



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 28 No 9

Once Navy, Always Navy

October 2023

## Legacy flame passes through Canberra



NAA Member Merle Hare at Legacy House lighting the flame before commencing her leg during the 2023 Legacy Centenary Torch Relay in Canberra.

Photo Nicole Mankowski

1 September 2023

Defence supported Legacy during the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay which celebrated the 'Centenary of the Legacy Promise', 100 years of looking after families of those who have served.

Legacy provides support to the families of serving and former serving personnel who have died or been injured as a result of their service. Legacy supports around 40,000 beneficiaries including wid-

ows, widowers, children and dependents with a disability. A ceremony at the Australian War Memorial launched the event, at the start of Legacy Week, with a ribbon being cut to start the Canberra leg of the relay, which involved 54 torch bearers. They worked together hand in hand to complete the walk, which passed through Canberra's iconic sites including Parliament House and Government House.

By Corporal Luke Bellman

### Events coming up

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 11 Oct | Last Post Ceremony Lieut Gilbert N W Harvey HMS <i>Hythe</i> Mediterranean Sea   |
| 12 Oct | DVA Heath Week BBQ—Duntroon Golf Clubhouse 1200—HMAS Sydney Assoc hosts          |
| 19 Oct | Last Post Ceremony Ord Sea William R McGregor HMS <i>Victory</i> , Portsmouth UK |
| 27 Oct | Last Post Ceremony AB Geoffrey C Reeve HMAS <i>Australia</i> South China Sea     |



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

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**Naval Association of Australia****ACT Section****Founded 1 July 1944**

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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**General Meetings  
Dates and Locations  
Programme**
**2023**

5 Oct	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
2 Nov	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330

**2024**

1 Feb	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Mar	Eastlakes Club Gungahlin	1330
7 Mar	<b>AGM on completion of General Meeting</b>	
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,

We congratulate Merle Hare on her participation in the 2023 Legacy Centenary Torch Relay in Canberra; she truly is an inspiration to us all in her determination to participate. The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay has been a six-month journey beginning in Pozieres France, passing through London and then around Australia. All who play a part in the work of Legacy are to be congratulated and to them all we extend our heartfelt thanks and admiration.

The next NAA Council Meeting will take place in Launceston, Tasmania on Wednesday 08 November 2023. Any member wishing to have a matter presented for discussion and possible determination needs to advise the NAA ACT Secretary now, so that we can take the necessary action. Thank you.

Best wishes

David Manolas

President  
ACT Section

**Committee meeting  
Eastlakes Gungahlin  
1100 Thursday 5 October 2023**



## Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

8 September 2023

The Chair of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide says he fears the Defence hierarchy is waiting for the inquiry to end so they can go back to business as usual.

The Royal Commission has today concluded its 11<sup>th</sup> public hearing in Melbourne, where it's heard further evidence about cultural and systemic issues within the Australian Defence Force and Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs.

In his closing statement, Commissioner Nick Kaldas warned the problems will never be fixed if leadership does not accept they exist.

"We still have not identified any strong evidence to suggest that Defence is prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of its people in a sustainable way," Commissioner Kaldas said.

"Nor does it seem to be responding adequately to the pressing issue of suicide and suicidality in its ranks with any sense of urgency."

"We Commissioners fear the Defence hierarchy is simply waiting for this inquiry to end so that it can

go back to business as usual. We hope that's not the case," he told the hearing.

The two-week hearing focused on the experience of ADF personnel transitioning to civilian life; cultural problems within Defence and how the hierarchy manages complaints relating to unacceptable behaviour; the lack of support from Defence and DVA for veterans and their families; and the military justice system in the ADF and how that is monitored.

The Royal Commission heard evidence from a former medical advisor within DVA who painted a bleak picture of the Department – highlighting poor leadership, a culture of blame and lack of interest in innovation.

"[R]egardless of the good work the DVA has been doing recently to clear the backlog of claims – its outdated systems and processes, as well as its adversarial approach to those it is supposed to be supporting, seem to be designed to limit access to entitlements. This must change," Mr Kaldas said.

The Royal Commission will next sit in Sydney from Monday 20 November 2023. Its final report is due to be delivered by no later than 17 June next year.

## Address by Commissioner Nick Kaldas APM (Chair) National Press Club, Canberra

### **Conclusion to National Press Club address**

13 September

Let's be clear: This Royal Commission does not seek to undermine our Defence capability.

We seek to help build a more resilient, stronger and better ADF, with a psychologically-safe workplace to meet Australia's future Defence challenges.

Operationally, when we first commenced this inquiry, we did not expect to be stymied and stone-walled along the way.

**We have faced significant delays in the provision of vital data and information sought from Defence, as well as other challenges such as cabinet-in-confidence, public interest immunity and parliamentary privilege – and the need to sensitively gather evidence without impacting issues of national security.**

**This Royal Commission is responding to a national crisis, decades in the making.**

**Despite the Government establishing a Royal Commission – and the legislature wanting certain issues investigated – obtaining critical in-**

**formation from Commonwealth bodies in a timely manner has been difficult.**

**Our success will require Government and its agencies – including the ADF, Defence and DVA – to, once and for all, get on board and act.**

The stark reality is that despite 57 previous inquiries over the last 20 to 30 years examining the risk factors for suicide in our military community – and almost 770 recommendations arising from those inquiries – very little has changed.

**People are still dying to this day!**

**We urge the Prime Minister, relevant ministers and the leadership of Defence and DVA to see this Royal Commission as an opportunity to drive the long overdue change that is required to ensure our brave men and women in uniform – and their families – have the support they need and deserve.**

**It's important to recognise that there will be no quick fix to these issues – and real, long-lasting and meaningful reforms will take some time.**

**And the focus on these issues must not end with the work of this Royal Commission.**

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

*(Continued from page 3)*

Accordingly, we Commissioners believe an enduring, powerful, independent body is necessary to hold Government, the ADF, Defence, DVA and other relevant agencies, as well as State and Territory governments, to account – to make sure that they prioritise the major, long-term, complex reforms that are needed.

**This body must not only be independent, it must have the confidence of serving and ex-serving ADF members, and seek direct and significant input from them.**

**It must be an 'oversight' body: but not one that usurps the leadership of the DVA or ADF, nor one that absolves that leadership of its primary responsibility for veterans' wellbeing.**

And it must have sufficient powers to deal with the issues it faces.

We will release a report on this entity in the coming months and consult further with key stakeholders before finalising a recommendation to Government.

**Bipartisan commitment will be required to ensure mistakes from the past do not continue.**

We expect strong, decisive leadership from both sides of politics, as well as crossbench MPs and senators, to ensure the final recommendations of this Royal Commission are implemented – and that the ADF, Defence and DVA are forevermore held to account, so that the wellbeing of past and pre-

sent members, and their families, remains the focus going forward.

It is not enough to support and reflect on the sacrifice of our veterans only on days of commemoration and remembrance.

The theme of Suicide Prevention Week this year is 'We all have a role to play'. And nothing could be truer in relation to Defence and veteran suicide.

We all have a role to play in holding Government to account when it comes to ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of those who risk their lives each day in the service of our country.

Voters and the media must maintain interest and demand action. That has been lacking.

Every one of us has an important role to play in protecting those who protect us.

**Australia has let down its veterans for far too long.**

**This Royal Commission must be a call to action – no longer can we allow the preventable deaths of our finest to be ignored.**

Thank you.

**Complete text available at**

[https://  
defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/  
news-and-media/media-releases/](https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/)

### 15 September 2023—RC Statement

The Royal Commission's focus on hearing from people with lived experience of suicide or suicidality in the military will be greatly supported by the introduction of a new bill to Federal Parliament on 7 September 2023.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide received more than 1000 eligible applications for private sessions prior to the closing date on 28 April 2023. Commissioners have already conducted 535 sessions with people who have lived experience of suicide and suicidality in the Australian Defence Force.

There are some 400 sessions still to be undertaken between now and June 2024, when the Royal Commission's final report is due to be handed to Government.

Current laws mean only a Royal Commissioner can conduct a confidential one-on-one meeting with a person with lived experience.

"We Commissioners are undertaking as many sessions as possible, both in person and virtually;

however, to get through the large number of outstanding private sessions in the time we have left, we must appoint an Assistant Commissioner to help us," Commissioner Kaldas said.

The new legislation will allow for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner with the appropriate skills, experience and gravitas required to undertake private sessions alongside the three existing Commissioners over the next nine months.

"We know how important these sessions are to veterans and their families, and the catharsis and validation they bring to so many people impacted by suicide and suicidality.

"We want to continue to give them the time and attention they deserve and the addition of an Assistant Commissioner will ensure that."

"We thank the Defence and veteran community for their ongoing support of the Royal Commission's inquiry, as we work towards delivering our final report," he said.

For more information on the [Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#) visit the website or for support contact 1800 329 095.

## Legacy flame passes through Canberra

A ceremony at the Australian War Memorial launched the event, at the start of Legacy Week.

The cutting of a ribbon started the Canberra leg of the relay, which involved 54 torchbearers.

They worked hand-in-hand to complete the walk, which passed through Canberra's iconic sites including Parliament House.

Leading Aircraftwoman Dakota Sollitt nominated herself to be in the tri-service escort party that followed the bearers throughout the relay.

"I feel like I have in some way helped with Legacy's awareness and brought attention to the ADF perspective, as well, in such a high-profile event," Leading Aircraftwoman Sollitt said.

"I learnt that the relay has travelled across the world from France, to London then to Australia.

"I'm proud to have participated and shown support to that organisation, to members, veterans and their families."

The Canberra leg of the relay finished at Government House, where the last bearer was escorted to light the cauldron.

The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 has been on a six-month journey that started in Pozieres France, through London then around Australia.



*Above: His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 103 year old participant Merle Hare and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley at Government House in Canberra after the Canberra leg of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay.*

*Below: Legacy torch bearer Maureen Barrett with torch bearer James Morrice (Jo Marrice, retired Captain RAN) after passing the flame at Government House in Canberra for the Canberra leg of the the Legacy Centenary*

*Photos: Nicole Mankowski*

The torch will travel more than 50,000km, through 100 locations, carried by more than 1000 torchbearers.

The relay will continue on through 12 locations in Victoria, three in Tasmania then its final two in Melbourne, the last location being the Shrine of Remembrance on October 13.

Legacy helps families of deceased personnel and seriously injured veterans.

It provides financial assistance, social connection services and developmental opportunities.

*By Corporal Luke Bellman*



# DVA—Our commitment to you

## Last updated:

22 September 2023

This page provides information about what you can expect from DVA when you submit a compensation claim.

## On this page

[Communication Standards](#)

[Feedback](#)

DVA is committed to provide a responsive, quality service that will enable you to make your own decisions about what matters to you and your family.

You can expect us to:

- be courteous, considerate and respectful
- listen to you
- respect and protect your privacy
- be fair and ethical in our dealings
- deliver our services in a timely and prompt manner
- inform you of any delays in processing your matters
- provide accurate, clear and consistent information
- keep you fully informed of your rights and entitlements
- recognise that you have varying and changing needs
- develop and equip our staff so they can provide you with quality service

DVA has people working under flexible arrangements across many Australian locations, you can expect to receive the same level of service no matter where we are working from.

## Communication Standards

We recognise that regular communication can alleviate uncertainty throughout the claims process and help to improve your DVA experience.

Contact with you throughout the compensation claims process may be conducted through SMS, email, letter or telephone call. If you have a preferred method of contact please be sure to inform us.

If you have nominated a representative to act on your behalf during the claims process and you have not received communication from the Department, you should also check with your representative.

**Please notify us if your experience is not as described through [Feedback](#) | [Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#) and we will investigate the matter on your behalf.**

Here is our service guarantee to you:

- We will **acknowledge receipt of your claim** within **5 business days**.

- We will **return your calls** within **2 business days**.
- We will **respond to your emails** within **5 business days**.
- We will **contact you every 30 days** while your initial liability **claim is waiting to be allocated** for processing and to link you in with relevant supports.
- We will **call you** within **14 days** of **your claim being allocated for processing** to inform you of next steps and to request additional information if required.
- We will **contact you every 30 days** to provide you with **progress updates** on your claim.
- We will **call you** to advise that a **determination is about to be made**, the likely outcome and the reasons for decision.
- We will **call you** to conduct a **Needs Assessment**, after we accept liability, to determine any benefits and services available to you.

We will provide you with information on how you can contact us, including a telephone number

(Continued on page 7)

## Communication Standards

At all times	<b>We will:</b>
	 <b>respond within 2 days*</b>  <b>respond within 5 days*</b>
You submit your claims	 <b>acknowledge within 5 days*</b>
When your claim is registered	 <b>update every 30 days</b>
We assign your claim to a delegate	 <b>contact within 14 days of allocation</b>  <b>update every 30 days</b>
We make a decision on your claim	 <b>contact prior to determination</b>  <b>provide written determination letter</b>

\*business days

## Concessions available to DVA clients in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

### Last updated:

23 August 2023

This page is about concessions available to DVA clients in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Who is eligible for concessions?

**The organisation that offers the product or service, e.g. your local council, decides what sort of concession is offered and to whom it is offered. DVA Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) and Gold Veteran Card holders are usually eligible for concessions, but it is important to contact the organisation offering the concession to confirm your eligibility.**

Health concessions

### Treatment Cards

If you have a DVA treatment card (Gold or Veteran White Card) you should always use this card for medical, hospital, pharmaceutical and allied health services.

### Pharmaceutical benefits

PCC holders are eligible for medication under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) at \$7.30 per prescription. Your pharmacist can tell you which medicines are listed under the scheme. Premiums charged by manufacturers may apply to some alternative brands/medicines. Once you have spent the PBS Safety Net threshold amount on PBS medicines, you will receive free PBS medicines for the rest of the year.

## DVA - Our commitment to you

*(Continued from page 6)*

and email address, when we contact you. Throughout the claims process we may contact you to check if your circumstances have changed, but you are encouraged to contact us at any time your circumstances change or you require support through the claims process, on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or Open Arms on 1800 011 046

The Compensation Claims Communication Standards Policy provides a further information about the frequency and mode of contact you can expect from us during the claim process. The Policy provides further details regarding the communication touchpoints during the compensation claims process. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the policy and to notify us if this is not your experience through Feedback | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au), so that we can investigate the matter on your behalf.

### Feedback

**We welcome your comments on any aspect of our service, you can lodge feedback via the DVA website: Feedback | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au)**

### National Diabetes Services Scheme

You can receive a range of Australian Government approved products at a reduced price. For more information contact the scheme on 1300 136 588 or visit their website at: www.ndss.com.au.

### Hearing services

The Office of Hearing Services provides vouchers which enable you to get hearing assessments and devices from hearing service providers of your choice. This includes the cost of fitting the device. For more information contact the Office of Hearing Services on 1800 500 726, or email hear-ing@health.gov.au or visit their website at: hearing-services.gov.au.

### ACT Spectacles Subsidy Scheme

ACT residents who hold a PCC are eligible for a subsidy of up to \$200 once every two years under the ACT Spectacles Subsidy Scheme. Dependents of cardholders are also entitled to assistance under the scheme if their name appears on the card. For more information contact the ACT Revenue Office on 02 6207 0028 - select option 5, ACT Community Assistance Scheme or visit their website at www.act.gov.au/assistance.

### Low Vision Aids Scheme

This scheme gives a subsidy to people who suffer from a range of degenerative eye conditions. For more information contact Vision Australia on 1300 84 74 66 or the Canberra Blind Society on (02) 6247 4580, or visit the ACT Revenue Office website at http://www.revenue.act.gov.au/community-assistance/low-vision-aids-scheme.

### Ambulance

PCC holders can get free emergency and non-emergency ambulance services within the ACT. For more information please visit the ACT Ambulance Service website at: esa.act.gov.au/ambulance

### Transport Concessions

#### Public transport

PCC and Gold Card Holders can get a concession of around 50% of normal public transport fares. Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) and Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) veterans (and their attendants) get free travel on public transport. For more information contact Transport Canberra MyWay on 131 710 or visit their website at https://www.transport.act.gov.au/tickets-and-myway/fares/concessions.

#### ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme

This scheme assists people who have a severe disability that prevents them using public transport for a minimum period of 6 months. The scheme provides a subsidy towards the cost of taxi transport. For more information contact the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme on (02) 6207 0028 (Selection Option 5, Sub Option 1), or visit their website at http://www.revenue.act.gov.au/community-assistance/taxi-subsidy-scheme.

## Energy rebate to provide bill relief

31 August 2023

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments are working together to provide targeted and temporary electricity bill relief to eligible households.

You can get bill relief if you are the primary electricity account holder or, for some energy providers, another named account holder on your electricity account. You must also hold a Pensioner Concession Card, a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or a Veteran Gold Card.

Your household can only get one bill relief rebate, even if there is more than one eligible person living there. You can only get this bill relief for your principal place of residence. How much you get depends on where you live, with between \$175 and \$500 available to targeted households and \$325 to \$650 available to small businesses.

If you are eligible, are not named on the bill and you pay for electricity, contact your electricity provider to discuss your options.

If you live in Queensland or Western Australia, you do not need to take any action because these state governments are including this energy bill relief in their state rebate programs, which are being given to all households.

If you currently receive energy concessions, in most cases the electricity provider will automatically apply the bill relief to your electricity account and you do not need to do anything.

This will reduce the amount you owe on your next bill. How and when this happens depends on where you live as each state and territory may do things a little differently.

If you don't receive energy concessions, please go to [energy.gov.au/bill-relief](https://energy.gov.au/bill-relief) to find a link to your state or territory with instructions about what to do. This could be to contact your energy provider or your state/territory government with your concession card type and the DVA file number on it. Give them consent to check your card online for payment of the rebate.

If you get your electricity from your strata or landlord in a caravan park, apartment building, retirement home or village and your household is eligible for the bill relief, you will not automatically receive the rebate. However, you will be able to access a direct payment through your state or territory government.

Please check [energy.gov.au/bill-relief](https://energy.gov.au/bill-relief) for the latest information.

## ACT Energy Bill Relief Fund

31 August 2023

The ACT Government has partnered with the Australian Government to provide financial relief to eligible households and small businesses through the Energy Bill Relief Fund.

- To be eligible for the relief, you will need to ensure your name (or the eligible household member's name) is on the electricity account on 1 July 2023.

If you currently receive the [ACT Utilities Concession](#) (please check your electricity bill to confirm), this new, additional relief, will automatically be credited to your electricity bill after 1 July 2023. You do not need to do anything.

If you do not currently receive the [ACT Utilities Concession](#) and you hold or receive one of the newly eligible cards or payments for the relief, either Services Australia or the Department of Veterans' Affairs will contact you.

- Services Australia will contact you in September 2023 to advise what you need to do to apply for the relief.

- Department of Veterans' Affairs will contact you by November 2023. To apply for the relief, you will need to contact your energy provider. They will seek your consent to check your eligibility and ask for your UIN or Veteran File Number.
- For eligible residents in an embedded network where you receive your electricity from your strata or landlord in a caravan park, apartment building or retirement home or village, you will need to complete the application form below.
- Households that are eligible for the bill relief, will receive a total relief of \$175 applied to their electricity account in quarterly instalments.
- Small Businesses that are eligible for the bill relief will automatically have a one-off relief credit of \$325 applied to their electricity account from 1 July 2023.

Applications for the Energy Bill Relief will not be accepted after 30 September 2024.

## HMAS Perth in WA



The RAN hosted the crew of INS Vagir during a visit to Fleet Base West, Western Australia in August 2023. The visit marked the first time an Indian Navy submarine had visited Australia and included maritime exercises off the coast of Western Australia involving RAN and RAAF personnel and assets. A harbour phase provided opportunities for professional development, sporting activities and face-to-face engagement between military personnel from India and Australia

*Above: (Front to back) INS Vagir, HMAS Rankin and HMAS Perth conduct a manoeuvre exercise in the WA Exercise Area during the Indian Submarine INS Vagir visit to Fleet Base West*

*Below: The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Christopher John Dawson, AC, APM, presents the 2022 Duke of Gloucester Cup to former Commanding Officer of HMAS Perth, Commander Anthony Nagle, CSC, RAN who accepted the award on behalf of the HMAS Perth ship's company*

*Photos: Defence*



## Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023



HMAS Anzac returned to her homeport of Fleet Base West, Western Australia on Monday 11 September 2023 after departing in mid-April 2023.

The ship's company conducted a successful regional presence deployment in Southeast and Northeast Asia as well as supporting



Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023 in Indonesia and the Philippines. Regional presence deployments play a vital role in Australia's long-term security and prosperity by protecting Australia's interests, preserving a rules-based order, enhancing cooperation and relationships with regional partners and allies, and developing capability and interoperability

*Above: Commanding Officer HMAS Anzac Commander Barton Harrington, RAN with his son, Louis, on Parkes wharf at Fleet Base West upon the completion of the ship's regional presence deployment 2023.*



*Left: Chief Petty Officer Marine Technician Mark Powell with his granddaughter, Hayley*

*Photos: ABIS Rikki-Lea Phillips*

## Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023



*Japanese Ships Izumo and Samadrie, followed by HMAS Anzac, astern of HMAS Canberra during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023. (Manoeuvring distance appears to be a little sub-standard. Ed)*

*Photo: CPL Robert Whitmore*

Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) is Australia's flagship regional engagement activity, supporting the Australian Government's commitment to investing in our regional diplomatic and defence partnerships.

IPE23 will conduct activities across Southeast Asia and the Northeast Indian Ocean, reinforcing Australia's commitment to a peaceful, secure and prosperous region.

The Australian Defence Force will visit 14 countries from 30 June to the end October 2023, with Defence personnel participating in military activities and engagement covering issues such as maritime law, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and Gender, Peace and Security (GPS). I

In collaboration with the host nations, personnel will participate in military exercises, workshops, training, sporting events and cultural activities.

IPE provides a practical demonstration of Australia's commitment to building effective security partnerships in our near region. Ships from the Royal Australian Navy, Army detachments and Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, will also contribute to exercises and engagement activities, allowing for information sharing and training opportunities

*Right: HMAS Toowoomba (bottom) and Indian Navy INS Sahyadri conduct OOW manoeuvres during a cooperative activity in the Timor Sea.*

*Photo: LSIS Earnesto Sanchez*



## Australian War Memorial's Napier Waller Art Prize opens

**The Australian War Memorial's 2024 Napier Waller Art Prize is now open for submissions from current and former Australian Defence Force personnel.**

Entrants can submit any original work in any visual art medium, with the winner to receive a \$15,000 cash prize.

The winning work will be displayed alongside highly commended works at Parliament House in May 2024, and will be accepted into the Memorial's National Collection.

Memorial Director Matt Anderson said the prize aims to promote artistic excellence while recording experiences of service.

'This prize displays the artistic endeavour, personal experiences and sheer talent of our service personnel,' he said.

Head of Art at the Memorial, Laura Webster, said: 'We are inviting entrants to contribute a contemporary view of their diverse experiences. The prize entries display the creativity and diversity of the Australian Defence Force.'

Last year, Mrs Anneke Jamieson won the 2022 Napier Waller Art Prize with her portrait, *'The Promotion'*, a painting featuring a uniformed service-woman breastfeeding her baby.

Mrs Jamieson, a mother of three, took inspiration from her own experiences when creating the work.

I dedicate her to the mothers that serve; to their sacrifices and conflicted hearts and to the families who support them,' Mrs Jamieson said in her artist statement.

Mrs Jamieson took first prize and the People's Choice Award. The portrait is now part of the Memorial's National Collection.

'Winning this prize means opening a door to the next chapter of my life,' she said.

Mrs Jamieson said the art prize provides a platform for current and ex-service personnel to tell their vitally important stories, and a 'means for us to process and validate our story and be seen and heard'

Finalists' works will also be displayed on the Australian War Memorial's website. The general public can vote in the People's Choice Award, the winner of which will receive \$5,000.

**Entries are accepted from Friday 8 September and close on Sunday 17 December 2023.**

Each entrant may address the theme of their choice, with the work being completed in the past two years from date of entry. The recipient of the prize will be chosen by a panel of judges and art experts.

Entry information is available on the [Memorial's website](#) where you will also find previous winners' artworks. Submissions may include the use of any visual art medium, including but not limited to painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, digital, decorative, sculpture, and installation.

*Initiated in 2018, the Napier Waller Art Prize was named after Mervyn Napier Waller, an Australian artist who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1915. In May 1917 he was wounded in the right arm while serving with the 11th Field Artillery Brigade during the fighting at Bullecourt. His arm was later amputated, and during his convalescence he learned to write and draw with his left hand, saying, "an artist draws with his head, not his hands". In 1937 Waller was chosen to create the mosaics and stained glass windows in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory.*

## Veterans Health Week BBQ

Dear NAA members

The HMAS Sydney Association has applied for and received funding from DVA for Veterans Health Week.

**We will use this funding to hold a free BBQ at Duntroon Golf Club, 6 Calculus Lane, Campbell, 1200 on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 23.**

The theme for this year's VHW is "Mental Health Matters". Accordingly, we have invited a member of Open Arms Mental Health Team to give a short address during the BBQ.

Your members and family are cordially invited to join us for this occasion.

For catering persons please advise myself [quickj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:quickj@bigpond.net.au) or our Secretary Dennis Lyons [dlyo.6547@bigpond.com](mailto:dlyo.6547@bigpond.com) of your intention to attend.

Regards  
Jim Quick OAM

## Minutes of NAA (ACT) General Meeting held at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 7 September 2023

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

Next meeting will be on Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 1330 at the Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin.

**Present:** 10 members and one visitor as per attendance book.

Alan Masters

**Apologies:** M. Hardwick, P. Gillin, J. Small, K. Reid-Smith, J. Slaats, G. Quinn, S. Gordon, A. Vickers, G. McNamara

Secretary N

NAA (ACT)

**Minute of Last Meeting.** The minutes of the General meeting on 3 August appeared in the September 2023 edition of the Bosun's Call

*Motion: The minutes of the General Meeting held on 3 August 2023 be accepted.*

*Moved: Dennis Lyons Seconded: Peter Cooke-Russell Carried.*



**Business arising from the Minutes.** Nil

### Reports.

**President.** The President reported a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been reached with Navy covering matters relating to use of the Australian White Ensign, for example.

**Vice President.** Volunteers are sought to lay the Section wreath at Last Post ceremonies. Names to the Secretary please.

**Secretary.** Business as usual.

**Treasurer.** Section funds remain in a healthy financial state.

**Membership.** Numbers remain static. Mrs Pauline Gribble was welcomed to the Section and issued with her NAA badge.

**Welfare.** John Small continues to make progress with his recovery despite an eye problem. Jack Aaron. Tony Vickers and Mary Slaats are on the sick list.

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

*Motion: The reports be received.*

*Moved: Dennis Darren Rush Seconded: Harry Beardsell Carried*

### General Business:

**Christmas lunch.** The lunch will replace the December meeting and thoughts should be given as to the venue.

**Meeting Closed.** There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 1340.



## Notes from the Committee 7 September 2023

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

Discussion focused on membership issues, a lap-top for treasurer, and a briefing from President on MOU with Navy.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at the Eastlakes Gungahlin Club on 5 October 2023 at 1100.

Alan Masters  
Secretary  
NAA (ACT)

**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 . .

5 Oct	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
19 Oct	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
2 Nov	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
16 Nov	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
<b>7 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>2024</b>	
18 Jan	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
1 Feb	Lunch Eastlakes Gungahlin 1200
15 Mar	Fish 'n Chips CYC 1200
4 Apr	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 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](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)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you**  
**October 2023**

Pauline Gribble

Robert Drew

David Bowditch

Wendy Lissing

Carl Hyauiason

Tony Vickers

Ross Smith



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

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