



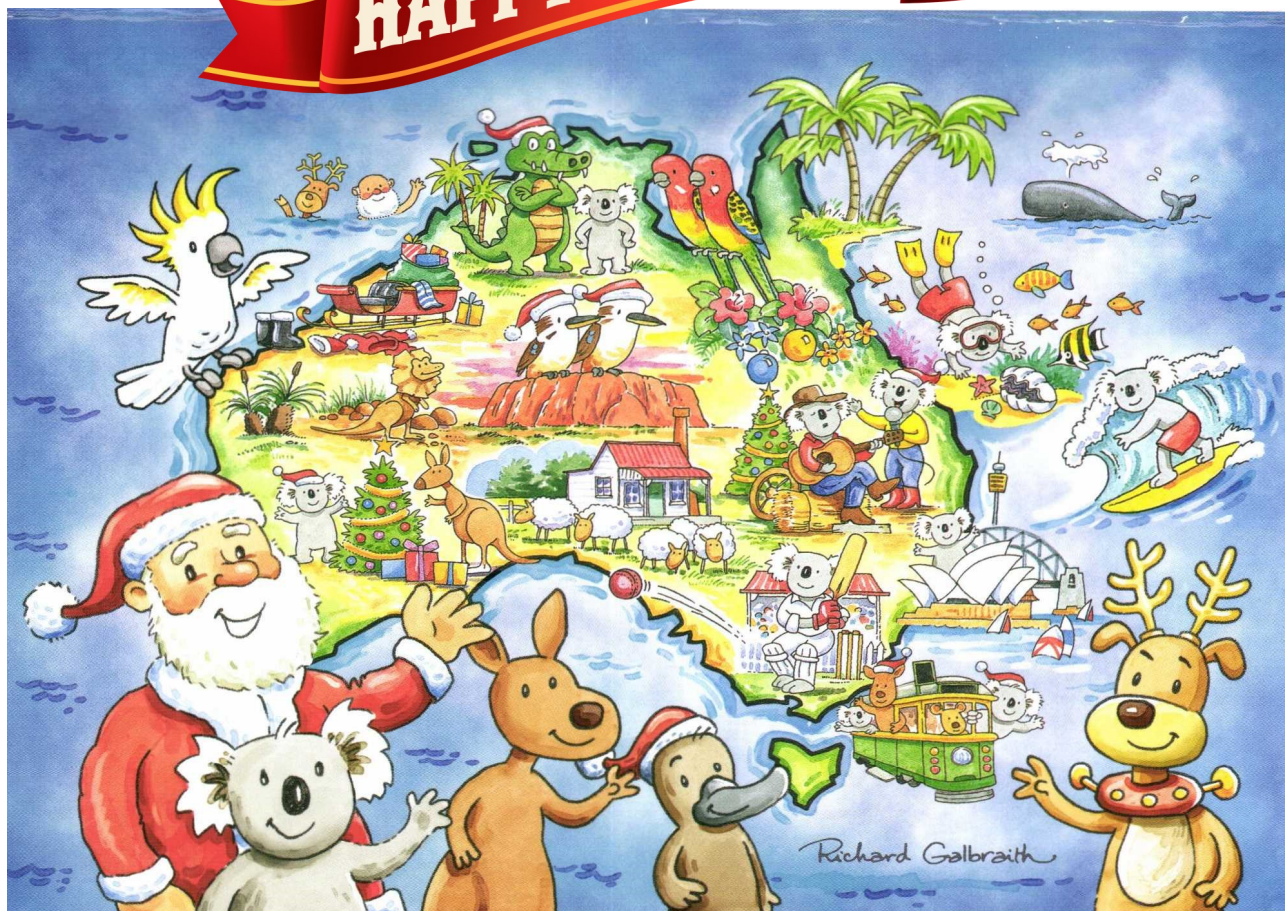
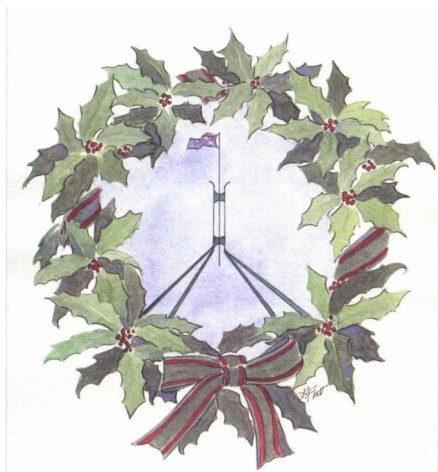
National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 11

Once Navy, Always Navy

December 2023



Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Dear members and families

May beautiful moments and happy memories surround you with joy this Christmas



Wishing you all a safe and merry festive season

David Manolas

National President



New pension rates from 20 September 2023

SERVICE PENSION (total amount)	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,064.00	\$1,096.70	\$32.70
Couples (each)	\$802.00	\$826.70	\$24.70
Single person – transitional	\$887.60	\$906.80	\$19.20
Couples (each) – transitional	\$716.10	\$731.60	\$15.50
WAR WIDOWS (total amount)			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,082.50	\$1,116.30	\$33.80
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$321.10	\$331.40	\$10.30
DISABILITY Compensation Payment (total amount)			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,676.20	\$1,729.20	\$53.00
Intermediate rate	\$1,111.30	\$1,146.40	\$35.10
EDA	\$904.60	\$933.20	\$28.60
100%	\$581.90	\$600.30	\$18.40
10%	\$65.12	\$66.96	\$1.84
MRCA*			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,082.50	\$1,116.30	\$33.80
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,676.20	\$1,729.20	\$53.00

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. An explanation of these changes is available in the online version of *Vetaffairs*.

*Note that the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) payments are the fortnightly payments amounts, not the weekly amounts.

The Naval Association of Australia Inc

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National Patron His Excellency General The Honourable
David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia



Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

21 November 2023

The Chair of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide says new suicide monitoring data reinforces the need for urgent action to address the national crisis.

A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released today reveals there were at least 1677 deaths by suicide between 1997 and 2021 among serving, ex-serving and reservist Australian Defence Force personnel who served on or after 1 July 1985.

Disturbingly, the data shows ex-serving females are twice as likely to die by suicide than the general female Australian population whether they served in the permanent forces or only in the reserves.

Ex-serving males who were enlisted in the permanent forces are 42% more likely to die by suicide than the broader male Australian population; however, ex-serving males who served exclusively in the reserve forces are no more likely to die by suicide than the general Australian male population.

The AIHW also compared suicide rates for ex-service personnel based on whether they had left the ADF by choice or their employment was terminated.

The new data indicates ex-serving females who are involuntarily discharged on medical grounds are 5.2 times more likely to die by suicide, while those who are involuntarily discharged for reasons other than medical reasons are 2.44 times more likely to die by suicide.

Ex-serving males who are involuntarily discharged on medical grounds are 2.78 times more likely to die by suicide, while those who are involuntarily discharged for other reasons are 1.54 more likely to die by suicide.

Chair of the Royal Commission, Nick Kaldas, said the latest AIHW report reinforces the need for urgent action to stop the senseless loss of life.

"This report reinforces that we are dealing with a national crisis," Commissioner Kaldas said. "I urge the Government and its agencies to work with us to achieve better outcomes for serving and ex-serving ADF members, and their families."

Of the 1677 recorded suicide deaths, 1542 were men and 135 were women.

"Tragically, that's more than 20-times the number killed in active duty over roughly the same period," Mr Kaldas said. "And the problem is likely much more serious than the figures portray because they do not include serving and ex-serving members whose deaths were not officially recorded as suicide, such as incidents where intent could not be determined – nor do they include those who served before 1985, including our Vietnam Veterans, who died by suicide."

The Royal Commission continues to examine the many complex cultural and systemic issues, including within the ADF and Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, that are failing past and present ADF personnel, and their families – and contributing to high rates of suicide and suicidality in our military community.

"We're determined to deliver robust, evidence-based findings and recommendations that will lead to improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes for past and present ADF members – and contribute to a stronger, more resilient and better ADF to meet Australia's future defence capability needs," Commissioner Kaldas said.

A final public hearing will be held in Sydney in March where senior Government and Defence leaders are expected to give evidence.

DVA Advice—21 November 2023

The important ongoing work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide remains critical to deeper understanding and addressing the unacceptable rates of deaths by suicide in our Defence and veteran community.

Help is available. There are a range of services and supports available to those who need it. All current and former serving members of the ADF who have completed one day of full-time service (and some reservists) are eligible for fully-funded mental health treatment through the [Non-Liability Health Care](#) program. Proof your condition is related to military service isn't required to access treatment.

Veterans can access health treatment for 20 of the most commonly claimed physical conditions while their health claim is being considered, and immediate financial assistance is available to eligible veterans

submitting a mental health claim through [The Veteran Payment](#).

If you're a veteran or their immediate family member or know someone in the veteran community struggling with their mental health, please encourage them to reach out for support.

- Defence personnel can contact their local health centre, the All Hours Support Line on 1800 628 036 or the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling Service provides free and confidential mental health support available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for veterans and their immediate families on 1800 011 046.

The report can be accessed by visiting the [AIHW website](#).

DVA services during the holiday season

1 January 2024

DVA will continue to provide support to veterans and families during the holiday season. However, please be aware that some services will be impacted.

Counselling and mental health support

The Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling telephone line is available to support current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Phone [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046) toll-free.

Safe Zone Support is an anonymous counselling line that is available 24/7 to support members of the current and ex-service community and families. Phone [1800 142 072](tel:1800142072) toll-free.

If you require urgent assistance, please call 000. If you are unwell, please contact your local doctor or go to your nearest hospital.

Open Arms centres will be closed for the Christmas / New Year period from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024 **inclusive**, and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2024. For further mental health information and support, visit the [Open Arms website](#).

Transport bookings for medical treatment

DVA staff will be available to process transport requests for approved medical treatment on 27, 28 and 29 December. Please call [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455).

This service will be closed on the weekends as well as 25 and 26 December and 1 January. If transport is required on these days and has not been pre-booked, you can pay for the travel and seek reimbursement when we re-open. Or, if you are an existing MyService user, you can make [new transport bookings](#) and review existing ones [online](#).

For travel in an emergency always dial 000.

VAN offices and general enquiries

DVA offices, shopfronts and general enquiry services do not operate over weekends or public holidays.

Over the Christmas period, they will be closed from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024 **inclusive**. This includes DVA's General Enquiries phone line and our Veteran Access Network offices. These services will resume on **Tuesday 2 January 2024**.

Defence Service Homes Insurance

DSH Insurance and its advisors will be available for support with any insurance needs from 8 am to 5 pm, Wednesday 27 December to Friday 29 December. Outside of business hours, and during weekends and national public holidays, calls will be diverted to DSH Insurance's after-hours service partner, ensuring that support is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

For enquiries, or help with a policy or claim, phone [1300 552 662](tel:1300552662).

Online insurance enquiries can be made via the [DSH Insurance website](#). They will respond to you after the public holidays.

You can also use lodge a non-urgent claim via the [online claim form](#).

For DSH Insurance's automated payment service, phone [1300 304 989](tel:1300304989) for the cost of a local call. This service is also available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Hospital admissions

Doctors can admit DVA patients into hospital over the holiday period and request retrospective approval for the admission, where required, when DVA resumes full services.

Pharmaceutical approvals

There will be no reduction in services across the Christmas/New Year period. Providers seeking prior approval for pharmaceuticals can call the Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre 24 hours a day on [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580).

Pension payments

Pension paydays are not affected over this period. So the last payment in 2023 will be on Thursday 28 December 2023. The first payment of the New Year will be Thursday 11 January 2024. See 'Payment dates' section below.

Incapacity payments

Incapacity payments will be paid as normal on Thursday 21 December 2023. The next payment after this is due on Thursday 4 January 2024. See 'Payment dates' section below.

Payment dates

As a result of differing arrangements by various banks during the holiday period, which are beyond DVA's control, the precise day of the week you receive your pension or incapacity payment may differ from the usual. You may wish to make arrangements to ensure you have enough funds to cover any direct deposit payments.

Client Support Program

The Client Support Program (CSP) provides case management services tailored to the individual needs of clients and families. This program will be closed from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024 inclusive.

CSP case managers will contact their clients prior to this period to discuss support arrangements over this period.

Veteran Support Officers

Veteran Support Officers (VSOs) provide personalised DVA services to ADF members on Defence bases.

(Continued on page 5)

15th Sea Rights Anniversary—28 July 2023

RAN sailors and officers have taken part in the 15th Sea Rights Anniversary on the shores of Blue Mud Bay, Northern Territory. The Navy Indigenous Performance Group (Bungaree) visited Baniyala, where Djambawa Marawili, AM, gifted a customary dance from the Sea Country to Bungaree. Navy sailors and officers also took part in a week of cultural immersion leading up to Sea Rights, conducting activities with local members of the community. The anniversary, held on 30th July 2023, was attended by Chief of Navy, Warrant Officer of the Navy and Army representatives

Djambawa Marawili is passionate about the socio-political rights of his people and their land. The Yolngu



Above: Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, speaks at the 15th Sea Rights Anniversary during a Navy Indigenous immersion event in Baniyala, NT.

Left: Djambawa Marawili, AM, works on the painting representing the spirit of Sea Rights in Baniyala, Northern Territory.

Photos ABMED Keetah Davies

DVA services during the holiday season

(Continued from page 4)

VSOs will not be available from 23 December 2023 to 1 January 2024 inclusive.

ADF members can continue to book VSO appointments over the holiday period by emailing vso@dva.gov.au

Scam and fraud tip-offs

The Scam and Fraud Tip-Off mailboxes will not be monitored between 23 December 2023 and 1 January 2024 inclusive.

If you believe you have been the victim of a Scam, please review the options available at [IDCARE Official Website – Identity Theft & Cyber Support](https://www.idcare.gov.au).

For all serious matters, please contact the police.

people began to initiate a court case in order to get recognition to their own land. Marawili contributed to this collection with his art work as well and attended the federal court hearing in Canberra. The court ended up not ruling in the Yolngu people's favour and they were not granted the rights to their land. However, they appealed the decision and in 2008 the Yolngu people gained legal ownership to the intertidal zone, between high and low tide marks.

Source: RAN and Wikipedia

East Arnhem Land and west coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria



Supporting Veterans into Tertiary Education and Employment

Monday, 27 November 2023

The Hon Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

The Albanese Government is further delivering on our commitment to empowering veterans in their transition to the civilian workforce and to pursue higher education.

Australian veterans have a lot to give after service - they're resourceful, with skills like leadership, teamwork and the ability to work under pressure.

Unfortunately many civilian businesses don't have a thorough understanding of the expertise of Australian veterans, or how best to support them.

The Albanese Government is investing \$2.45 million to improve access to education and employment opportunities for veterans.

This includes better recognising military experience through prior learning programs at Australian universities, while a recruitment advisory service will be stood up to better support veteran employers.

The program builds upon our expansion of the existing recognition of prior learning in Defence for veterans in vocational education.

The Australian Catholic University has been awarded an \$800,000 *Recruitment Advisory Service* grant to support veteran and partner recruitment and retention by providing high quality, evidence-based resources and advice to employers.

Five *Recognition of Prior Learning* grants will go to universities to deliver or enhance recognition of prior learning frameworks to better reflect the skills and knowledge veterans gain during their service, with a total of \$692,000 awarded to the universities for round one.

Applications for the next round of the Recognition of Prior Learning grants open in 2024.

These programs form part of the Albanese Government's \$24 million Veteran Employment program.

For full details, visit the [Veteran Employment Program website](#).

Media contacts

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office): 0407 034 485

DVA Media: media.team@dva.gov.au

Recipients of the Veteran Recognition of Prior Learning - Tertiary Support Grant Program		
Organisation Name	Project name	Funding
Flinders University (in consortium with University of the Sunshine Coast)	Mapping Roles and Jobs - Recognising the skill sets of veterans to support more effective transition to employment	\$150,000.00
Australian Catholic University	Making All Learning Count Building Higher Education Micro-credentialing Framework for ADF Courses	\$145,000.00
University of Canberra	Connected-University of Canberra Veterans Tertiary Support Program	\$147,000.00
University of NSW	Veteran Pathways into Professional Education (VPIPE) Scheme	\$150,000.00
Charles Darwin University	CDU Veteran Recognition of Prior Learning Program	\$100,000.00

Recipient of the Recruitment Advisory Service Grant Program		
Organisation Name	Project description	Funding
Australian Catholic University	ACU will work collaboratively with employers, veteran groups, and HR specialists to define best policy and practice in the recruitment, retention, and support of veteran and Defence partners in the Australian workplace.	\$800,000

MyService Enhancements Release 2

3 December 2023

New capabilities are being added to MyService which will improve user experience when lodging Initial Liability claims to support Disability Compensation Payments (DCP). They will also be applied to Application For Increase in Disability Compensation Payment (AFI) claims. These new features form part of our response to recommendations in the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's Interim Report.

The new capabilities in MyService will improve service delivery for veterans and their families when they lodge claims. The improvements include:

- tailored messaging that explains what support documentation is required to complete claim submitted in MyService
- display of key information about the claims, regardless of which channel the claim was submitted (the introduction of a new status, 'awaiting your information', so the veteran or family mem-

ber knows when they need to provide information for the department to progress their claim

- the introduction of new myGov notifications to remind claimants when there is outstanding information needed to progress their claim, and to alert them when they have tasks in MyService requesting documents improved document upload capability for all claims, including those not lodged through MyService. This will allow veterans and their families to provide information through MyService rather than traditional mail. This provides clients a more intuitive document upload experience, including the ability to add 'Other' documents to their claim up until a determination is made. They will also be able to view all the documents uploaded in MyService against their claim at any time.

For more information, please see the [MyService Enhancements Factsheet](#).

If you are driving in Canberra - Be Aware - Latest camera catches more bad habits

CANBERRA'S two "hidden" mobile phone detection cameras are revealing the true nature of this dangerous driving offence in the ACT, recording an average of more than 330 offences every day.

The fixed cameras mounted on overhead gantries over Hindmarsh Drive at Symonston and over Gungahlin Drive have detected more than 4400 drivers using a mobile device since the warning phase or "grace period" started just over four weeks ago.

The fixed gantry cameras are the only ones which are not obvious to drivers. The three others are on large transportable trailers parked on the verge, are painted in fluorescent yellow, and have a telescopic gantry system which hangs out over the roadway.

An ACT government spokesperson said that the high number of detections "once again highlights the significant road safety issue we are currently facing".

Over 6800 Canberrans have received letters since the warning phase of the \$7 million program began on November 3

Drivers will start to receive infringement notices, carrying fines and demerit points, in February.

From then on, any motorists caught using their mobile phone illegally will be fined \$498 and penalised three demerit points.

Over 48,000 Canberrans have been detected

The new gantry camera on Gungahlin Drive only came online on November 25 however, total detections per month across the ACT have

shot up from 5536 in October to a new territory high of 7044.

Gungahlin Drive now is detecting an average of 230 infringements a day and Hindmarsh Drive, which has been in place for longer, an average of 102 per day.

Both fixed cameras are capturing more errant motorists than the trailer cameras.

The latest detection data is troubling for the government as driver perception has not shifted despite numerous warnings that the technology is here, and tough penalties will arrive in the new year.

"We are asking motorists to leave their phone alone," an ACT spokesperson said.

"Now is the time to change bad habits, put your phone down and prioritise getting yourself and all road users home safely."

Since the trial program of the Australian-developed Acusensus cameras began in February, over 48,000 Canberrans have been detected using their mobile device, equating to almost 170 people being detected daily. In July this year, detections were averaging 100 per day

Peter Brewer

Canberra Times 8 December 2023

Royal Navy joins allies in test of latest undersea tech during major exercise in Australia

Patrol ship HMS Tamar has strengthened ties with the Australian and US Navies in the Pacific – and tested a key-stone capability of the Royal Navy's future fleet.

The Portsmouth-based warship has spent the past four weeks operating in and around Sydney, focusing on furthering links with the Royal Australian Navy and an Anglo-American-Australian exercise, testing new equipment which will increase the protection of critical underwater infrastructure.

The exercise, staged just off the coast of Sydney under the banner of the AUKUS partnership between the three countries, allowed the first run out of the Royal Navy's new 'PODS' programme, designed to expand the capabilities of today's – and tomorrow's – warships.

The workout saw some 39 Royal Navy and US Navy Dive Team, hydrographers and Royal Marine communications specialists embark on Tamar. Supporting them were two mission PODS – Persistent Operational Deployment Systems.

Roughly the same size as a shipping container each POD contains equipment and support for a dedicated operation which a ship wouldn't normally perform, such as minehunting, launching surveillance drones, perhaps kit for a Royal Marines boarding team or raiding party.

It's a concept central to the design of and proposed operations by the Royal Navy's next generation of frigates, the Type 26 and 31.

In addition, an Australian dive team embarked on the Australian Defence Vessel ADV Guidance with current and experimental underwater equipment.



Described as a combination of "exercise, tactical development and demonstration all in one", crewed and uncrewed, autonomous and remotely-operated systems were tested, pushing the boundaries of technology and interaction between three extremely-close allies on and beneath the waves.

For Tamar's Commanding Officer Commander Teilo Elliot-Smith, the exercise proved eye-opening on many levels – from the speed of technological development in underwater warfare ("the rate of progress in this sphere is astonishing") to expanding the capabilities of the River class ships which can 'plug and play' the new PODS – and the concept bodes equally well for future Royal Navy warships.

Despite operating extensively in and around the Australian sub-continent for nearly two years, this was the first visit by HMS Tamar to Australia's largest city.

Hosted at HMAS Kuttabul – the Royal Australian Navy east coast home and against the backdrop of the Royal Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

The patrol ship hosted a string of civilian and military VIPs, led by the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Ben Key, who thanked the ship's company for their persistent efforts and they provided him with an update on their exploits.

With so many iconic venues to witness and experience, Tamar's 50-strong ship's company made use of any spare time to take in the sights and sounds of Sydney and its surrounding area.

Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO)

Left: On 23 October 2023 The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley was the guest of honour alongside the British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar

Photos: ARNO



Royal Navy joins allies in test of latest undersea tech during major exercise in Australia—4 December 2023

HMS *Tamar* has arrived in the Australian city of Cairns in preparation for a festive period and new year around the South Pacific islands.

The patrol ship will be one of the most active Royal Navy units as 2023 becomes 2024 on patrol around eastern Australasia.

She'll do so with a new title – best overseas patrol vessel – and a new commanding officer, as Commander Teilo Elliot-Smith steps down after 28 months in charge.

Commander Teilo Elliot-Smith took charge of the ship just three weeks before she left Portsmouth on her five-year mission in company with her younger sister HMS *Spey* to reinvigorate the Royal Navy's presence in the Asia-Indo-Pacific region.

Statistics give an idea of just how busy the ship has been since sailing from Portsmouth in September 2021. HMS *Tamar* has

- sailed 60,623 nautical miles – two and a half times around the earth;
- crossed the Equator five times and the International Date Line once;

- visited 38 ports in Europe, the Caribbean, Central America, North America, East and South East Asia, Indian subcontinent, Australasia and Oceania.

Commander Elliot-Smith said “The biggest impression left on me by it all: my sailors. It's been a critical mission to tee up the UK and the Royal Navy in an uncertain and precarious region which will determine the world strategic balance for the remainder of this century.

“We'll only come to understand the full significance of this work in years to come... and it been an absolute blast”.

He leaves behind a new addition to the *Tamar* trophy cabinet: the Jersey Cup, awarded to the globally-deployed patrol vessel which has contributed the most to the Royal Navy's effectiveness over the past 12 months in the eyes of senior officers.

They say *Tamar* has been the embodiment of “soft power” whose “strategic impact and high standards of delivery are setting a benchmark – not just for the Royal Navy – but for Navies across the region in their use of Offshore Patrol Vessels.”

Background to HMS *Tamar's* Activities

HMS *Tamar* is a Batch 2 River-class offshore patrol vessel of the Royal Navy. Named after the River Tamar in England, this is the seventh Royal Navy ship to be named *Tamar*. She is the fourth Batch 2 River-class vessel to be built and is forward deployed long-term to the Indo-Pacific region with her sister ship HMS *Spey*.

In January 2022, *Tamar* conducted ECC operations off the East Coast of China.

In February/March 2023, *Tamar* operated in waters of the British Indian Ocean Territory conducting fisheries protection and other missions. Later in March, *Tamar* joined the French Navy's helicopter assault ship *Dixmude* and frigate *La Fayette* for exercises off Sri Lanka.

In September 2023, HMS *Tamar* was operating in Australian waters and in the South Pacific conducting seabed warfare exercises. For these exercises, *Tamar* embarked divers and autonomous underwater vehicles to conduct mine countermeasures operations and monitor critical infrastructure. The exercises highlighted the ‘plug and play’ modular design of the vessels dependent on their specific mission.

The **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)** is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom situated in the Indian Ocean, halfway between Tanzania and Indonesia. The territory comprises the seven of the Chagos Archipelago with over 1,000 individual islands, many very small, amounting to a total land area of 60 square kilometres (23 square miles). The

largest and most southerly island is Diego Garcia, 27 square kilometres (10 square miles), the site of a Joint Military Facility of the United Kingdom and the United States. Official administration is remote from London, though the local capital is often regarded as being on Diego Garcia.^[8]

The only inhabitants are British and United States military personnel, and associated contractors, who collectively number around 3,000 (2018 figures). The forced removal of Chagossians from the Chagos Archipelago occurred between 1968 and 1973. The Chagossians, then numbering about 2,000 people, were expelled by the UK government to Mauritius and Seychelles in order to construct the military base.

Since the 1980s, the Government of Mauritius has sought to regain control over the Chagos Archipelago, which was separated from the then Crown Colony of Mauritius by the UK in 1965 to form the British Indian Ocean Territory. A February 2019 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice called for the islands to be given to Mauritius. Since this, the United Nations General Assembly and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea have reached similar decisions. On 3 November 2022, it was announced that the UK and Mauritius had decided to begin negotiations on sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, taking into account the international legal proceedings.

Wikipedia

HMA Ships Diamantina I and Diamantina II in Brisbane together.

20 November 2023

Sydney based, Huon Class Coastal Minehunter, HMAS Diamantina conducted a port visit to Brisbane, Queensland during the period 16-20 November 2023. The Minehunter's principal task is to keep Australia's maritime focal points for trade, free from the threat of mines. The Huon Class Minehunters are all named after Australian rivers. Diamantina is the second Royal Australian Navy ship to carry the name.



Above: HMAS Diamantina II sails out from Wagners Pinkenba Wharf in Brisbane, Queensland.

Photos: Derfence



Diamantina I photos: Top HMAS Diamantina prior to Paying Off in 1947. A "Q" or "N" Class destroyer is berthed on the other side of the wharf.

Above: Diamantina I in Port Jackson in 1978 during the second phase of her life from 1959 to 1980 as an oceanographic research ship.



Left: 1 October 1980 Diamantina commencing her life's third phase departing Port Jackson under her own power with a crew of 40 members of the Queensland Maritime Museum Association for Brisbane supported by 12 previous members of her crew from the RAN. She anchored in Moreton Bay on 3 October where on the 4 October 1980 CMDR Maurice Rose DSC RAN Rtd, her original commissioning Captain in 1945, joined her for passage up the Brisbane River to New Farm where the Minister for Defence The Hon Jim Killen MP handed her over to the Queensland Maritime Museum



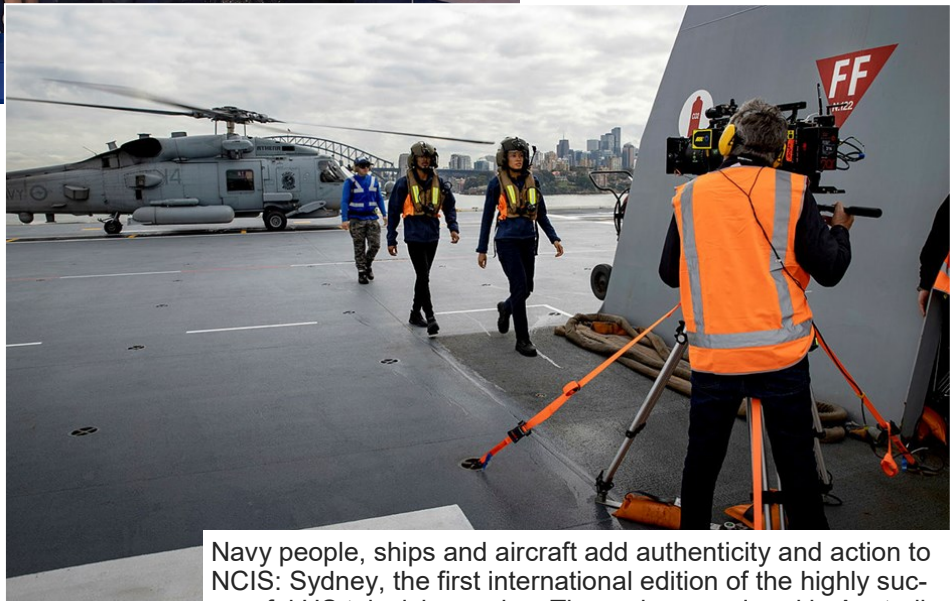
Navy shines in NCIS: Sydney spotlight

Photos: ABIS Lucinda Allanson
LSIS Susan Mossop

Above: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, and his wife Jodi Hammond with NCIS Special Agent Trevor Moss and NCIS: Sydney actors, at the NCIS: Sydney Launch

Right: Actors from the TV show NCIS Australia disembark a MH-60R aircraft on the flight deck of HMAS Canberra during filming of the TV series in Sydney Harbour, NSW

Below: An MH-60R aircraft flies over Sydney Harbour during an action scene by Braddley's Head



Navy people, ships and aircraft add authenticity and action to NCIS: Sydney, the first international edition of the highly successful US television series. The series premiered in Australia on 10 November and in the United States on 13 November. For Navy, NCIS: Chief of Navy, VADM Mark Hammond, AO, RAN and Executive Vice President, Chief Content Officer and Head of Paramount+, Paramount ANZ, Beverley McGarvey were guests of honour at the series launch in Walsh Bay, Sydney on 10 November, 2023

Ms McGarvey said Navy's provision of access to facilities, fleet and personnel amplified the production value of *NCIS: Sydney* beyond measure.

"We are extremely grateful for the Defence's support of Endemol Shine Australia's production of the first international iteration of this iconic franchise, which will take the majesty of Sydney Harbour to the world, with all the intrigue and heart that NCIS audiences have come to love," Ms McGarvey said.

A spectacular helicopter boat chase off Garden Island in episode one required weeks of planning and coordination and plenty of Navy talent.

Pilot Lieutenant Commander Ben Martin said it was a privilege for his crew, 816 Squadron Flight 7, the Fleet Air Arm and Navy to be involved in the activity.

"Flying the Seahawk in Sydney Harbour was one of the best days flying I have had in my 18 years as a RAN pilot," Lieutenant Commander Martin said.

"The profiles flown were similar to profiles flown during the RAN's previous roles in the Middle East during Operations Slipper and Manitou, which I did as a lieutenant..

Reported by Lieutenant Brendan Trembath



Launch ANC Youth Development Program

The ANC has modernised its youth development program for cadets to experience an enjoyable, contemporary and consistent national curriculum. The redesign of the youth development program is a major Navy led initiative to reform the ANC and expose cadets to a range of maritime capabilities. It aims to encourage and support cadet growth and retention.

The Cadet Youth Development continuum (CYDC) will deliver a program that connects Navy to the community, providing an environment where young Australians can develop and grow. The CYDC has been designed to promote a positive disposition of Navy while contributing to the community by providing youth development that is consistent with ADF values.

The CYDC incorporates new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) features to motivate cadets and make the program more attractive and relevant to the Australian labour market

Top Cadets from TS Darwin on board HMAS Childers pose on the foc'sle under the 25mm main armament.

Right: The cadets get a feel for the ship's propulsion system and relaxed machinery spaces during their visit to HMAS Childers

Photos: AB Jordon Hyde



Left: Assistant Minister for Defence and Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley, CSC, RAN, and CO of HMAS Adelaide, Captain Troy Duggan, RAN, with Australian Navy Cadets during a youth development program held onboard HMAS Adelaide

Photo: LSIS Abdus Chowdhury

Record graduation for technical course—23 November 2023

A record number of Technical Charge Qualification Common Course (TCQCC) students have graduated from the Technical Training Faculty at HMAS *Cerberus*, thanks to a newly revised course structure and delivery.

Eight marine technicians and five electronics technicians successfully passed their oral examination board (OEB), along with an additional four marine technicians and two electronics technicians from previous TCQCC's, all overseen by members of the fleet engineering community.

TCQCC course implementation officer, Warrant Officer Craig Daly, said the number was unprecedented.

"Never before in the Navy's modern era, have we successfully graduated 19 petty officers in one session of Engineering TCQ OEB's here at HMAS *Cerberus*", he said.

Warrant Officer Daly designed and implemented the recent course structure changes alongside TCQ instructors, Chief Petty Officer David Stow and Chief Petty Officer Jeffree Dillon.

Under the new remote delivery method, students complete three separate phases over a seven-month period, completing online assignments and sitting three mandatory training examination boards at the end of each phase.

When students receive the final board recommendation they spend a week conducting an engineering roadshow in Sydney and Canberra, followed by a period of board preparation before completing their OEB at *Cerberus*.

Since this change from the initial structure, where students had four months to complete online and face-to-face components before a six-month period to complete their OEB, there has been a significant increase in success rates.

Director Training Authority-Engineering Captain Thomas Doherty highlighted the immediate positive impact these technical qualifications will have on

capability for all Navy platforms.

"The recent changes to the TCQCC will afford further posting opportunities as well as bolstering the promotion prospects for our senior technical ranks," Captain Doherty said.

"It will also ensure candidates are able to remain posted in their home locations while completing the majority of the course, affording a better work/study balance and further enabling technicians to achieve this technical career milestone."

Warrant Officer Daly said the developments were made possible thanks to the hard work of the Navy engineering community.

"The new course structure represents the culmination of 18 months of hard work from the instructors, with support from engineering community, in particular the fleet engineering command warrant officers, to ensure the revised structure is delivered in the best method possible," Warrant Officer Daly said.

"The last time HMAS *Cerberus* conducted this style of course was back in the early 1990s under the old 'Phase Four Course.'"

The graduation was attended by Director Fleet Engineering Captain Ben Hurst and Deputy Director Training Authority Engineering Commander Stefanie Curic.

By Richard Wilkins

Note

The photo below was taken in front of the Engineering Faculty building in HMAS Cerberus which is named the Sir William Clarkson Building.

Curiosity got the better of me. Who was Sir William Clarkson?

Editor



Who was Sir William Clarkson?

William Clarkson was born 26 March 1859 at Whitby, Yorkshire, England. Educated at a private school in Whitby, he was articled to the ship-building firm of R & W Hawthorn of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and later worked there as a marine engineer.

In May 1884 Clarkson joined the South Australian Naval Service as an Engineer Lieutenant, coming to the colony in HMCS *Protector*. Serving under Captain W R Creswell, he shared his enthusiasm for the development of an Australian naval force. Clarkson was a staff engineer aboard *Protector* during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900-01, before transferring to the Commonwealth Naval Forces (CNF) upon Federation. He was promoted to Engineer Commander in October 1905 and two years later visited Japan, the USA and the UK to study naval dockyards and ship construction. He remained in the UK in 1908-11 overseeing the construction of destroyers for the CNF.

Clarkson was promoted to Engineer Captain in July 1910 and, upon the establishment of the Royal Australian Navy in 1911, was appointed Third Naval Member of the Australian Naval Board, a post he held until his retirement in 1923. He was responsible for the construction and engineering of ships, for ships' repairs, and for control of naval dockyards and bases. In 1913 he was appointed CMG and on the outbreak of World War I became controller of shipping for Australia as well as director of transports. He was promoted to Engineer Rear Admiral



Officers of HMCS Protector, 14 September 1897, in front of one of the ship's 6-inch guns. Standing from left: Warrant Officer James White, Chief Gunner Edwin Argent, Lieutenant Patrick Weir; Seated: Chief Engineer William Clarkson, Captain William Creswell and Lieutenant Marshall Smith. Photos; SPC RAN

in 1916 and appointed KBE in 1918. That year he was appointed chairman and controller of the Interstate Central Committee to operate coastal shipping requisitioned for Imperial service.

The royal commission on navy and defence administration in 1918 lamented the effect on Clarkson's naval duties of the many other activities with which he was entrusted, yet recommended that in a reconstituted Naval Board he be appointed business member with wider naval responsibility. Cabinet later refused to accept the commission's recommendation so that he could concentrate solely on his naval duties.

In 1919-22, under Clarkson's guidance, the RAN developed a modernisation programme, including construction of ships, submarines and a fleet air arm. He was promoted to Engineer Vice Admiral in November 1922 and transferred to the retired list. On the formation of the Commonwealth Shipping Board in August 1923, he was appointed chairman, serving until 1927.

Clarkson died at his home in Darling Point, Sydney, on 21 January 1934 and was survived by his wife and two sons

He was cremated at the Rookwood Crematorium and a funeral with full military honours was held. His ashes were then transported back to his hometown, where they were interred in the family memorial at the Church of Saint Mary, Whitby.

He is remembered in Canberra with the naming of Clarkson Street in Pearce.

One of his many other activities

Prior to federation the Australian states' ties to England were strong and military expeditions were sent to various overseas conflicts to aid the Mother

(Continued on page 15)





The Department of Veterans' Affairs is pleased to announce that tickets are now available to attend the 2024 Anzac Day Dawn Services in France and Türkiye.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Gallipoli, Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site within the Gallipoli Peninsula. This will be followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial service at

Tickets for international 2024 Anzac Day services now available.

Lone Pine Cemetery, the site of one of the fiercest battles that the Australians fought during the First World War.

The Dawn Service in France will be held at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France, followed by a service at the Digger Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt. The local French government will hold a series of smaller services in Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt throughout the day.

Those planning to attend the Dawn Services can get their free attendance passes online at <https://commemorations.teg.com.au>. Early registration is essential. For entry requirements and travel advice for France and Türkiye, visit smartraveller.gov.au.

For those unable to travel, the services in France and Türkiye will be broadcast live on the ABC.

#AnzacDay2024 #LestWeForget

Who was Sir William Clarkson?

(Continued from page 14)

Country. It was a significant achievement in 1900 when the South Australian warship "Protector" sailed to China to assist in quelling the Boxer Rebellion. Protector's Engineering Officer William Clarkson was later instrumental in the foundation of the Lithgow Small Arms Factory.

As a result of federation of the Australian states and establishment of the Commonwealth in 1901, the new Government faced responsibility for the country's defence. The Government resolved to make Australia independent of British munitions and armament supplies. In 1907 the decision was made to establish a factory for the manufacture of small arms in Australia. In 1903 the Lithgow Progress Association and the local member of Parliament Joseph Cooke (who was later to become Prime Minister) began lobbying for the consideration of Lithgow as the site for the proposed small arms factory.

In 1907 Clarkson was sent by the Australian Government to investigate arms manufacture in the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States of America, and Canada. Part of his report stated:

The object to be aimed at in establishing a small arms factory is to produce a perfect arm at the least possible cost. This can only be attained by using automatic machines, attended by human beings working with almost automatic precision. ... The only skilled labour required for the manufacture of small arms is that for straightening rifle barrels. The remainder of the work is done by boys tending automatic machinery."

Clarkson also stated that he preferred the outstanding precision and modern machines of Pratt & Whitney which was not a firearms manufacturing company, but made machine tools capable of producing any component requiring repetitive precision manufacture. Doubts were expressed that a rifle could be manufactured to British standards by any foreign machines. After tenders closed Clarkson was sent back to Pratt & Whitney for another look, which only convinced him that his earlier impressions were correct.

In November 1908, resulting from Clarkson's report and subsequent specification, tenders were called for the supply of a complete plant for the manufacture of small arms and accoutrements. The rifle to be manufactured was the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE), the standard military weapon of British and Empire forces.

The Department of Defence agreed with Clarkson, and in a highly controversial decision at the time, in some eyes close to treason, Pratt & Whitney's tender of £68,000 was accepted for the new Lithgow factory. Pratt & Whitney offered the quicker delivery time of 1 year; much less reliance on skilled tradesmen; lower production time and costs; and training for the new factory foremen in their Connecticut factory.

Information gathered from

RAN Sea Power Centre, Wikipedia and
Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum—A factory
history—a people profile

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

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)

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.

Claim Processing

Where things are at

In the month of October 2023 we:

- made 9,076 decisions on claims
- received claims from 6,373 veterans

As at 31 October 2023 we:

- were working on 59,204 claims
- had 16,723 active claims not yet allocated to an officer for processing (known as the claims backlog), lodged by 10,342 veterans

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