



National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 1

Once Navy, Always Navy

February 2023

HMAS Hobart Commanding Officer promotion and handover.



Outgoing Commanding Officer, Captain Andrew Pepper, CSC, RAN (left) exchanges the "weight" of command of HMAS Hobart (DDG39) to the incoming Commanding Officer, Commander Tina Brown, CSM, RAN (right).

Photo: POIS Christopher Szumlanski

HMAS *Hobart* returned to Fleet Base East in December, after more than three months away as part of a regional presence deployment.

Hobart personnel were warmly welcomed on the wharf by their extended community of "ghost riders", a large crowd of family and friends eager to spend the holiday season with their loved ones.

Coinciding with the return home, a promotion of outgoing Commanding Officer Commander Andrew Pepper was held, with a subsequent change of command ceremony.

Captain Pepper handed over the "weight of command" of *Hobart* to the ship's fourth Commanding Officer, Commander Tina Brown.

Commander Brown is the first woman to take command of a Royal Australian Navy destroyer.

She said she already felt proud and protective of *Hobart* and her crew, and she was especially humbled to share the handover ceremony with so many *Hobart* family members.

"Thank you for welcoming my family and I to the wider *Hobart* family," she said.

"I am looking forward to continuing the great legacy of the 'green ghost' with you."

By Lieutenant Stacey Butters



Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Australia Day 2023—Sydney



Right HMAS Sydney takes centre stage in Sydney Cove during the 2023 Australia Day celebrations in Sydney, NSW.



Below: HMAS Kuttabul Guard

Photos: CPL Dan Pinhorn



The Australian Defence Force (ADF) joined the NSW community to mark Australia Day 2023. The Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army combined for the Salute to Australia. During the Salute, HMAS Sydney was the centre-piece at Sydney Cove, Army fired a 21-gun salute from Hicksons Road Reserve and an F-35A Lightning II demonstrated its capability in an aerial display.

During the day, harbour foreshore spectators viewed two MH-60R Romeo Seahawk helicopters carrying an underslung Australian National Flag and Aboriginal Flag. In the evening, the Army's Red Beret's descended above the Sydney Opera House in a parachute display (above), followed by the RAAF Roulette Display, which coincided with the Australia Day Live Concert

Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, KC (far left) sings the Australian National Anthem as service representatives of the ADF salute during the 2023 Australia Day ceremony at Hickson Road Reserve, Sydney, NSW. (L-R) Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Christopher Smith, CSM, RAN; Commander Forces Command, Major General Susan Coyle AM, CSC and Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Darren Goldie, AM, CSC.



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

Message from the DVA Secretary

16 December 2022

After the Christmas break I will be concluding my tenure as the Secretary of the Department, President of the Repatriation Commission and Chair of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, and a new Secretary will take the reins. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve in this role.

It is time for me to start a new chapter of my life, and, as you can imagine I have spent quite a bit of time reflecting on my time at DVA.

While there is much to celebrate, I also recognise that the increased demand on our compensation and other services has led to unacceptable delays. I personally apologise to veterans and their families who have been affected by this. I have also been thinking of the important work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. I take this opportunity to recognise the families and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. You have always been in my thoughts, and will continue to be. I am sorry for your loss.

To those serving and those who have served, thank you for your service. I am very privileged to have served alongside you and to have worked with many more of you since I joined DVA. The Defence and veteran communities are integral to both the history and future of our nation. I am honoured to have led this department and contributed in some way to ensuring there is support for those who have served our country, and the families who support them. We must continue to commemorate the men and women who volunteer to serve, the families who support them in this service and those who make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our democracy, values and freedoms.

I am proud to have been part of a significant chapter in DVA's history, where we have expanded the services available to veterans and families and improved the ease of access for veterans to gain assistance and support. I am particularly proud of the expansion of the mental health services and support that we now offer to veterans and families and our shift in focus to not just treatment but the over-



all wellbeing of veterans throughout their lives. We have a much simpler, streamlined digital process for veterans to register with us, and our work with Defence is continuing to make it easier for us to know veterans before and during their transition. I am also proud of our increased focus on veterans' families.

It is the wonderful staff at DVA who have made these achievements possible. They are some of the most dedicated, capable and caring individuals I have ever had the privilege to work with. Every day I receive messages from members of the veteran community, thanking individual staff for the difference they have made. So many of our staff have personal connections to the veteran and defence communities and it shows in their drive and commitment to support and assist veterans and families as best as they possibly can. I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their ongoing support throughout my time as Secretary and for their resilience and kindness, particularly through the last few challenging years with the pandemic having such an impact on the way we work.

The support I have received from the veteran community and wonderful DVA staff has kept me inspired and motivated throughout my tenure, and I am very grateful this. My focus has been on making a difference to the lives of veterans and their families and I can promise you that I will continue to advocate for the care and acknowledgement you all deserve, well beyond my time in this role.

I step down from this role with a heart filled with gratitude and hope for the future. I wish you a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2023. Thank you.

Ms Elizabeth Cosson AM CSC

The new Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be Ms Alison Frame (left) whose five-year appointment will commence on 23 January 2023.

Photos: DVA

MEDIA RELEASE

Providing more options for older Australians and eligible Veterans to work more in time for Christmas

Thursday 1 December 2022

From today, pensioners over Age Pension age and eligible Veterans will be able to earn more income from working without reducing their pension, just in time to take advantage of seasonal jobs.

Eligible Australians would have the opportunity to engage in the workforce if they chose to do so at a time of workforce shortages without losing any of their income support payments. They will immediately be able to earn an additional \$4000 before their Government payments are reduced. The maximum Work Bonus income bank will be lifted from \$7800 to \$11,800 for anyone over age pension age on an income support payment.

Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth said it would provide more flexibility to those who wanted to take up extra work. "We know pensioners do want some flexibility. A lot of pensioners don't want to work all year or they don't want to work at all, but for some that do want to work they want to do so in seasonal jobs," Minister Rishworth said.

"Employers are calling out for experienced workers, particularly in the health and childcare sectors, so it makes sense to offer incentives to older Australians to encourage them back to the workforce and share their skills. "Importantly, this immediate income bank credit offers flexibility to work for short periods and there will be plenty of short-term seasonal jobs coming up over the Christmas and summer period."

Minister for Government Services Bill Shorten encouraged people who are on limited, fixed incomes

The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP

Minister for Social Services

The Hon Bill Shorten MP

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Minister for Government Services

The Hon Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

and feeling cost of living pressures to check whether they have work credits. These credits act as a buffer to help encourage people to take on ad hoc work, without their Income Support Payment taking a hit," Minister Shorten said.

"The festive season is a great time to pick up part-time or casual work, and Working Credit, Income Bank and Work Bonus all help Australians stay engaged in the workforce while getting some extra support." Each payment has different rules, but it's simple to check online if you have credits available that might offset any reduction in your payment from casual work. Just access your Centrelink account via myGov."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said the opportunity to work more will support veterans after their service. The ability to undertake meaningful work has been shown to benefit veterans' mental health and wellbeing following their military service," Minister Keogh said. "Veterans bring to the civilian workplace so many great skills gained in the ADF, this will ensure our community continues to benefit from those."

Pensioners will also not have to reapply for payments for up to two years if their employment income exceeds the income limit.

Currently their connection to social security is cancelled after 12 weeks of exceeding the income limit.

As a result, pensioners will also retain access to their Pensioner Concession Card and associated benefits for two years.

Am I eligible?

The changes will affect people over the Age Pension age who get one of the following:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- equivalent Veterans Entitlement Act Pension

Those applying for the Work Bonus must also pass the [Age Pension assets test](#) which can be done online, and they must also have reached the [eligibility age](#) and satisfy [Australian residency rules](#).

How can I get the work bonus?

The changes to the Work Bonus balance will automatically come into effect as of December 1.

This means from this date the threshold will increase, and pensioners will be able to earn more without losing out on their pension.

The changes will automatically apply to pensioners and veterans, however, to check you're eligible you must pass the [Age Pension assets test](#) online.

The maximum Work Bonus balance will increase from \$7800 to \$11,800.

The changes are expected to remain in place until December 31, 2023.

The Work Bonus concession of \$300 per fortnight is expected to remain unchanged

Defence Ministerial Consultations

29 JANUARY 2023

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon Richard Marles MP, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, will travel to France and the United Kingdom.

The second Australia-France Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (2+2) will take place on 30 January in Paris and the Australia-United Kingdom Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN) will be held from 1 to 2 February in London and Portsmouth.

In France, discussions with Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna and Minister of the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu will develop and align French and Australian responses to the increasingly challenging strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific and in Europe. Ministers will progress work towards a bilateral roadmap to strengthen collaboration across defence and security, resilience and climate action, and education and culture.

The meeting with UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defence Secretary Ben Wallace will focus on modernising the bilateral relationship, elevating cooperation to tackle climate change, building economic resilience and contributing to global peace and security.

Senator Wong will also meet with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell in Brussels. Australia's partnerships with Europe and the UK work to foster a world that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, and in which sovereignty is respected.

Following these meetings in France and the United Kingdom, the Deputy Prime Minister will travel to the United States to meet with his counterpart, Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III.

Quotes attributable to the Hon Richard Marles MP and Senator the Hon Penny Wong

"In an increasingly challenging strategic environment, our longstanding defence relationships with



Above: the Hon Richard Marles MP, and Senator the Hon Penny Wong joined their United Kingdom counterparts Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP and Foreign Secretary the Rt Hon James Cleverly onboard HMS Victory

France and the United Kingdom are essential to promoting stability, protecting the rules-based order and avoiding further conflict.

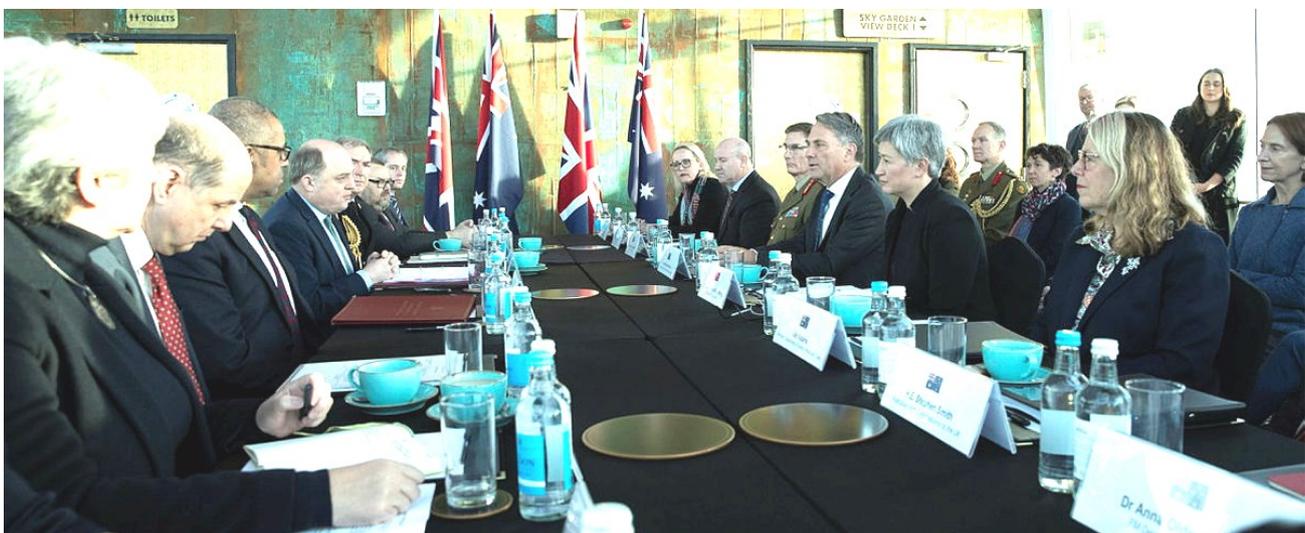
"I look forward to working with my French and UK counterparts to continue supporting Ukraine and ensure an inclusive, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

"The visit to the United Kingdom also provides an important opportunity to discuss AUKUS."

"The Australian Government is committed to an enduring and productive bilateral relationship with France.

"Deepening practical cooperation with France in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting the priorities of our partners, is critical to our vision of regional stability.

*Below: Australia-United Kingdom Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN) in Portsmouth, UK on 2 February 2023 on Sky Gardens View Deck
Photos: Kym Smith*



Fleet Command Handover



Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley, CSC, RAN (left) hands over the weight of command of His Majesty's Australian Fleet in the form of a nautical telescope to Rear Admiral Chris Smith, CSM, RAN during a ceremony at Fleet Headquarters, HMAS Kuttabul, Sydney.

Photo: LSIS Matthew Lyall

The occasion marked the end of a short but significant tenure for Rear Admiral Earley, who took the helm in June 2022 on promotion from Deputy Fleet Commander.

Rear Admiral Earley said the privilege of Fleet Command had been a career highlight.

"Our service men and women have been resolute in their support to the most vulnerable members of our community through flood emergencies and assistance to the aged-care sector," Rear Admiral Earley said.

"Furthermore, we have embarked on some of the most comprehensive regional engagement activities our Navy has ever seen, investigating new and sophisticated ways in which to work together with security partners and deepening cooperation in the Indo-Pacific."

In September, the fleet hosted the largest iteration of Exercise Kakadu off the coast of Northern Australia, involving 15 warships and 34 aircraft from 22 nations.

The Navy also conducted its flagship regional engagement activity, Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022, in which five ships and 1800 personnel visited 14 countries.

The fleet also participated in a number of regional presence deployments, including Exercises Rim of the Pacific, Malabar and Keen Sword, and fleet

units were embedded in the USS *Ronald Reagan* carrier strike group.

"I am proud of the commitment our people have shown in helping those affected by floods, while also maintaining Navy's high-tempo operations," Rear Admiral Earley said.

"Thank you for your efforts in protecting Australia's security and prosperity through your diligent and professional conduct with our regional partners.

"My congratulations to Rear Admiral Smith for his appointment to Commander Australian Fleet. I am confident I leave the fleet in good hands."

"You came into the role at a challenging time for the nation and the Navy, and you led the fleet with a calm and steady hand," Rear Admiral Smith said.

"Our fleet is undergoing its biggest evolution since World War 2," he said.

"I am looking forward to continuing the work of optimising the fleet and bringing new capabilities online."

Rear Admiral Smith assumes command of His Majesty's Australian Fleet, having served as Deputy Chief of Navy. Rear Admiral Earley will assume the role of Deputy Chief of Navy.

By Meg Van Lohuizen

A tenure of passion and commitment

16 December 2022

Originally from Lilydale in Victoria, WO-N Butterworth joined the Navy in 1989.

“I have often said I’m the “accidental WO-N”. I feel so privileged to have been able to represent people across all ranks regarding the things that can make a difference to them,” WO-N Butterworth said.

WO-N Butterworth assumed duties as the ninth and first female appointed to the position in 2019, and soon after, the Navy was faced with significant increased demands across domestic operations.

“The Navy had to pivot pretty quickly in a time where our nation needed us at home on a number of fronts with COVID-19 Assist, Aged Care Assist, Tonga Assist and Flood Assist,” she said.

“I’m so proud of what was achieved while maintaining our core business of regional deployments and border protection as well.

“The people I have served and served alongside are my primary motivation. It’s been an honour to represent their issues and ideas as part of the leadership team.”

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond said WO-N Butterworth fulfilled her responsibilities to the highest level.

“During a period change and increased tempo for the Navy, the voice of the WO-N was critical for our workforce,” Vice Admiral Hammond said.

“The advice and support provided to my predecessor and our senior leadership team by WO-N Butterworth was invaluable as together we sailed uncharted waters.

“You have set the benchmark and I am proud to have served alongside you.”



Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth, centre, receives her promotion to commander from the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, right, accompanied by her partner Tracy. Photos: Petty Officer Bradley Darvill

One of the most unique duties WO-N Butterworth undertook was representing Australia as the most senior non-commissioned officer for Operation London Bridge, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, in a ceremony not performed for 70 years.

“It was the most humbling honour to be involved in the Queen’s funeral procession along with so many mourners gathered ten deep lining the streets in complete respectable silence – a surreal experience,” WO-N Butterworth said.

After 33 years in Navy, WO-N Butterworth has been promoted to commander and will continue to serve Navy.

WO-N Butterworth has a history of outstanding service, recognised by a Conspicuous Service Medal in 1996 in recognition of her service in HMAS *Newcastle* during Operation Catalyst in the Middle East.

She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2012 and a bar to her Conspicuous Service Medal in 2014, for her time on HMAS *Success* in the Middle East again and in the search for Malaysian Airline Flight 370 in the Southern Ocean.

By Sub-Lieutenant Tahlia Merigan



Warrant Officer of the Navy (WO-N) Deb Butterworth has formally handed over to Warrant Officer Andrew Bertoncin during a ceremony held at Russell Offices in Canberra.

Design a Memorial for Teddy Sheean

WANTED: Your ideas for a reimagined, nationally significant memorial precinct at Latrobe, Tasmania to commemorate Edward "Teddy" Sheean VC and the crew of HMAS Armidale (I)

Latrobe Council, in North-West Tasmania, is seeking creative input from across Australia to help design an historic, nationally significant memorial precinct on Latrobe's main street.

The memorial will commemorate HMAS Armidale (I), particularly its brave crew that died and survived the ship's sinking by enemy attack on 1 December 1942, with an emphasis on the actions of Edward "Teddy" Sheean VC.

Your creative input to help design any element of the memorial - large or small - is sought by 31 March 2023. To

'HMAS Armidale feedback'

Latrobe Council,
170 Gilbert Street,
PO Box 63,
LATROBE TAS 7307

The Design Brief

Budget Up to \$300,000

Latrobe Council has \$150,000 in funding, made up of its own contribution of \$100,000 and a Tasmania Government grant commitment of \$50,000. We're seeking a further \$150,000 from the Commonwealth Government to build the memorial precinct. This pool of funds will be used to design, construct and reveal the reimagined memorial precinct.

Location

The project site is located on Gilbert Street, Latrobe, Tasmania, in the centre of the central business

What's There Now

There's currently a memorial at the site recognising Edward Sheean prior to the posthumous awarding of his Victoria Cross. The site connects to a memorial walking trail (Sheean Walk) which is enhanced with bollards detailing conflicts and peace keeping activity in which Australia has been involved with sections dedicated to World War 1, World War 2 and beyond.

The current memorial features bronze sculptures from Stephen Walker, a renowned and talented Tasmanian artist. His art in itself is an important historical treasure. Latrobe Council desires to re-use the existing memorial's elements that feature Edward "Teddy" Sheean as part of the precinct but broadened the memorial to tell the story of HMAS

Armidale (I) and the awarding of a Victoria Cross to Teddy.

The Project

We welcome your creative ideas as to what the memorial precinct should look like - ideally, it would be vibrant, engaging, dignified, symbolic, interactive, dynamic, and artistic. It would be an 'open space' exhibit, not enclosed in a building. It could extend along the 935 square metre space, or perhaps connect it with separate memorial features. Latrobe Council seeks a 'wow factor', emotive memorial of national significance that people want to visit and experience and spend time enjoying,

Your submission may be chosen by Council in the final design.

Unfortunately, as a small regional Council, we can't offer payment for any successful applications. Instead, we are seeking to partner with you to help us make a creative and meaningful community space for all to enjoy.

More Information

More information on Edward Sheean VC and HMAS Armidale (I) is available at:

- <https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/historic-vc-expert-panel-report.pdf>
- <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-armidale->



RAN Promotion onboard USS Canberra

11 January 2023ET

CDRE Darren Grogan RAN presented CPOET Luke Brewer with his promotion to WO aboard Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Canberra (LCS 30) on 11 Jan.. WO Brewer is assigned to the U.S. Navy’s Southwest Regional Maintenance Center on an exchange tour,

Homeported in San Diego, Calif., Canberra is a part of Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One. LCS integrate with joint, combined, manned and unmanned teams to support forward-presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence missions around the globe.

USS Canberra is scheduled to officially join the fleet and conduct their commissioning ceremony later this year.

Canberra is the 15th Independence-variant LCS to join the fleet. LCS 30 is the second ship to be named in honor of the city of Canberra. The first was an Australian cruiser HMAS Canberra, named after the Australian capital city, and sunk during the Battle of Savo Island during World War II.

“Welcoming Canberra to the San Diego waterfront is special given the history of their namesake” said Capt. Jack Fay, commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron (LCSRON) 1. “The crew shows tremendous pride in their ship and I am confident in their ability to execute missions for fleet commanders.”

Littoral combat ships are fast, agile, mission-focused platforms designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. LCS are capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.

Canberra (LCS 30) is the 15th of 19 small surface combatants Austal USA is building for the U.S. Navy. Five are under various stages of construction and a sixth is on contract waiting to start construction. Austal USA is also constructing two Expeditionary Fast Transport ships (EPF) for the U.S. Navy with one more on contract awaiting start of construction.

Right: The Naval Attaché – Washington, CDRE Darren Grogan, with WOET Luke Brewer aboard USS Canberra to mark the promotion of WOET Brewer.

Photo Courtesy of USN, taken by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Vance Hand

Below: USS Canberra



Letters to the Editor

18 November 2022

Good afternoon Peter

Last week I accompanied a veteran at a face to face meeting with the Royal Commissioner, Nick Kaldas APM. The meeting lasted for about an hour

Under the terms and conditions of the Royal Commission the meeting is confidential and will only be publicly accessible after 99 years. So I cannot go into details of the discussion.

Nevertheless, the meeting was very informal and Commissioner Kaldas showed great interest and compassion in what the veteran had to say.

The veteran was not cross examined or made to feel uncomfortable in any way. It was left to the veteran to explain the injuries received, the treatment from Defence, dealings with DVA, transition from service to civilian life and provide any comments that may help veterans in the future.

Commissioner Kaldas only asked a few questions to clear up ambiguities.

If anyone believes they would like to make a contribution to the Royal Commission, written submissions will be received until October 2023.

It is important that veterans' voices be heard and the Royal Commission is the best vehicle for this. You may find reliving memories is painful but can also be cathartic.

The Royal Commission cannot remedy past wrongs but it can make strong recommendations to ensure the treat-

ment of veterans and their families remains a high priority for government.

The Royal Commission released an interim report on 11 August 2022 containing thirteen recommendations. On 26 September 2022 the government had accepted ten of those recommendations. One of the recommendations agreed was the increase in staff in DVA to ensure faster turn around times for veteran claims.

Anyone interested should check the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide website on defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au for further information.

Submissions can be made anonymously if the veteran wishes. If anyone needs assistance in drafting or submitting their story to the Royal Commission, I am happy to assist.

Regards

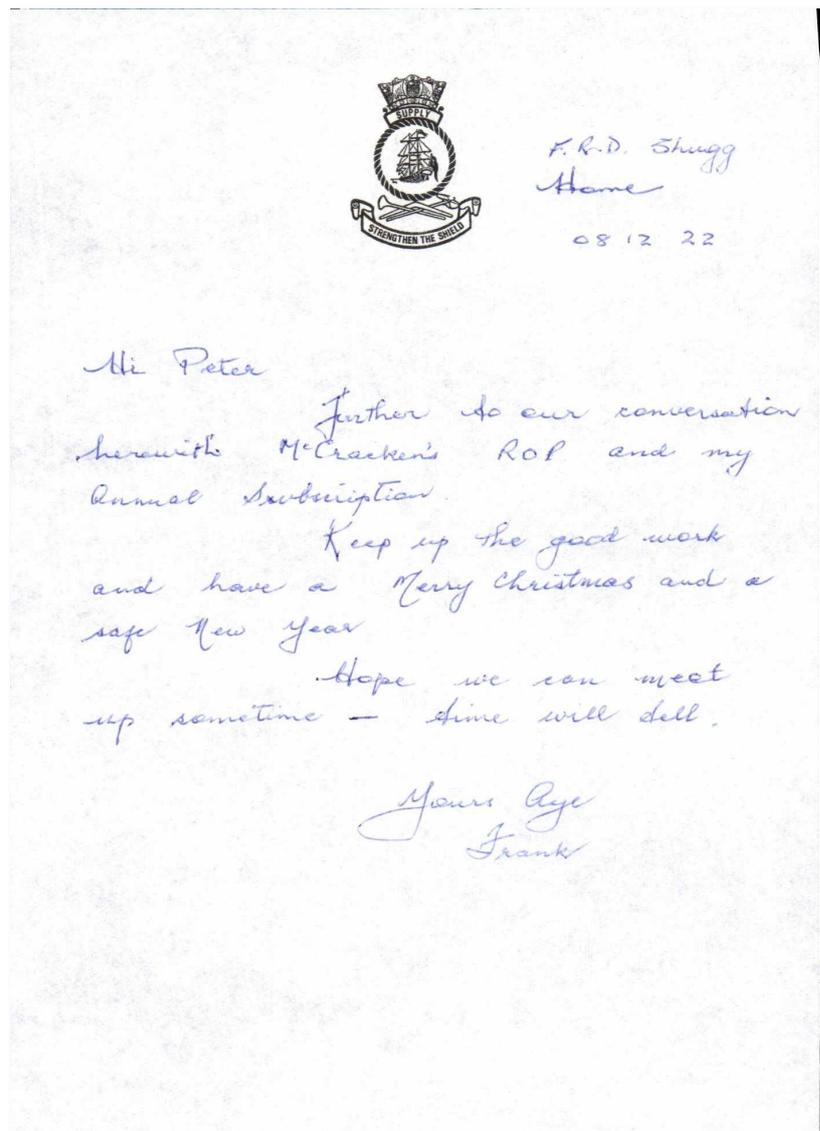
Allan

MV Jeparit Report Of Proceedings.

In March 1967, when members of the Seaman's Union refused to man Jeparit and Boonaroo, the Australian Government took immediate action to have the RAN temporarily commission Boonaroo with a full naval crew for one return voyage from Australia to Can Ranh Bay Vietnam. In the case of Jeparit, those crew members prepared to serve in the ship were supplemented by a RAN detachment. Jeparit made 21 voyages under the Red Ensign with a combined Merchant Navy/RAN crew.

Further industrial action in December 1969 prompted the Government to commission Jeparit as HMAS Jeparit. As HMAS Jeparit she made a further 17 incident free voyages under the Australian White Ensign.

Between 1965 and 1972 Jeparit transported 175,000 deadweight tons of cargo from Australia to Vietnam.



MV Jeparit—Report of Proceedings June 1968

Flag Officer in Charge,
EAST AUSTRALIAN AREA.

M.V. JEPARIT,
SYDNEY.
15th. June 1968.

Copy to:- The Secretary, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.(2)
The Captain, H.M.A.S. KUTTABUL.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - M.V. JEPARIT - NAVY VOYAGE No.10.

Period Covered:- 1st. May 1968 to 15th. June 1968.

APPENDICES: 1. DIARY OF EVENTS.
2. HOURS WORKED/STEAMING DISTANCES.

GENERAL NARRATIVE.

The Master, the Mate and all of the crew,
Cooks, stewards, greasers, and engineers too,
Despite other differences, unanimously agree,
That Friday's a bad day, to put out to sea.

But aversion or not, 'twas on that day,
At 4P.M. May 10th., we left Walsh's Bay,
Bound for the Vietnam port of Vung Tau,
With as much mixed cargo, as holds would allow.

The route that was taken, was just as before,
The diary attached, will give the full score,
Sea was so gentle, the weather was hot,
With a fair wind behind, we arrived on the dot.

Unloading was faster, than it's ever been,
And five days later we left the scene.
Then a Singapore stop, for some shopping and fun,
Departing next day, on our homeward run.

Headwinds impeded us, most of the way,
Lengthening the voyage, by nearly a day,
Making 36 days, till we greeted with cheer,
The sight of 'Our Bridge', and the usual pier.

HEALTH.

Onboard we have treated, some minor infections,
By reading the Medical Manual's directions,
But, it tends to make the patients most nervous,
To find the last chapter, is the Burial Service.

MV Jeparit—Report of Proceedings June 1968

-2-

RECREATION. SEA.

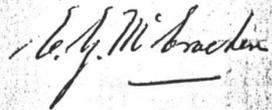
To fill in the evenings, Oh! Goodness knows,
How many dart games, and poor film shows,
Tombola nights, tournaments, all formed the main
Diversions indulged in, to keep us still sane.

VUNG TAU.

The Army at darts, gave our boys a good thrashing,
And to cap it right off, drank all our beer ration,
But strangely enough, we have no feeling of shame,
It's their party next trip, and we might do the same.

MORALE, DISCIPLINE.

On morale and discipline, there are no complaints,
The detachment as a whole, have been regular saints,
The trouble with this, it makes a monotonous life,
There are times when you long, for some trouble and strife.



C.G. McCracken.

LEUT RSEX PR

FOICEA response to MV *Jeparit*—Report of Proceedings June 1968

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE:
35 0444

DR

IN REPLY
QUOTE NO. N1/16/232OFFICE OF THE
FLAG OFFICER IN CHARGE,
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA,
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000Lieutenant C.G. McCracken RAN,
H.M.A.S. WATSON.REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - M.V. JEPARIT - NAVY VOYAGE NO. 10.

Reference: R.I. Appendix 29A.

Enclosure: Your Poem (3 copies).

I have read your report,
Of cruise number ten,
How you sailed to Vietnam,
And then back again.

The Board though merry,
Are sometimes quite terse,
To receive such reports,
In poetry and verse.

So I needs must ask you,
To take up your pen,
And start - get McCracken!
To do it again.

A/REAR-ADMIRAL.

Four firsts for Navy's new rate

27 December 2022

Able Seaman William Scott is the first sailor to be recruited, employed, promoted and deployed, paving the way for other maritime logistics – general mariners (GM).

From Thursday to Saturday, Able Seaman Scott juggles his university studies with instructing gym classes.

When he steps off the fitness mat, he spends the remainder of the week as a GM.

The new rate currently has 32 personnel, all reservists who undertake a wide range of roles.

GMs were established in December 2021 after increased Defence support to crisis like COVID-19 stretched full-time ADF resources.

They have no training continuum beyond recruit training, making the role flexible.

Earlier this year Able Seaman Scott was an office manager for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 at Fleet Base East, and later deployed to support maritime logistics in Singapore.

He said the rate would benefit those looking for flexible, part-time or full-time employment.

“It has incredible opportunities for deployments and exercises whilst generating strong connections with sailors and officers,” he said.

Lieutenant Commander Lisa-Jo Laing, GM workgroup planner at Future Navy Workforce Branch, said the rate could be employed in various elements.

“You could be used at port services for wharf preparation, conduct transport activities, administrative duties, assist in security and checkpoint duties, ceremonial activities, and any general duties in



Able Seaman William Scott, centre, receives his promotion from Commodore Malcolm Wise, right, and Lieutenant Terri Jenkin at Fleet Headquarters, NSW.

Photo: Leading Seaman Sittichai Sakonpoonpol

support of ADF operations, humanitarian and natural disasters,” Lieutenant Commander Laing said.

The main transfer method into the category is through the completion of the Gap Year.

If the sailor chooses not to sign on to permanent Navy, it is an automatic transfer to GM.

There is also an option to transfer to GM on the 50th day of recruit school, or if they are unsuccessful at category training.

Lieutenant Commander Laing said it was an opportunity to harness a capability that otherwise slipped through the cracks.

“A lot of GMs are university students, so they are out there continuing to develop their own education and improving their skill bases, which can only be advantageous if they choose to come back into the Defence Force on completion of study,” Lieutenant Commander Laing said.

“The GM can earn over \$180 per day tax free.”

By Corporal Melina Young



A100 reunion/welfare apartment

The A100 reunion/welfare apartment was created for the use of Living in Accommodation (LIA) Junior Sailors to utilise when they have visiting par-

(Continued on page 15)

CPO Scott Clear, Senior Naval Manager North Strathfield and Homebush Living In Accommodation, conducts a tour of the of the newly opened A100 White Ensign apartment, North Strathfield, Sydney, with HMAS Kuttabul CO CAPT Victor Pillicic, CSC, RAN.

Photos: POIS James Whittle

Helping to keep watch over those in need

23 December 2022

Navy Health has donated \$72,500 to the Keeping Watch Fund.

Keeping Watch provides much needed grants to serving Royal Australian Navy members in times of unforeseen crisis and emergency.

Chief Executive Officer of Navy Health Mr Ron Wilson said Keeping Watch could only provide this support through the generous donations from Navy Health and contributions from Navy and ex-Navy members.

"The welfare of our serving men and women and their families is always paramount in our thinking and this donation is Navy Health's contribution to the invaluable work of Keeping Watch," Mr Wilson said.

Navy Health is a not-for-profit private health insurance company and is also a Members Health Fund Alliance, which means members are at the heart of everything they do.

Navy Health has contributed \$157,500 to Keeping Watch since 2014.

Keeping Watch Deputy Chair Commander Christina Ween said families who have received support are appreciative.

"Since Navy launched its charity Keeping Watch in 2013, 155 grants to the value of \$489,046 have been provided," Commander Ween said.

"This support has extended to families suffering trauma, life threatening illnesses, and struggling in the aftermath of unforeseen crisis."

Alongside the assistance from Navy and the traditional divisional system, financial grants are making a big difference for those struggling to support their families through difficult times.

Thanks to the fund, members affected by extreme circumstances can often continue their work – which contributes to capability. Without this, personnel might otherwise experience a very different outcome.



To help make a difference, consider a regular or one-off tax-deductible donation – it's quick and easy to set up. Just visit the Keeping Watch website.

Defence

(Right) CEO of Navy Health, Mr Ron Wilson, and (2nd from right) Director Navy Health, Commodore Michael Miko, AM, RAN present the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, and the Warrant Officer of the Navy, Deb Butterworth, OAM, CSM, and Bar, with a donation to the charity Keeping Watch.

Photo Defence Image Gallery

A100 reunion/welfare apartment

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ents, NOK, partners or their guardians and for members who are in hospital and do not meet the requirements for defence funded accommodation for their visiting NOK, allowing their visiting family members to utilise the subsidised accommodation. Reducing costs that the families and members would normally pay when utilising private hotels/motels and travel costs.

Defence



Stronger protections for serving ADF members, public servants who provide information to Royal Commission

6 January 2023

Serving and ex-serving ADF members and public servants who share information with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide will receive stronger protections under a new agreement signed with key government agencies.

Increasing legal protections for serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members to engage with the inquiry was one of 13 urgent recommendations included in the Commission's Interim Report handed down last August.

Eleven of those recommendations have so far been adopted by the federal government.

The Commission has co-signed a new information sharing agreement with the Chief of the Defence Force and Secretaries of the Departments of Defence and Veterans Affairs to ensure both past and present ADF members and departmental employees can voluntarily share their stories without the fear of being punished.

That's on top of a commitment from Defence Chief, General Angus Campbell, in his evidence to the Commission in July last year that there will be no consequence for any former or current member who provides relevant information to the Commission.

Commission Chair Nick Kaldas said open, honest information sharing at all levels is critical moving forward as the inquiry sharpens its focus on key systemic issues relating to suicide and suicidality in the veteran community.

"We've heard some current and ex-serving members and their families are unsure about sharing their very personal stories with the Royal Commission," Commissioner Kaldas said.

"The agreement makes it okay for you to talk to us about these experiences and – as long as it's relevant to our terms of reference – you can't be penalised for doing so.

"We are aware that people need to feel safe to engage with the Royal Commission, and we continue to work with the Government to look at how we can protect people who may want to disclose information that might be considered operationally sensitive," Commissioner Kaldas noted.

"Importantly though, in the vast majority of cases, it is not necessary for people to disclose operational-

ly sensitive information when sharing their stories or their concerns about suicide and suicidality."

The Commission will hold its next public hearing in Perth in May before sitting in Adelaide and Melbourne later in the year.

The Commission has to date received more than 3,000 submissions from serving and ex-serving ADF members, family and friends with lived experience, advocacy groups and experts.

The inquiry has heard from more than 250 witnesses and held 278 hour-long private sessions.

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 \(1800 838 372\)](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

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
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COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036