         |

**Social Secretary**  
**Joe Slaats**

## 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 epartment 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](mailto: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](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)



**A Happy Birthday to you**  
**November 2023**

Tim Hayden

Viv Littlewood

Graeme Quinn

Jeffrey Wolford



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

**POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**AUSTRALIA**

Paste Address label Here

The Bosun's Call Vol 28 No 10