



National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 5

Once Navy, Always Navy

June 2024

ANZAC Day



Top: Dawn Service HMAS Creswell

Photo: CPOIS Cameron Martin

Below: Ceremonial Parade Ground Australian War Memorial Canberra

Photo: Flickr



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings—6 June 1944



King Charles III speaks to a D-Day veteran during a lunch following the UK national commemorative event for the 80th anniversary of D-Day, held at the British Normandy Memorial in Ver-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, Thursday June 6, 2024.

(Gareth Fuller, Pool Photo via AP)



(From right) Governor-General of Australia David Hurley and his wife Linda; William, Prince of Wales; French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte; US President Joe Biden and his wife Jill; Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; and Polish President Andrzej Duda. © AP

Part of an article in the SMH. “After a 42-year military career, Hurley was a student of D-Day military history but had never visited the northern shores of France. He walked the battlefields, laid wreaths and visited the graves of fallen Australian and Commonwealth soldiers

“My generation grew up in the shadow of this ... the war was still very present in our family’s lives at the time,” Hurley said. “But to be able to come to Normandy and see this history ... the turning of the tide and out of the darkness comes this special moment in the liberation of Europe. It was very special.”

He said it was meeting those heroes of D-Day – the men who stormed the beaches to free France

and then liberate Western Europe from tyranny – that was equal to any meeting over his time and he found it rather overwhelming.

“Every one of the veterans’ messages was about their mates,” Hurley, a former Defence Force chief, said. “Yes, President Macron and the King spoke brilliantly about the bigger picture, the war in Ukraine, but that’s what those veterans were focused on ... it was all about who were left behind. One fellow who came and talked about being on the soil ‘with my friends in the soil’. That was incredible.”

*Written by Rob Harris
Extract from the Sydney Morning Herald
10 June 2024*

The Naval Association of Australia Inc Patron-in-Chief His Majesty, King Charles III
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Ex-Service Organisation Representation

26 May 2024

Colleagues,

For quite some time now we in the NAA have been asked to consider a new constitution for the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). I have spoken before of the emergence of a notable number of veterans identifying themselves as being representatives of a hereto unknown or little known, Ex-Service Organisation (ESO); there are consequences resulting from this wherein there are now even more ESOs competing for the limited funds available from DVA's Grants-in-Aid program and there are clear indications that the increasing chorus of voices advocating for a myriad of veteran support initiatives is perhaps deafening rather than alerting, those within Government and DVA to whom we turn for assistance and support.

It is arguably why we now see DVA and The Minister instigating a research program to ascertain the benefits of being able to deal with 'a single voice or Peak Body' when evaluating priorities and objectives in support of veterans.

Whilst the early indications are that any such body will 'sit to one side of the Ex Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) we will need to be watchful for we would not want to see another layer of administration or advisory process through which we would need to wade in representing veteran issues. Another related issue is the assertion by the RSL that 'they are the single voice of veterans', which we must surely agree is not the case.

These two factors have been the impetus for ADSO embarking on a project to establish this forum as the truly representational inter-service veteran forum to which Government, Politicians and DVA can turn for advice, comment or review of proposed veteran support mechanisms or legislation. In the changing nature and dynamics of the veteran domain ADSO has been revising its governance processes to meet the challenges ahead wherein the stated objectives were identified as: to be more responsive to the needs of its members; to comply with modern governance principles; and be a more effective representative organisation to governments and our nation. Hence the evolution of Constitution we have been asked to consider.

Hopefully we all saw the December 2023, message from Russell Pettis (National Admin Officer) providing a historical insight as to the original 5 ESOs (DFWA, RARA, NAA, RAAFA and SASA), joining together in 2009 to form the ADSO with the aim to

provide a political voice for those ESOs not able to do so themselves. For our forebears within the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) it was seen to be a necessity to take up the opportunity to become a 'founding member' of the ADSO. In Russell's 2023 message he reminded us of the key topics addressed by ADSO during his tenure as NAA National President: successfully campaigning for a Veterans Covenant under PM Morrison; support afforded the NAA in advocating for a posthumous VC for Teddy Sheean; advice to the Federal Government on a new ADF Superannuation Scheme; and Transition from TIP to ATDP Advocacy Scheme.

As we find ourselves on the verge of a new era for the ADSO, it is timely to see that in the Policy document for 2016-2017, it was observed that 'the complexity of the current Compensation Acts, based on three separate schemes are increasingly unwieldy and unsustainable in the long term'. Therein they went on to say; 'ADSO believes there should be a move towards a single compensation regime for all serving and former members of the ADF'. As we witness the progression of the 'Harmonisation' initiative, headed up by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, we hope that when it is implemented the assurance given that 'no-one will be worse off' will be the case. Based on past-experience, we can be assured that ADSO will be at hand to provide a collective challenge to any anomalies or unintended detrimental consequences. We need to be 'on watch' with our ADSO colleagues in monitoring these most important matters.

The advice as to the proposed ADSO Constitution was provided by myself to the National Council (NC) via email in November 2023, and the Exposure Draft was promulgated in March of this year. Of those responses received, the principle point of concern has been that of what the 'membership fee' might be. That is a valid concern and one that other ESOs have also identified. I have been very much encouraged by assurances from within this documentation that the intention is 'to call upon members to make a fair contribution based on a Member Association membership and financial capacity to make such a contribution'. Be assured, it is fully appreciated within ADSO that membership numbers are in decline therefore we each face limitations on funds at hand. I find it implausi-

(Continued on page 4)

Ex-Service Organisation Representation

(Continued from page 3)

ble that fees would be set at a level that would lead to the demise of the numerical strength of the group. At this juncture I do not see concern over what may be deemed an acceptable fee to ask of each member ESO (based on its financial capacity) outweighing the mutual benefit and collective strength of maintaining our presence within ADSO.

Now perhaps more than ever before in our collective experience, where we see the nature and numbers of veterans changing so dramatically, where allegiances to a 'parent service' or 'parent ex-service organisation' is not as tangible from our perspective as it perhaps once was, we need to rally together and pool our resources if we are to remain relevant to ourselves and to those who control the nature and scope of support they are prepared to afford a veteran. In this time of considerable uncertainty and unrest it is my firm belief that it would not serve our best interests and nor that of our colleagues in ADSO, to set ourselves adrift and to go our own way as a single entity and therein, to fend for ourselves. I have seen no evidence to support the proposition that any other collective body of ESOs outside the ADSO can assume the mantle of being a single, or rather a truly representative, voice for veterans. Similarly, I have already spoken of the 'proliferation of ESO noise' and therein I see that a single voice would find it difficult if not impossible, to make itself heard or to rally support. In my assessment, ADSO is the only body that can be seen to be a collaborative and representative grouping across a range of The Defence Force Veteran Community in the matter of veteran affairs advocacy. To place all of this in a naval context, 'we have a much greater chance of surviving and

being heard if we are in a convoy rather than sailing alone'

Noting that the only matter of concern represented to myself subsequent to the distribution of the Proposed ADSO Constitution in November 2023; the Exposure Draft of the ADSO Constitution in March this year; and, advice as to the 31 May 24 ADSO Zoom Meeting agenda provided to the NC on 13 May 24, is that of the 'membership fee', which I expect will not be determined until after the ADSO Constitution is in place, my recommendation at this juncture is that we agree to those resolutions detailed in the agenda document:

- a. *That the ADSO Limited Constitution be approved."*
- b. *That ADSO Limited be incorporated with [ASIC registration](#)."*
- c. *That the current ADSO Ltd Inc ([ACT](#)) be voluntarily cancelled concurrent with the ASIC approval date."*
- d. *That ADSO Ltd be registered as a Not-for-Profit Organisation with [ACNC](#)."*
- e. *That ADSO Ltd seek endorsement as a [Deductible Gift Recipient](#) from the ATO."*

When we know the outcome of the 'membership fee' calculations we can then act upon that advice; until then be assured we are watching these proceedings closely.

For your consideration.

David Manolas

National President NAA

ADSO



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA),
 Naval Association of Australia (NAA),
 RAAF Association (RAAFA),
 Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC),
 Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA),
 The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women,
 The Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia,
 Partners of Veterans Association of Australia,

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (RAAC),
 The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA),
 The Defence Reserves Association (DRA),
 The Australian Gulf War Veterans Association,
 Military Police Association Australia (MPAA),
 Australian Army Apprentices Association,
 The Australian Commando Association and,
 The War Widows Guild.

In considering the wider defence family's community of interest network, the issues ADSO advocates can impact on the lives of about 4,000,000 Australians.

The Defence Family relies on the Government for fair and equitable treatment of their service conditions in a way that is unique within the Australian community. They expect a Fair Go in

that their conditions of service under which they served will be honoured.

The Alliance has developed considerable credibility and respect from the authorities, the media, the community and professional groups. This has helped to influence governments' decisions impacting our Defence Family, to legislate the Veterans' Covenant and also to gain support and understanding from parliamentarians from all political persuasions.

Investing in the future – Budget 2024–25

15 May 2024

The Australian Government is investing \$477 million in the 2024–25 Federal Budget to build capacity for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and support more than 340,000 veterans and dependants accessing its services.

This Budget continues to make progress on the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's Interim Report, keeping the health and wellbeing of veterans and families a key priority.

An investment of \$194.4 million over four years and \$20.6 million every year from 2028–29 onwards will increase DVA's staffing levels and fund further modernisation of its ICT.

It will fund an additional 141 service delivery staff on an ongoing basis. This is on top of the more than 500 ongoing staff DVA has employed in the last two years. It will also provide \$8.4 million over two years to pilot a modern clinical case management and workflow solution.

The Government has committed \$222 million in funding for the harmonisation of veterans' compensation and rehabilitation legislation. If passed by Parliament, this reform will make it easier for veterans and families to access support. This commitment represents a significant investment in support directly for veterans and their families and responds to Recommendation 1 of the Royal Commission.

A separate measure provides \$59.6 million over three years to support continued access to valuable health and support programs for veterans and families. This includes \$48.4 million over two years to support access to the

Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing programs benefitting 45,000 veterans and war widow(er)s. It also includes the extension of the Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program, extension of the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment (PAMT) program and extension of the Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program.

A \$30 million investment commits to build more housing and provide specialist services for veterans and families who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, providing veterans and families the foundation to live meaningful lives.

Other investments in the Budget 2024–25 package include:

- \$1.16 million over three years enabling the domestic War Graves program to continue to care and maintain official commemorations and memorials.
- \$400,000, including \$300,000 in grant funding, to extend the Supporting Veteran Owned Business Grant Program for three years, helping veterans and families open or increase the competitiveness of their own business.

Additionally, there are a range of measures managed by other Australian Government departments that benefit veterans and families, from the [Treasury](#), the [Department of Health and Aged Care](#) and from the [Department of Social Services](#).

For more information, visit the [Budget 2024-25](#) pages 5 and 6

DVA

Aged Care—ABC News Summary

Another half a billion dollars will be spent next financial year to release 24,100 more home care packages.

\$610 million will be given to the states to assist long stay older patients to be discharged from hospital sooner. Those initiatives will be developed by states and territories.

Another \$190 million will be provided on top of that to extend and redesign the Transition Care Programme to provide short-term care of up to 12 weeks for older people after a hospital stay.

These measures were agreed by National Cabinet in December last year.

The Health Services Union said however its workers were "bitterly disappointed" at delays to historic pay rises, with the second half of those pay rises not due to begin until 2026.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Budget at a glance

All figures in \$'000



Budget
2024-25

| Payment measure (\$'000) | Lead agency | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | -24 | -25 | -26 | -27 | -28 |
| 1.1 Veterans' Income Support and Allowances | | | | | | |
| Commonwealth Rent Assistance – increase the maximum rates | Social Services (DSS) | - | 1,722 | 2,226 | 2,152 | 2,089 |
| 1.5 Veterans' Children Education Scheme | | | | | | |
| Commonwealth Rent Assistance – increase the maximum rates | DSS | - | 48 | 70 | 77 | 83 |
| Attributed to All Outcome 1 Programs | | | | | | |
| APS Capability Reinvestment Fund: 2024-25 projects funded under round two | Prime Minister & Cabinet | - | 47 | - | - | - |
| Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme Review ¹ | Veterans' Affairs (DVA) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Establishment of the Administrative Review Tribunal and Addressing Extremely High Migration Backlogs in the Courts ² | Attorney-General's Department (AGD) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reform of Veterans' Compensation Legislation | DVA | - | (980) | (2,007) | 99,646 | 82,123 |
| Savings from External Labour – Extension | Cross Portfolio | - | (703) | (784) | (589) | (4,160) |
| Supporting Veteran Owned Business Grant Program ³ | DVA | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2.1 General Medical Consultation and Services | | | | | | |
| Funding for the Alfred Hospital | Health and Aged Care (Health) | - | - | 61 | 65 | 66 |
| Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – new and amended listings | Health | 41 | 152 | 120 | 106 | 93 |
| Strengthening Medicare – an effective and clinically appropriate Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) | Health | - | 1,064 | 1,054 | 1,448 | 2,240 |
| Strengthening Medicare – Medicare Urgent Care Clinics – additional funding | Health | - | 1,613 | 1,533 | - | - |
| Supporting Ongoing Access to Vaccines | Health | - | 760 | 1,170 | 1,261 | 1,330 |
| 2.3 Veterans' Pharmaceuticals Benefits | | | | | | |
| Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – new and amended listings | Health | 6,013 | 19,046 | 16,276 | 10,034 | 9,837 |
| Securing Cheaper Medicines | Health | - | 423 | 1,096 | 1,871 | 2,423 |
| Attributed to All Outcome 2 Programs | | | | | | |
| Continuing Veterans' Access to Health and Support Programs ⁴ | DVA | - | 28,492 | 27,715 | 2,386 | - |
| Establishment of the Administrative Review Tribunal and Addressing Extremely High Migration Backlogs in the Courts ² | AGD | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reform of Veterans' Compensation Legislation | DVA | - | - | 320 | 14,818 | 19,995 |

¹ This measure includes \$0.7 million in 2024-25, to be met from within the existing resources of DVA

² This measure includes \$0.1 million in 2024-25, to be met from within the existing resources of DVA

³ This measure includes \$0.4 million over three years from 2024-25, to be met from within the existing resources of DVA

⁴ This measure includes \$3.1 million in 2024-25, to be met from within the existing resources of DVA



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Budget at a glance

All figures in \$'000



Budget
2024-25

| 3.1 War Graves | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Commonwealth War Graves Commission – additional funding | DVA | - | 385 | 385 | 385 | - |
| Attributed to All Outcomes | | | | | | |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs – additional resourcing to support service delivery | DVA | - | 93,983 | 59,942 | 20,137 | 20,349 |
| Total DVA funding | | 6,054 | 146,052 | 109,177 | 153,797 | 136,468 |
| Total funding for DVA measures which impact other agencies (\$'000) | | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| | | -24 | -25 | -26 | -27 | -28 |
| Continuing Veterans' Access to Health and Support Programs | | | | | | |
| DVA funding | | - | 28,492 | 27,715 | 2,386 | - |
| Department of Health and Aged Care funding | | - | (474) | (501) | (260) | - |
| Total funding for the measure | | - | 28,018 | 27,214 | 2,126 | - |
| Reform of Veterans' Compensation Legislation^{5 6} | | | | | | |
| DVA funding | | - | (980) | (1,687) | 114,464 | 102,118 |
| Department of Health and Aged Care funding | | - | - | - | (7) | 16 |
| Department of Social Services funding | | - | - | - | (816) | (1,713) |
| Total funding for the measure | | - | (980) | (1,687) | 113,641 | 100,421 |

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) will receive \$8.0 million additional funding in 2024-25 for the **Australian War Memorial – financial sustainability** measure, attributed to AWM program 1.1 – Australian War Memorial

⁵ This measure includes \$0.8 million over four years from 2024-25, to be met from within the existing resources of DVA

⁶ 2024-25 Budget Paper No. 2 notes that 'The Government will provide \$222.0 million over four years from 2024-25', which excludes \$7.3 million in savings for the DRCA Single Review Pathway

We're helping to improve your MyService experience

22 May 2024

Modernising DVA's ICT (*Information and Communications Technology*) is one of our top priorities and a focus of the Royal Commission's Interim Report.

Recent enhancements to MyService are making it easier for veterans and families to lodge claims and access support and services.

For the vast majority of DVA claim types, you are now:

- prompted to provide the information needed to support a claim at the time you submit it;
- notified, through the myGov inbox, if we need further information about your claim, along with a Task to complete that helps you to provide the additional information required; and

- given enhanced options to upload documents to your claims, including any 'Other' documents you might like to add up until determination, and view details of your documents and claims.

This means you can now view up-to-date information and provide all documents via MyService for all claims, whether submitted through MyService or other channels, reducing the need to send that information by email or post.

Authenticated MyService users who require help with a claim or have other DVA questions, will also be able to specify their preferred date and time window when submitting a request for a call back.

For more information see the MyService Enhancements [Factsheet](#). For any further assistance, please call us on 1800 VETERAN ([1800 838 372](tel:1800838372))

Ambitious plan to save Tasmanian-built Huon pine warship HDML1321 from slow death in Darwin

The Tasmanian-made Huon pine patrol boat HMAS HDML1321 took commandos behind enemy lines in WWII, but its biggest mission yet will be finding a way home from its slow death at a construction site in Darwin.

The historic 80 foot (24-metre) warship later known as Rush-cutter sits on a cradle in a commercial shipyard that is being developed into northern Australia's largest ship lift.

The historic vessel is rotting away without a home, but a passionate group of maritime enthusiasts have ambitious plans to try and save it.

Rear Admiral (Rtd) Steve Gilmore said HDML1321 was made in Hobart by Purdon and Featherstone in 1943.

It was the first of nine patrol boats built in Australia for the Navy in WWII.

"It was probably the one that went on to have the most operationally effective career in the war, and then two decades of service with the Navy as a training vessel," he told Leon Compton on [ABC Radio Hobart](#). "One of its more famous moments in the war was landing commandos behind enemy lines in and around Papua New Guinea. I think it's a very important piece of Australia's naval history and consequently Tasmania's great maritime history."

HDML 1321 — the letters stand for Harbour Defence Motor Launch — was used by Australia's elite Z Special Unit during WWII.

Its most notorious operation was in 1945, when eight commandos used the vessel to go behind enemy lines in Papua New Guinea as part of Operation Copper.



During wartime the boat was known as the HDML1321. (Supplied: Naval Historical Society of Australia)

© Provided by ABC News (AU) 15 May 2024

The raid on Muschu Island was unsuccessful and only Sapper Mick Dennis survived.

After the war, it was based in Sydney for 20 years as a training vessel, before going into private hands in August 1971 in various places around Australia.

In 2016, the "[Tinnie Terrorists](#)" were said to have backed out of buying the vessel for use in a plot to support ISIS, and five months later in an unrelated incident, it sunk off Darwin and spent two years underwater.

A small group of volunteers known as Save Motor Launch 1321 purchased the boat from its former private owner for \$2, and tried to recover it.

In 2018, it was finally pulled out of Darwin Harbour after a mammoth effort, and has since been sitting in a purpose-built cradle on the site of the \$400 million ship lift development.

Tasmanian Maritime Network chairman Jeff Hawkins said saving the vessel presented several challenges, one being that it sits on private land.

"We are trying to gain access and are talking to the port," Dr Hawkins said. "The port is sympathetic to putting it in a safe place for us ..We don't have that confirmation yet, but that's what we are working on."

+Dr Hawkins said he has also contacted Defence Minister Richard Marles to highlight how

(Continued on page 9)



Informal portrait of four of the crew members of HDML 1321 and NX73110 Sapper (Spr) Edgar Thomas 'Mick' Dennis, Z Special Unit, the only survivor of the ill fated raid on Muschu Island (off the coast of New Guinea), at Brisbane dockyard. Identified, right: to left Spr Dennis; Leading Seaman Clayton; S/6992 Sub Lieutenant Russell Frederick Smith (Second in Command); 25630 Stoker John Francis Sevenoaks; Able Seaman Aitken

Ken Cartwright's experience with SDB 1321

In the early 1950's HDML's were reclassified as SDB's (Seaward Defence Boats). SDB 1321 was built by Purdon & Featherstone Pty Ltd in Hobart sometime between 1943-45. She was 80ft 3in (24.46m) overall with a beam of 16ft 2in (4.92m) and depth (midships) of 9ft 3in (2.81m) and powered by Two Buda 6DHMR diesel engines with twin screws. Post WWII she had an extra cabin fitted abaft the wheelhouse. Transferred to HMAS *Rushcutter* (the shore establishment and home to the RAN Reserve Port Division) in the 1950's as a tender to HMAS *Rushcutter*. Her purpose was Reserve Training. She was laid up about 1970 and declared for disposal in 1971.

For one year, (1960) I was her permanent/part time First Lieutenant (XO) the crew varied on an as required basis for class training with the permanent/part time CO & 1st Lieut. One weekend during that year she acted as radio mothership for a Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Sydney/Montague Island Yacht Race, sailing about 1600 on a Friday afternoon prior to the start of a race with a complete crew of RANR Officers and a PNF Communications PO.

On clearing Sydney, and altering to a southerly course we ran into very heavy seas and lost radio communications. In the event, unknown to us the race was cancelled and due to the sea state we had no choice other than continuing battle southwards. During the early hours on the Saturday, we lost the hatch cover and was in danger of flooding the engine room and messdeck. I organised a bucket brigade to empty out and with a SBLT to assist me went onto the upper deck and with lifelines secured, we made our way to the bow and eventually managed to secure a canvas cover over the hatch. I say eventually because we were fre-

quently knocked over and washed into the wheelhouse bulkhead.

During the night we had passed Point Perpendicular and had still been unable to alter course to seek shelter. A short time after passing Montague Island, we were able to come about and reverse our course for Jervis Bay to seek shelter and assistance. Passing the Island, we observed a largish freighter sheltering behind it.

The bilge pump was giving trouble and our Engineer raided the boat's refrigerator motor for parts to fix it. On the Saturday evening we entered Jervis Bay and berthed at the Marine Section. We were immediately visited by a very irate four stripe Captain, demanding why we were there without authority. After my Captain explained our position, the Four Ringer changed his manner and couldn't do enough for us. He quickly arranged for portable pumps and we were able to reduce the flooding but not stop it.

Very early on the Sunday morning we proceeded to sea and were able to return to *Rushcutter*, still pumping out. An inspection after arrival showed large sections of our copper sheathing had been stripped from the hull and wheelhouse windows cracked. I was relieved sometime later as the 1st Lieutenant, to undergo a diving course and in 1962 formed the Sydney Reserve Diving Team (Diving Team 5) at *Rushcutter* as it's 1st OIC.

In December 1968 I renewed my association with SDB's as OIC Seamanship School HMAS *Leeuwin*, where SDB 1325 was attached as the Commodore Barge and for Junior Recruit Training.

Ken Cartwright 2015

Ambitious plan to save Tasmanian-built Huon pine warship HDML1321 from slow death in Darwin

(Continued from page 8)

fence Minister Richard Marles to highlight how important the vessel is.

"The first challenge we have is to protect it so that it's not in the way of the ship lift," he said. "The second part is the logistics of how to get it to Tasmania."

Rear Admiral (Rtd) Gilmore said the 50 tonne vessel would need to be delivered to Tasmania by ship.

"It would require a heavy lift crane," he said.

"That's certainly been done before, it's not an impossible task. But it will take planning and it will take resources."

Dr Hawkins said the vessel needed to be protected due to its historical significance.

"We are putting together what's needed in terms of resources and the logistics," he said. "We want to get it back here to restore it here in Tasmania."

He said it was a beautiful vessel that was still in reasonable condition.

"With wooden vessels you can do real magic and make them look fantastic, but they do need a lot of love and care," Dr Hawkins said. "The most exciting part is the restoration in Tasmania — we definitely have some very good expertise in Tasmania for that. It's going to take money and a lot of passion."

Rear Admiral Gilmore said the condition of the boat was testament to Tasmania's materials and people.

"A personal vision would be to see it in the water fully able to operate underway, restored to its WWII configuration and open to the public to see what Australians did, what Tasmanians did," he said. "I think there's lots of people who will wish to be involved."

ABC News 15 May 2024

email to the Editor

Good afternoon

The above case, *Searle v Repatriation Commission* is interesting for a number of reasons.

First. The veteran claimed that whilst he was in the infantry between 1976 and 1982 he carried weights in excess of 20 kg per day. he argued that this ADF service has resulted in his lumbar spondylosis and bilateral osteoarthritis.

When the veteran left the army in 1982 he worked as a store man and he also had a motorcycle accident. The latter resulted in some back injury.

In 2019 he lodged a claim with DVA arguing his back problems were a result of his army service. However, in his discharge medical he said he had no back complaints.

The VRB found the date of clinical onset was July 2019. The SOP stated the clinical onset had to be within 25 years of a medical practitioner diagnosing the condition. The veteran was outside the 25 years.

Although the veteran argued he became aware of his back complaints earlier than 2019 this was not supported by medical evidence.

The veteran also claimed he had accrued rights under an earlier SOP. This was granted but it did not help his case much.

The veteran lost his appeal to the VRB and also at the AAT. The time has not yet elapsed to determine if he will appeal the AAT decision to the FCA.

Lesson One. When ADF personnel are leaving the service and they have an injury or ailment they should make that known so it can go on their records for later reference. Being a hero in their 20's can adversely impact claims when they get older.

Lesson Two. Veterans should ensure that they do not leave it too late to make a claim. Some SOPs have a time limit for the condition to manifest itself - the date of clinical onset. If a claim is made for a condition and it is outside this date of clinical onset it is very difficult almost impossible to prove a case.

Lesson Three. If a veteran begins to experience symptoms of a condition which can be related to service they should contact a medical specialist and get the condition recorded. I would suggest getting a copy off the report and keeping it with the individual's personal papers.

I will record *Searle v Repatriation Commission* in my periodic case references.

I hope this helps, particularly with veterans who are exiting the ADF and believe that discussing their medical conditions is a sign of weakness..

Regards

Allan Joyce

Navy Emerging Leaders Forum

The Directorate of Navy Culture held a Navy Emerging Leaders Forum (NELF) on Wednesday 01 May 2024 in Cairns. Navy Emerging Leaders Forums are designed for Lieutenants, Sub-Lieutenants, Petty Officers, and Leading Seaman, to develop leadership awareness and social mastery. Through engagement with peers, senior Navy leaders and influential speakers, NELF encourages open dialogue and group discussions about authentic leadership, people management, self-awareness and culture.

The Navy Leaders Development Program began in 2009 as an initiative of Next Generation Navy. The program has been developing Navy leaders through the lens of thinking and behaviour, working with our people to create culture change through awareness of the role of individuals, teams, and organisations.

Warrant Officer Electronics Technician Suzie Peterson speaks at the Navy Emerging Leaders Forum in Cairns.

Photo: POIS Jake Badior



ANZAC Day Canberra



Left ACT Section NAA

Below: HMAS Sydney Association

Under: WRANS and Navy Women march past the Governor General

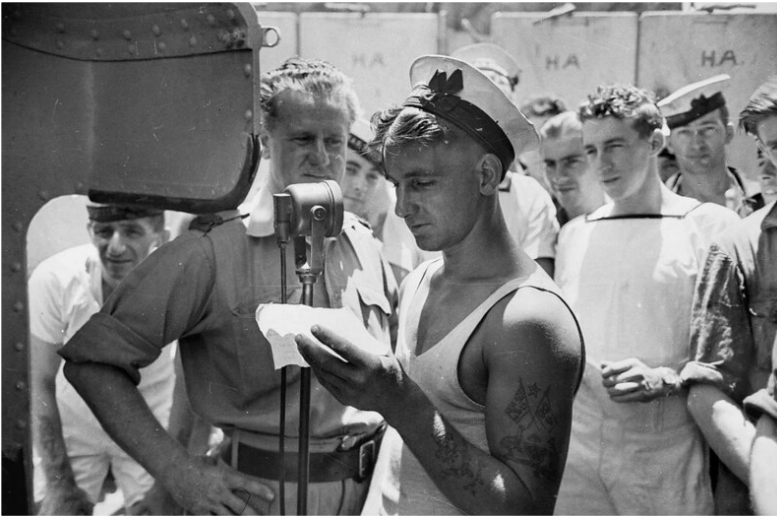
Photos Flickr



Right: Centenarians, Les Cook (Corporal 2/14th Battalion, 2 AIF) 101 last January and Merle Hare (POSV WRANS) 104 also last January share a moment at the ANZAC memorial Parade 2024 in Canberra



Photo; Flickr



Loss of HMAS Perth on 1 March 1942 is remembered at the Last Post Ceremony on 28 February 2024

Above: ABC Field Recording Unit onboard HMAS Perth, recording messages to be broadcast "back home" in Australia whilst at sea in the Middle East region

AWM 023734

Right: Sailors man the gun HMAS Perth

AWM 006602



Below: Loss of HMAS Perth Last Post Ceremony 28 February 2024

USN PO, Peter Eveille, Alex McGown Jack Aaron, Dean Walkington, Rus Shalders, Terry Rogers and the USN Attache

Photo: Flickr

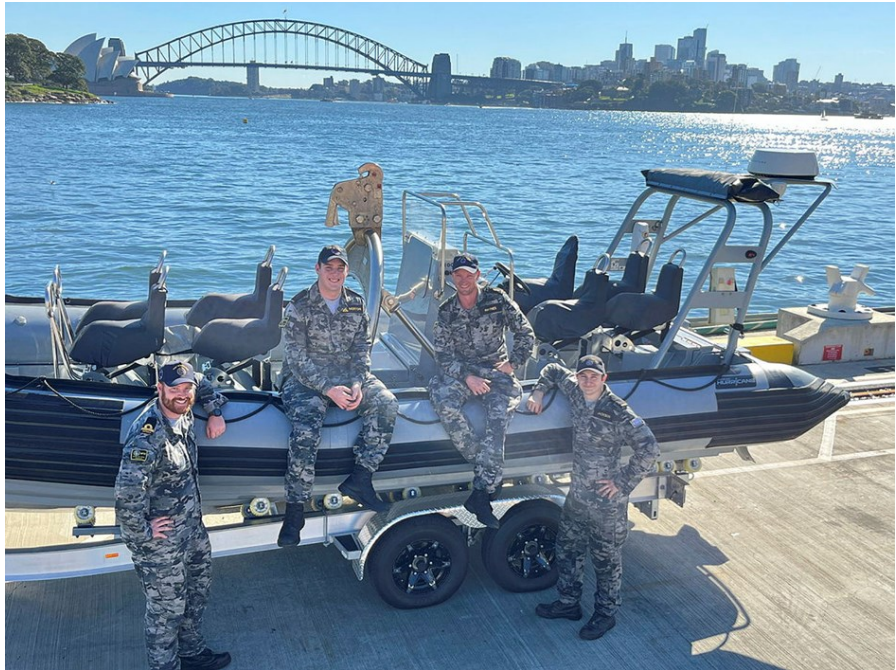


Navy to the Rescue

Quick-thinking sailors from Fleet Support Unit and Port Services assisted a kayaker after they capsized in Sydney Harbour. Navy Port Services provide support to ships alongside, at anchor and buoy across six naval bases around Australia.

Port Services is staffed by seamanship and technical sailors who provide a range of services to Australian and International Naval ships. Fleet Support Unit is home to the Navy's uniformed maintenance workforce and has been growing to develop its workforce and capabilities, including a Centre of Excellence in RHIB Maintenance. Currently,

FSU has more than 780 personnel including officers, senior, junior sailors and Australian Public Service staff. Port Services and Fleet Support Unit Sailors are developing the skills and knowledge required to serve on the next generation of Naval ships and submarines.



(L-R) Seaman Riley Moreton, Sub-Lieutenant Nathan Rose, Able Seaman Justin Haynes and Seaman Jamie Jackson in a rigid hull inflatable boat at Fleet Base East after assisting a distressed kayaker in Sydney Harbour.

Photo: LSIS Harry Boardman

HMAS ANZAC Decommissions



Ship's company of HMAS Anzac (III) said a fond farewell to the Anzac-class frigate in a decommissioning ceremony at HMAS Stirling in Perth on 18 May 2024.

The ceremony concluded the Royal Australian Navy ship's 28 years of distinguished service. HMAS Anzac is being decommissioned to make way for the new and evolved fleet.

Above and left; The Ensign Party hauls down the Australian White Ensign for the last time on the flight deck of HMAS Anzac during the ship's decommissioning ceremony

Photos: LSIS Ernesto Sanchez

DVA Contacts

Provider enquiry numbers

- Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: [1300 550 017](tel:1300550017)
- Provider enquiries: [1800 550 457](tel:1800550457)
- Transport bookings: [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455)
- [Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre](#) (VAPAC): [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580)

Hearing or speech impairment assistance

- If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service](#) (NRS):
- Talk To You (TTY) users phone [1800 555 677](tel:1800555677) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Speak and Listen users phone [1800 555 727](tel:1800555727) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Internet relay users connect to the [NRS](#) then ask for 1800 838 372

Claim Processing

As at 31 May 2024, DVA had 76,207 claims on hand, comprised of 3,003 unallocated claims and 73,204 claims being processed.

In the financial year to date (1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024):

- DVA received 80,931 claims
- DVA made 92,750 determinations
- the average time taken to process MRCA Initial liability claims was 370 days, a decrease of 68 days (or 15.5%), compared to the previous FYTD.

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 \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN(1800838372))

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation: health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017 (Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1:** Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- **Step 2:** Supply the documents you need to;
- **Step 3:** Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036