

National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 2

Once Navy, Always Navy

March 2023



On 30 January 2023, HMAS Sydney and FNS D'entrecasteaux sailed in a formation departure from Sydney Harbour to conduct co-operative activities off the New South Wales coast. The Ships exchanged selected officers for the duration of the activities.

Defence

The **D'Entrecasteaux class** is a class of oceanic patrol ships of the French Navy. The ship's designation is **Bâtiment multi-mission (B2M)** in French, meaning "multi-mission ship", and sometimes dubbed the "Swiss Army knife of the Navy". The ship is designed to perform sovereignty, law enforcement and logistics missions (such as policing illegal fishing, offshore traffic and resource mining, assisting distressed ships, search and rescue, and contributing to the logistics of Overseas collectivities and depart-

HMAS Sydney and FNS D'entrecasteaux sail in a formation departure through Sydney Harbour

Photo: SMNGX Genae Kelly

ments.). The class replaced the aging BATRAL-class landing ships in some of these roles. The *D'Entrecasteaux*-class perform similar roles in French overseas territories that the four *Loire*-class ships perform in Metropolitan France.

Three units were initially planned, but a fourth one was ordered in early 2015, to cover the Mozambique Channel. The French Navy's first *Bâtiment*

multi-mission (B2M) ship, *D'Entrecasteaux*, was delivered at the end of March 2016. The B2M vessels can be armed with two 12.7x99 mm (.50 cal.) machine guns

Wikipedia



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Pension—Superannuation

What is a defined benefit pension?

A defined benefit pension is a type of pension product that is usually commenced from a defined benefit superannuation fund.

A defined benefit superannuation fund, (usually provided by a government employer, or some large companies) provides retirement benefits based on a formula which uses your income level, your age at retirement and the number of years you have worked for the employer.

This means a fund's investment performance and the amount of contributions paid into it over the years does not affect the starting benefit paid out by a defined benefit pension.

This is unlike the majority of superannuation funds in Australia where the retirement benefit is based on how much was paid in (usually by the employer) and how much growth was achieved by the retiree's chosen investment option (for example, balanced or growth), minus any fees charged and insurance premiums deducted.

The amount of benefit received each year from a defined benefit pension is set at the beginning of the pension, and it either continues for your remaining lifetime, or for a set period of time. The benefit payments are either fixed at the start of the pension, or are indexed to inflation with providers typically giving members an option of choosing either when the pension is started.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB)

The DFRDB Scheme is a contributory scheme for 'eligible members of the Defence Force' i.e. all members of the ADF on continuous full-time service for a period of at least one year. The DFRDB scheme is essentially a pension scheme.

There is no employer benefit if the person has served less than 20 years. In this case, the person will receive a refund of their own contributions and a gratuity (none of which is an employer benefit). The employer benefit only accrues for those members who reach 20 years of service (or 15 years if he or she reaches compulsory retiring age for rank).

Where the person has served more than 20 years (or 15 years if he or she reaches compulsory retiring age for rank) a pension or part pension/part lump sum is paid upon discharge. The employer benefit is taken to be 80% of the initial superannuation benefit (20% is considered to be the employee benefit and this 20% amount remains constant throughout calculations).

The pension benefit is calculated by the number of years completed service (20 years = 35%). A portion of the pension benefit can be commuted to a lump sum by multiplying the annual pension amount by 4.9. The commutation amount is divided by the member's life expectancy to calculate the amount by which the pension is reduced to compensate for the commutation lump sum.

Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

The MSBS applies to members of the Permanent Forces who commenced service on or after 1 October 1991 and also is open to members of the Emergency or Reserve Forces who:

- undertake full-time service for 12 months or more
- undertake full-time service for 3 — 12 months and elect to join the Scheme, or
- undertake full-time service in an operational area and elect to join the Scheme. MSBS is primarily a lump sum scheme with two basic components:

The member benefit which is made up of the member's contributions and interest. The member can access that part of this benefit that accrued prior to 1 July 1999. The balance is compulsorily preserved in the superannuation system until their minimum retirement (preservation) age.

The employer benefit is a multiple of the member's final average salary over the preceding 3 years, based on the member's length of service. The benefit is calculated as follows: 1-7 years = 18%, 8-20 years = 23%, and 20+ years = 28%.

Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme (ADF Super)

ADF Super is the Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme, established by the Australian Defence Force Superannuation Act 2015 by a Trust Deed executed by the Minister. ADF Super will be the default fund from 1 July 2016. ADF Super is a fully-funded accumulation superannuation fund that is open to persons engaged from 1 July 2016 as permanent members of the ADF or as members of the Reserves on a continuous full-time service. Members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) who are serving at 1 July 2016 can elect to become members of ADF Super at any time in their career on or after this date.

DFRDB is a Defined Benefit pension scheme.

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

Forging stronger links to address veterans' homelessness

Monday, 13 February 2023

The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

Assistant Minister for Defence

Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Assistant Minister for the Republic

New resources for community housing providers tailored for the needs of veterans experiencing homelessness have been launched today.

"Working with Veterans: A Toolkit for Community Housing Organisations" is a joint initiative between the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA).

The new resources strengthen referral pathways between providers, DVA, Open Arms and other ex-service organisations, to help set an industry standard for providing housing services to veterans.

Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Thistlethwaite launched the toolkit at an event that brought together representatives from the homelessness sector, government and veteran community.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the defence personnel who have donned a uniform and served Australia. But too many of our former service personnel are experiencing homelessness," Assistant Minister Thistlethwaite said.

"We are working hard to address the issue of homelessness - we need to ensure that there are stronger linkages between providers, services and veterans.

A recent survey found that only 39 per cent of veterans who reported experiencing homelessness accessed assistance from mainstream support services.

The resources include a toolkit which outlines the risk factors contributing to veteran homelessness, service needs and available referral pathways, and how to tailor support for veterans and families.

As the peak industry body representing 170 not-for-profit community housing providers in Australia, CHIA's knowledge and connection to providers



across Australia will ensure that the toolkit is up-to-date, relevant and linked with the industry.

"There are many factors that can contribute to homelessness, such as relationship breakdown, unemployment, and experiences of mental ill-health. We are focused on developing the best practical ways to address these factors before veterans and families find themselves at risk.

"Too many veterans are without a home and too few are turning to us for support. These new resources will help address those trends," Assistant Minister Thistlethwaite said.

The new resources complement the Albanese Labor Government's commitment to helping address veteran homelessness through the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund.

Returns from the Fund will provide a \$30 million investment over five years to build housing and fund services for veterans who are homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless.

For more information, visit www.dva.gov.au/homelessness-support.

Veterans who are struggling with their living situation or are at risk of homelessness are encouraged to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on 1800 011 046 who will work with them to provide the most appropriate care.

Media contacts

Ben Leeson (Assistant Minister Thistlethwaite's Office): [0404 648 275](tel:0404648275)

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

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

Russell Offices R9 (Old ASIO Building) Redevelopment Project



Building 9 at Russell Offices (R9) is being demolished to make way for a 150-space controlled reserved carpark for Defence personnel. This decision forms part of Defence's long-term redevelopment strategy for the Russell precinct.

The R9 Project contract has been awarded to Demolition Environmental Civil Contractors (DECC). The redevelopment will be undertaken in 3 phases over a period of approximately 8 months. The project is forecasted to be completed by June 2023.

The following measures will be in place to ensure the community is not exposed to hazardous material:

- asbestos testing and safety measures
- perimeter fencing
- air monitoring
- high power water misting
- underground storage tank cleaning

Full structural demolition works will only occur on completion of hazardous material removal works and receipt of all clearance certificate reports. High powered water misters will be used for dust suppression.

Old ASIO Building—Site
Child Care Centre (was Russell Canteen)



Campbell Park Offices

The Department of Defence has extended its long-standing lease at Canberra's Campbell Park offices until 2027,

Campbell Park was built in the 1970s in bushland just east of Mount Ainslie to accommodate rapidly increasing numbers of Defence Department personnel.

The 450-metre-long buildings are an example of Canberra's brutalist-style public architecture – much like the Cameron and Callum Offices, the High Court, and the National Gallery.

Campbell Park currently houses around 2,000 office and administration workers.

DECC

RIOTACT

HMAS Stirling—Redevelopment



Left: View of new building from the Submarine Training and Systems Centre

Below: HMAS Stirling Administration and accommodation areas

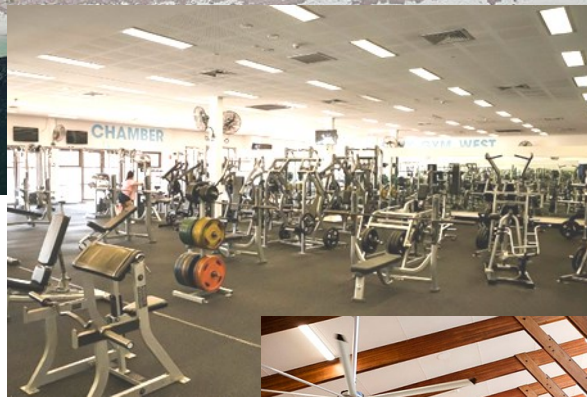
Construction areas



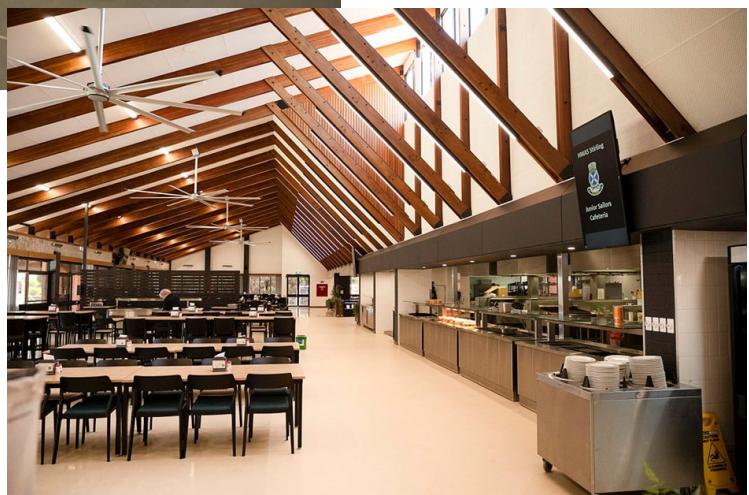
Redevelopment at HMAS Stirling is continuing to deliver improved working conditions for Navy people, with a number of key facility and infrastructure upgrades having taken place already on Garden Island, Western Australia.

Building upgrades to date include the Wardroom, Junior Sailors Bar and Health Centre, all of which were modernised to provide a more pleasant and efficient work place as part of the \$367 million redevelopment project undertaken by a range of civilian contractors.

Defence Text and photos



*Left: Health Centre
Below: Junior Sailors Cafeteria*



Disgraceful neglect why hasn't Cerberus been recovered and displayed?

By Tom Lewis

It seems very strange that in Australia we have – neglected, forlorn, and abandoned – one of the foremost examples of military technology in the world, but it is not in a museum. This cutting edge vessel is lying half-submerged off a beach near Melbourne. It should be inside being conserved. But for years there has been little but argument about the wreck of the warship Cerberus.

What makes this shipwreck unique? Three things. This rather curious ship is one of the world's last monitors; the only surviving vessel of the Australian colonial navies, and one of only three surviving ships on the planet with Coles turrets. Cerberus was also the first British warship powered purely by steam; the first warship with a central superstructure, and the first with gun turrets mounted on its central superstructure.

To explain; first, Cerberus is one of nine examples of a monitor – a special type of warship – left in the world. In the mid-1800s wind-powered navies were fast disappearing, to be replaced by ships with engines, with armour protecting their guns, engines and crews. The first major engagement between these new "ironclads" was fought between the Monitor and the Virginia in 1862 during the American Civil War. From then on, engines and armour would be a considered characteristic for all new warships.

Monitors only had a brief lifespan in around 50 years of wildly competing warships designs. Their concept was to be a floating gun platform used in harbours and near coasts rather than a seagoing

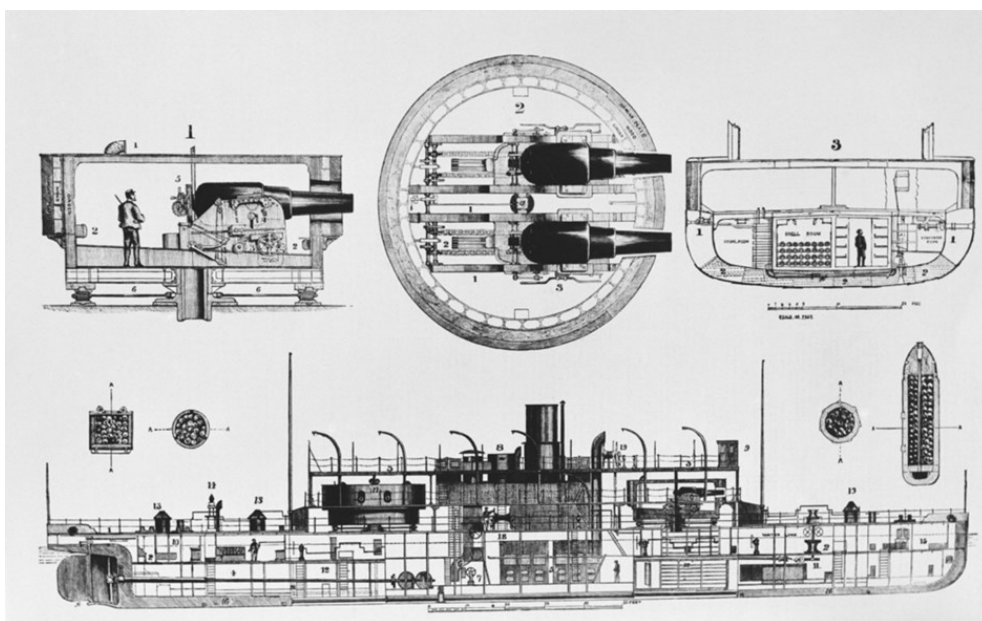


ship. Their hulls were broad and rather flat, and they risked being swamped. Finally navies settled on the dreadnought design, with a streamlined metal hull and a combination of armour, guns, and speed which made the monitor obsolete. After serving as a floating artillery base deterrent in Port Phillip Bay until 1926, Cerberus was scuttled as a breakwater in her present location in Half Moon Bay.

The second special characteristic of Cerberus is its main weapon, its Coles gun turrets. These are named after their inventor, Captain Cowper Phipps Coles of the Royal Navy. Each of the Australian ship's has two guns. While most original ironclads had their weapons projecting through ports in the sides or in turrets with the guns able to be traversed – moved sideways – only a little, the Coles turret revolved. This was the forerunner of the turrets you see today even on the most advanced warships, usually alongside missiles. The naval gun still survives and delivering artillery fire from the sea is still most useful. For example, RAN destroyers carried out many fire missions in the Vietnam War, and in 2003 HMAS Anzac delivered

scores of rounds from its 127mm gun in the Iraq War, completing seven fire missions over a period of three days.

There are now only two other ships with a Coles turret known. Schorpioen, a monitor built in France for the Royal Netherlands Navy in the 1860s, survives as a museum vessel in the Dutch Navy Museum. The Peruvian turret ship Huascar in Chile also has a Coles turret. For Australia to let the only other piece of this



Disgraceful neglect why hasn't Cerberus been recovered and displayed?

technology in the world fall apart before our own eyes is nothing but neglect.

Third, Cerberus is a last survivor of a very strange period in Australia's history, one where we had small individual navies for several of the colonies which eventually became states.

Yes, Queensland had its own navy; so too did South Australia, and Victoria. NSW was the home of the Royal Navy's squadron, so had a permanent presence of warships.

Why did the colonies have their own navies? Australia, 150 or so years ago, was a very different place to today. The tiny colonial settlements had much to be wary of. Invasion by another country was a real enough possibility: Japan, Russia, even the United States were feared. And a naval warship appearing off Melbourne, for example, was a terrible weapon. It could heave to off your port and open fire with its guns, shelling your buildings and people with little fear of retaliation. What could you do even with a small army? Nothing except open fire with what artillery pieces you possessed, in which case the ship would merely sail away to another location and open fire there. So many colonies purchased warships to deter enemies.

Cerberus, even as a wreck, is the last such substantial example of a colonial warship. There is the hull of Protector, from South Australia, sunk as a breakwater off Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef, but only a section remains, whereas Cerberus's site contains four 10-inch guns; two turrets, a steering tower, and much of the hull and decks. There is enough left to make a substantial and significant exhibit.

Over the years since the obsolete warship was sunk there have been many efforts to rescue what

is left, often led by the Friends of the Cerberus Inc. In 1993 the wreck collapsed somewhat, and subsequently the guns were taken out of the turrets and deposited on the seabed, with a protective coat added. This was both to remove weight from the turrets and to conserve them: being fully

immersed in seawater is better for rust control than being constantly wet and then dry. A suggestion was made to stop the wreck settling further every year by filling it with concrete, but this has now been replaced by a suggestion to pump polyurethane under the turrets.

The wreck is technically owned by the City of Bayside Council, but asking a Council to engage in what is really needed – to remove the wreck and place it in tanks to leach the salt away – would be well beyond them. The state of Victoria needs to come to the task and not only remove and conserve the wreck, but come up with a display centre and staff. This has been done successfully in many places around the world,

and results in a tourist attraction being created. The Mary Rose in the UK, the Batavia in WA, and the Vasa in Sweden are examples. The USA's Monitor, perhaps the most famous of this ship type, was recently recovered and is being prepared in this manner.

If Victoria does not want to do this, then the federal government should. In that case, lifting the Cerberus, placing it in Canberra's National Museum, and securing a vital asset not only for Australia but for the world should be done as soon as possible.

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Dr Tom Lewis OAM is a military historian. A retired naval officer, one of his most recent books is

**Teddy
Sheean VC.**



The Dolphin Trainer

An old man with hearing problems crashed his car into a very expensive automobile. The owner of the expensive automobile jumps out and confronts the old man and says "Give me \$10,000 cash or I will beat you to a pulp!"

The old man replies, "Woah, wait buddy, I don't have that much money but let me call my son, he trains dolphins."

The old man dials his son and as he is about to speak, the owner of the expensive car yanks the phone out of his hand and says "So you train dol-

phins, well your old man just hit and damaged my car, you bring me \$10,000 or I'm gonna beat the heck outta him!"

The son answers "Okay, give me 15 minutes and I'll be there." In exactly 15 minutes the son pulls up in a Jeep. Ten men jump out and beat the hell out of the expensive car owner.

Meanwhile, the son walks over to his father and says "Dad, I train Navy Seals, not dolphins"

19 AUGUST, 2022 BY THE GRAVEDIGGER

Jervis Bay Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) disposal

25 January 2023

Navy clearance divers have protected a marine park in the Jervis Bay area after removing and disposing of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Clearance Diving Team One located and disposed of a 500-pound Mark 82 general purpose bomb that had laid dormant for more than 40 years.

It was discovered near a rock formation known as the 'drum and drumsticks', located near the entrance to Jervis Bay on the NSW South Coast.



Officer in charge of maritime explosive ordnance disposal Chief Petty Officer Joshua Drennan said it was a sensitive operation due to the wildlife in the area and the rock formation's popularity as a recreational dive site.

"Exactly where the item was located was deep in the marine park, so we had to go for a very long tow to remove that item outside of the marine park to make sure we weren't going to damage any of the marine life," Chief Petty Officer Drennan said.

"It's one of the most popular dive spots down here so we need to make sure it's clear for boating, people in the water and also marine life."

Chief Petty Officer Drennan said the dive team had to overcome a number of challenges to locate the UXO, which was found just 30m away from a thriving seal community.

"The GPS locations that we had changed so we had to rotate through nearly our whole dive team," he said.

"Roughly 11 divers went in the water, two divers at a time, to try to locate it.

"We mainly used visual search because sonar is very difficult in among the rocks. Everything that looks like a UXO will paint up like a rock."

Once the dive team had located the UXO, it was towed to a safe location about 3km from shore and detonated.

Chief Petty Officer Drennan said NSW Police were instrumental in ensuring the team could safely carry out the operation by keeping a cordon in the area and monitoring local marine traffic.

The UXO was initially spotted by a recreational diver, who reported it to NSW Police and assisted the dive team by providing GPS coordinates, photos and descriptions of the area, which helped the team locate the item.

Navy's Director General of Maritime Operations, Commodore Michael Harris, congratulated the divers on the successful operation.

"The team has achieved an excellent outcome, safely removing this ordnance from this popular and environmentally sensitive dive site despite difficult sea conditions, all the while protecting marine wildlife and public safety," Commodore Harris said.

"Their commitment to maintaining safety and protecting the environment throughout reflects the importance the Royal Australian Navy places on safety and environmental protection."

The Sydney-based Clearance Diving Team One is one of two full-time Navy dive teams comprised of specialist divers capable of overt and clandestine mine clearance, reconnaissance, underwater damage repair, explosive ordnance disposal and providing support to special forces.

By Lieutenant Emily Tinker

Photos: POIS Christopher Szumlanski and

ABIS Benjaimin Ricketts



22 February 2023—Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, hosted a an official Reception and Ceremonial Sunset at the Australian Defence Force Academy for the commencement of Navy Week 2023.



Left:

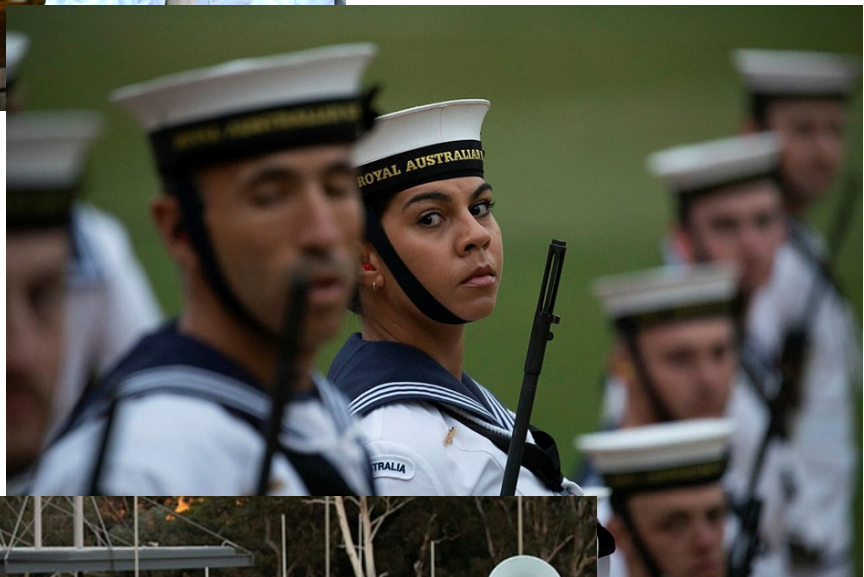
Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, salutes during the Australian National Anthem at the Ceremonial Sunset marking the commencement of Navy Week 2023 at the Australian Defence Force Academy Canberra

Right

The RAN Part of Australia's Federation Guard form up at the Ceremonial Sunset

Below

The Royal Australian Navy Band marches onto the parade ground at the Ceremonial Sunset 2023 at the Australian Defence Force Academy .



Defence photos

LSIS Tara Morrison

Right

Naval Association of Australia guests of the Chief of Navy (left to right)-Darren Rush, Jenny Burns, Susan Lyons, Dennis (Tiger) Lyons, Wendy Lissing, National President David Manolas and Peter Cooke-Russell photographed during the pre ceremony Reception in the Cadets Mess at ADFA



Avalon Air Show



Royal Australian Air Force and civilian personnel capturing the Australian International Air Show featuring the F-35A Lightning II flying over Melbourne, Victoria.

Looks like Portsea/ Sorrento to the Editor

Defence photos

The Australian International Airshow (AIA) – a biennial activity coordinated and run by the AMDA Foundation with the Royal Australian Air Force, other government agencies and non-government elements in support – is the premier showcase in the southern hemisphere for military aviation and the aerospace industry. The Australian International Airshow 2023 and associated activities are conducted at Avalon Airport and select Melbourne CBD locations over the period 24 February – 5

March 2023. The Trade and Defence Exposition is conducted between 28 February and 3 March 2023, followed by the public air show between 3 and 5 March. AIA23 is the capstone engagement activity for Air Force after a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-related cancellation of AIA21. AIA23 shows the ADF's current capabilities and future concepts in a collaborative and integrated manner to Government, military allies and partners, defence industry, and the Australian public.

New Hub for veterans one step closer in Perth's south

Friday, 3 February 2023

The Hon Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

The Hon Madeleine King MP

Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia
Member for Brand

Defence personnel, veterans and families in Perth's Southern Suburbs are set to receive better access to support through the establishment of a new Veterans' and Families' Hub, following consultation with the local community.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh and the Federal Member for Brand, Resources Minister and Minister for Northern Australia Madeleine King, met with representatives of the local community, veteran support organisations and key stakeholders to discuss how the \$5 million Hub would best meet the needs of Defence personnel, veterans and families.

"Every community is different and we want to ensure the Hub in Brand meets the needs of local Defence personnel, veterans and families for generations to come," Minister Keogh said.

"Brand is home to the nation's biggest Navy base, HMAS Stirling, and there are more than 8,000 Defence personnel and veterans who live in the electorate with their families."



"We need to provide them with the most appropriate services and supports to suit them."

Minister King said her community has a proud military history and it was crucial the Hub was designed with input from Defence personnel, veterans and families.

"Rockingham and the electorate of Brand have a very special relationship with Defence and the veterans' community and we want to make sure this Hub will meet their needs," Minister King said.

"This consultation process will ensure the new Hub is fit for purpose and provides access to services and support for the veteran community close to home." Minister King said.



Editor

Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Program

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) invests heavily in training its service men and women. This means that when they leave the ADF, veterans have a broad range of skills and experience.

Our organisation recognises the value and unique experience of our veterans and encourages employment opportunities for those who have served our country.

By signing the commitment, you declare to:

- recognise the skills and values that veterans can bring to our organisation;
- support the employment of veterans, ensuring that veterans have equal opportunity in gaining employment with our organisation;
- aim to provide career opportunities in our organisation to veterans;
- actively seek to understand how veterans' skills and experience can translate into civilian skills and contribute to our organisation;
- provide suitable training, mentoring and coaching to veterans to assist their integration into our organisation; and
- ensure our HR policies equitably support the recruitment and retention of all employees, including veterans.

What are the steps?

1. **Sign the commitment**
2. **We review your application.** Once you provide your organisations details and logo we will review your application. This may take up to 2 weeks.
3. **We'll let you know.** As soon as your application has been finalised, your logo will be uploaded to the Commitment Supporters page. An email will be sent to you containing the supporters logo for your use

DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

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

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

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

The Prime Minister's National Veterans' Employment Awards

The Awards recognise organisations that employ and support veterans, and partners of current and former serving Australian Defence Force personnel, as well as celebrating veterans and partners who are doing great things as an employee or entrepreneur.

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