



National Bosun's Call



Vol 5 No 4

Once Navy, Always Navy

May 2023

ANZAC Day 2023



Above:

National President David Manolas lays the NAA wreath at the ANZAC Day Last Post Ceremony with the Air Force Association National President Peter Schiller OAM CSM at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

Photo Flickr



Left

Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne

Photo: LSIS James McGougall

Events coming up 6 May Coronation of King Charles III—Westminster Abbey



Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia



Above:
Veterans representing various ships march during the Anzac Day 2023 parade in Melbourne

Below
A RAN MRH-90 helicopter conducts a flypast during the Anzac Day memorial service held at the Village Green in Rockingham

Photos: Defence



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Recognising the Service of First World War Diggers

21 April 2023

Matt Keogh MP
 Minister for Veterans' Affairs
 Minister for Defence Personnel

As ANZAC Day approaches, the Australian Government has formally launched the *Marking First World War Private Graves Grants Program*.

Community groups, ex-service organisations and individuals can now apply for assistance of up to \$450 to provide a grave marker to mark the graves of First World War veterans, whose death was unrelated to their war service.

"The program provides funding to help establish a graveside commemoration for those veterans who returned home and passed away of causes unrelated to their war service, with many at rest in unmarked graves not receiving the recognition they deserve." Minister Keogh said.

"While the Government has commemorated many thousands of veterans of the First World War, those who did not pass away as a result of their war service may not have been found eligible for

an official commemoration, such as a grave provided by the Office of Australian War Graves."

Before an application can be made to the grants program, applicants must first apply to the Repatriation Commission to determine if the veteran's cause of death was linked to their war service. In this case, the veteran will be provided an official commemoration by the Office of Australian War Graves.

The opening of applications for the *Marking First World War Private Graves Grants Program* fulfils yet another election commitment of the Albanese Labor Government.

The Marking First World War Private Graves Grants Program will be administered by the Office



of Australian War Graves, with ongoing maintenance of the private memorials provided by the family, the relevant cemetery authority or other burial right holder.

Applications for this years' program close on 20 June 2023.

To learn more about the program and apply for a grant, visit www.grants.gov.au



Note Pension Rates as stated in the DVA Newsletter.

It may vary from the rates posted in the National Bosun's Call for April 2023.

New pension rates from 20 March 2023

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,026.50	\$1,064.00	\$37.50
Couples (each)	\$773.80	\$802.00	\$28.20
Single person – transitional	\$856.40	\$887.60	\$31.20
Couples (each) – transitional	\$690.90	\$716.10	\$25.20
WAR WIDOWS			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Income support supplement	\$309.60	\$321.10	\$11.50
DISABILITY PENSION			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04
Intermediate rate	\$1,072.10	\$1,111.30	\$39.20
EDA	\$872.70	\$904.60	\$31.90
100%	\$561.40	\$581.90	\$20.50
10%	\$63.07	\$65.12	\$2.05
VETERAN PAYMENT			
Single Person	\$1,112.30	\$1,153.50	\$41.20
Couples (each)	\$867.20	\$899.30	\$32.10
MRCA*			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

Chiefs prepare for change

27 APRIL 2023

Defence chiefs have described the release of the Defence Strategic Review as a significant moment in Australia's approach to developing its military capability.

The Government released the review on Monday, saying it "sets the agenda for ambitious, but necessary, reform to Defence's posture and structure".

The review identified six priority areas for immediate action:

- Investing in conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines
- Developing the ADF's long-range strike capability, including manufacturing munitions in Australia
- Improving the ADF's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases
- Lifting capacity to rapidly acquire disruptive new technologies
- Investing in the growth and retention of a highly-skilled workforce
- Deepening diplomatic and defence partnerships with key regional partners

Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell said this was a "critical time for Defence and our nation".

"The deteriorating strategic environment presents challenges that require the ADF to have the capacity to defend Australia and our immediate region, including our northern approaches," General Campbell said.

"To deter adversaries through denial, meet our evolving strategic needs and respond as required, the ADF will have accelerated capability development, higher levels of military preparedness and enhanced lethality."

He said the ADF would undertake a modernisation agenda over the coming decade to build an integrated, focused force across the maritime, land, air, space and cyber domains.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart said Army would continue to be an expert contributor to the integrated force.

"We need to adapt quickly to the rapidly changing character of war," Lieutenant General Stuart said.

"There will also be changes to the scale and scope of our capabilities, the sequence and pace of delivery, how we are organised, how we train and the resources that will be available to us."

The combined arms fighting system would be "significantly smaller, but no less capable".

"We'll accelerate delivery of our long-range fires and littoral manoeuvre capabilities. Our formations will become more specialised, and we will increase

the use of robotics and autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and quantum technology," he said.

Lieutenant General Stuart said more work was being done on the details of how Army will be re-postured and restructured, and these would be shared by the end of August.

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond said the review provided clarity around the expectations of a more focused and integrated ADF, with specific capabilities to execute a strategy of denial that can impose an unacceptable cost on a potential adversary.

"This requires a bold alteration for Defence. This alteration allows us in Navy to look hard at our priorities for the next decade and ruthlessly refocus on how to get maximum warfighting return for the Australian taxpayer," Vice Admiral Hammond said.

The three main concepts guiding Navy's thinking in implementing the review would be its people, provision of naval power and future maritime domain capability.

He said Navy was already focused on optimising its workforce and this would continue in light of the review, since "people are our only way to achieve a decisive edge and the [review] highlights that a platform without a crew is not a capability".

He added that while Navy would look "towards the horizon of a more lethal Navy", the review also reinforced the need for soft power, allowing Navy people to be ambassadors for the country and "contribute to a peaceful and prosperous Indo-pacific".

Air Force is also working on the details, with Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Rob Chipman and Warrant Officer – Air Force Ralph Clifton saying in a joint message that Air Force strategy would be reviewed to ensure the approach to air and space power aligns with the integrated approach set out in the Defence review.

"In an integrated force, we will have a common purpose irrespective of where we work in the organisation. We will measure our air and space contribution as a Defence output, not an Air Force output. We will be equally invested in the capability outcomes of all domains," the message said.

Recent initiatives, such as improvements to internal structures and manoeuvring air power across northern bases, would form part of Air Force's implementation of the Defence review.

In implementing some of these proposals the Minister for Defence has advised that the Government will bolster investment in Australia's northern bases, committing \$3.8 billion over the next four years.

Improving Australia's northern defence capability

A key priority area identified in response to the Defence Strategic Review is improving the ability of the Australian Defence Force to operate from Australia's northern bases.

It is clear that given our strategic circumstances, the Australian Army must be optimised for littoral operations in northern land and maritime spaces, and provide a long-range strike capability. Air Force must also be equipped to support operations in the north through surveillance, air defence, strike and air transport.

In order to realise this, the Government has directed Defence to deliver upgrades and development of the northern bases network as a matter of priority, including:

- \$2 billion for critical air bases stretching from RAAF Base Learmonth through Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as well as air bases in the Northern Territory and northern Queensland;
- \$1 billion for upgrades to land and joint estate capabilities; \$600 million in maritime estate investments including HMAS

Coonawarra, HMAS Cairns and the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station, and;

- An additional \$200 million towards the acceleration of additional projects.

In line with the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review, work across northern air bases will include upgrades to runway and apron capacity, fuel supply and storage, accommodation and security.

Investment in land and estate will be centred on major training area upgrades in the Northern Territory, and upgrades at Robertson Barracks in Darwin and Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. This immediate work will be complemented by the inaugural National Defence Strategy in 2024 which will further progress the Government's investment for this important priority.

The \$3.8 billion is part of the Government's \$19 billion commitment over the forward estimates to implement the six priority areas outlined in response to the Defence Strategic Review.

Defence News

Fleet Commanders' meeting of like minds

Australia's Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Chris Smith, has joined navy leaders from Japan, South Korea and the United States in South Korea to discuss maritime operations and regional security issues.

The 2023 Fleet Commanders' Roundtable discussion was held on April 20 and 21 on board the South Korean helicopter training ship ROKS *Hansando*, and hosted by Commander Republic of Korea Fleet Vice Admiral Kim Myung-soo.

Rear Admiral Smith and Vice Admiral Kim were joined by Commander-in-Chief, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Fleet, Vice Admiral Saito Akira, and US Commander Seventh Fleet Vice Admiral Karl Thomas, of the US Navy.

The forum enabled professional dialogue on regional security challenges, operational issues, multilateral exercises and maritime law, rules and norms, including freedom of navigation activities.

The leaders agreed on the importance of continuing to strengthen coordination and operations with allies and partners in support of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Vice Admiral Thomas said the meeting of like-minded friends was "critical to aligning efforts within shared national interests to uphold the norms that govern the maritime domain".

"Through our combined resolve, we keep the Pacific free and open and we deter aggression," he said.

Rear Admiral Smith said the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to engage with counterparts.

"Sitting down with fellow fleet commanders to share insights and experiences gained from operating our respective fleets in our dynamic regional security environment was very beneficial," Rear Admiral Smith said.

"Australia remains committed to contributing to collective regional security through engagement with partners as we maintain a near continuous presence in the region."

This year's roundtable discussion built on the previous Fleet Commanders' Roundtable, hosted in Sydney in June 2022, where it was agreed to continue to conduct multilateral exercises, enhance interoperability, and promote security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

The renewed commitment to regional security cooperation comes as the frigate HMAS *Perth* returns to Fleet Base West following a three-month deployment supporting national and regional security, shortly after the frigate HMAS *Anzac* departed on a regional presence deployment through South-East Asia.

The ship's company of HMAS *Anzac* commemorated Anzac Day in Singapore before participating in Exercise Bersama Shield, alongside fellow Five Powers Defence Arrangements partners Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

After the war—Repatriation and War losses

14 March 2023

After the Armistice of 11 November 1918, the Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes insisted Australian troops be repatriated (returned home) as quickly as possible.

This logistical challenge was enormous with 135,000 troops brought home from Britain in 147 voyages, and 16,773 troops from the Middle East in 56 voyages on a first come, first go basis.

Overseeing this complex task was Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, who was appointed Director-General of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) Department of Demobilisation and Repatriation on 21 November 1918.

It would take until 22 September 1919 for the last transport to reach Australian shores.

With a long wait to get home, some troops took the opportunity to travel around France and Britain, while a few hundred Australian servicemen went on to serve in Russia as part of a volunteer British force fighting Bolshevik forces. Some Light Horse units also helped with suppressing an Egyptian nationalist revolt in early 1919.

Many took part in the AIF Education Scheme, which was developed after the success of Canadian initiatives offering skills and training to personnel.

More than 1100 Australians served with the Australian Graves Detachment, which was formed in March 1919. Men in the unit worked in northern France where the AIF fought many of its battles. Some members of the detachment were veterans of the fighting on the Western Front who volunteered for the job. Most were men who had enlisted too late in the war to see fighting and had reached France after the Armistice.

Between April and August 1919, the Australian Graves Detachment exhumed and re-buried the remains of almost 5,500 dead. This distressing work included identifying bodies where possible, and reburying them in centralised war cemeteries.

After months or years away from home, thousands of Australian troops had met and married women from the countries they served in. The Australian Government brought around 20,000 women and children to Australia, including the wives and fiancées of Australian troops, and of munition workers who had come to the UK to work during the war.

Spanish Flu

While the origins of the 1918 influenza epidemic are still unclear, the virus thrived in the clustered conditions of the Western Front and large military camps in France, Britain and the United States, and became a global pandemic into 1919-1920.

Australian authorities quickly brought in extensive quarantine procedures in October 1918, which

caused some frustrations for returning troops keen to get home to their families.

By March 1919 Australian soldiers were being inoculated against influenza before their repatriation.

These combined efforts helped Australia to record one of the lowest death rates of any country during the pandemic.

By the time the pandemic arrived in the country it was in its 'third wave', which proved to be significantly less severe than the preceding wave.

This pandemic killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people globally: as many as five times the number of people killed during the First World War.

Return to civilian life

Australian losses during the First World War were devastating. From a population of less than five million people, more than 416,000 Australians enlisted, more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Just under 40 per cent of Australian men aged 18-44 had enlisted, and 330,000 had seen active service overseas.

Some wounds left returned men debilitated, or totally incapacitated for life. Some like Albert Ward would spend the next 43 years confined to a bed on coach wheels at an Anzac hostel for returned veterans.

The impact on the Australian people was immense, and some returned service personnel struggled to settle back in to civilian life, in a land which had not seen firsthand the horrors of war. There was also frustration from some who had served, and antagonism against those who had stayed home and were known to many by the derogatory term 'shirkers'.

The war had changed many families, the divorce rate rose, doubling between 1913 and 1921, while many young women would never find a partner after the loss of so many young men.

Women who had been widowed or were married to incapacitated men became the primary breadwinner of the household, staying in the workforce, some also caring for wounded family members.

A strong emphasis was placed on giving returned personnel the skills to support themselves. This included through the Soldier-Settlement Scheme, which offered small parcels of land as farms for returned personnel. Around 40,000 returned men took up the scheme, however many of these farms were too small to be viable, the men not skilled in agriculture, and the government would not provide additional loans on top of those already given to help them improve their properties.

But a constant reminder of the service and sacrifice of the First World War would be the more than 2,000 war memorials which can be found all over Australia, inscribed with the names of the men and women from each community, school or business who served or were killed.

Last Post Ceremony Australian War Memorial
11 April 2023



*Left
 ACT Section Vice President Alex McGowan laid the NAA wreath marking 80 years since HMAS Pirie was attacked by Japanese aircraft. losing seven of her ship's company*

Photo Flickr

HMAS Pirie commissioned at Whyalla on 10 October 1942 under the command of LCDR-Charles F Mills, RAN. She completed her working up period in home waters in December 1942 before being assigned to convoy escort duty operating between Queensland, New South Wales and New Guinea.

She was at Milne Bay on 24 March 1943, when 27 enemy aircraft passed overhead en route to attack shore targets

Off Oro Bay (New Guinea) on 11 April 1943 Pirie was escorting the British vessel SS Hanyang as

part of Operation LILLIPUT, the reinforcement, supply and development of the Buna-Gona area after its capture. Pirie was subjected to a particularly determined attack by a large force of Japanese fighters and dive bombers. She experienced six very close misses and one direct hit which struck the bullet proof canopy over the bridge, penetrated it, glanced off the helmsman's protective apron, struck and killed instantly the Gunnery Officer and then striking the upper deck, exploded killing six ratings and wounding four others.

Sea Power Centre

ANZAC Day 2023

Right:

NAA ACT Section contingent saluting the Reviewing Officer, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, AC DSC Retd, Governor General of Australia and National Patron of the NAA.

Photo: Flickr



King Charles III and the Royal Australian Navy

By Petar Djokovic—Sea Power Centre, Issue 6 2022

On 8 September 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away. With her passing, her son, His Majesty, King Charles III, ascends to the throne. The King, like his parents, has enjoyed a close association with Australia and the Royal Australian Navy. Indeed, his father, the Duke of Edinburgh, is the only British royal to have visited these shores more often than King Charles.

The future King was born Charles Philip Arthur George at Buckingham Palace on 14 November 1948. Upon Elizabeth's accession to the throne, His Majesty, as heir apparent, took on the traditional titles of the Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland. On 1 July 1969 he was invested as Prince of Wales in a widely broadcast ceremony at Caernarfon Castle, Gwynedd, Wales.

His parents broke with royal tradition sending him to school rather than having a tutor educate him at Buckingham Palace. He attended the Hill House School in West London, Cheam Preparatory School in Berkshire, and Gordonstoun in East Scotland. His father, the Duke of Edinburgh, was an alumnus of both Cheam and Gordonstoun.

The future King did not accompany his parents on their extensive coronation tour of the Commonwealth in 1954; rather, his long association with Australia began when he spent two terms at Geelong Grammar School's rural Timbertop campus in 1966, an experience he later described as the most enjoyable of his whole education. Upon his entry to the school, Geelong Grammar's headmaster, Mr Thomas Garnett, emphasised that "in accordance with his parent's wishes, the Prince will be treated like any other pupil. Boys and masters will address him as Charles. He will be given no special favours."

Chopping wood, mid-winter camps and cross-country hikes were all part of the curriculum. There was little time for formal royal engagements but he undertook them when he could. He has often spoken since then about his affection for Australia and his time at Timbertop. "I have gone through my fair share of being called a Pommy bastard, I can assure you of that," he said in 2011. "But look what it has done for me... If you want to develop character, go to Australia." His Majesty maintained relationships with a few of his school-mates and teachers, including his old roommate, Stuart McGregor, who said in 2005; "I met a very fine person in the Prince of Wales."

His Majesty commenced university studies at Cambridge in 1967 but was back in Australia at the end of the year under sombre circumstances; representing the Royal Family at the memorial service for Prime Minister Harold Holt. While his first two visits were comparatively subdued affairs, his third was anything but. On 30 March 1970, His Majesty,



Commanding Officer HMS Bronington in 1976

his parents and his sister, Princess Anne, arrived at Mascot airport to be greeted by the Flag Officer in Charge, East Australia Area, Rear Admiral G.J.B. Crabb, CBE, DSC, RAN, along with a Naval Royal Guard and Colour Party, and the RAN Band. The Royal Family's visit coincided with the bicentenary of Captain James Cook's arrival in Australia in 1770. Events included a re-creation of Cook's landing at Kurnell, and a water carnival and fireworks display on Sydney Harbour on 29 April.

The RAN played a central role in all events. The RAN Band was again on hand during an official reception at Government House on 1 April before the Royal Party continued on to Hobart where they embarked in the Royal Yacht, Britannia, on 3 April. The ship was escorted in Australian waters by HMAS Stuart. His Majesty's schedule, however, saw him depart Australia in Melbourne on the 8th to attend EXPO 70 in Japan. He later returned to Australia in 1974 to open the Anglo-Australian Telescope at Siding Springs with then Prime Minister Gough Whitlam..

Following in his father's footsteps the future King learned to fly and in March 1971 he flew himself, in a twin-engined Beagle Basset aircraft of The Queen's Flight, to RAF Cranwell to begin advanced training as a jet pilot. After receiving his wings he embarked on a naval career entering the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, on 15 September as an acting sub lieutenant.

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King Charles III and the Royal Australian Navy

(Continued from page 8)

He served in the destroyer HMS Norfolk and the frigates HM ships Minerva and Jupiter. He toured the Pacific while serving in Jupiter visiting Singapore, New Zealand, Tonga, Western Samoa, Hawaii, San Francisco and Acapulco. He was promoted lieutenant on 1 May 1973 before going on to qualify as a helicopter pilot at RNAS Yeovilton in 1974. He then joined 845 Squadron and flew Wessex HU.5 helicopters from the carrier HMS Hermes, operating primarily in the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean.

In February 1976 His Majesty took command of the Ton class minesweeper HMS Bronington. His ten months in command of Bronington proved to be his last seagoing service in the Royal Navy. In 2011 His Majesty held a reunion for his old crew during which the ship's chef, Michael Sinker, fondly recalled his former commanding officer; "Charles was brilliant. When you got him to sea without his bodyguards he was just like one of the rest of the crew, though he wasn't a very good sailor and he was seasick, as were a lot of us. If it was rough he would go on the bridge with a bucket... There was quite a bit of apprehension before he came on board because of who he was, but once he was on board he was treated with respect just like any captain."

In keeping with naval tradition, His Majesty initiated a beard growing contest on board, which he himself won. He was promoted commander in January 1977 shortly before ending his active naval career. As the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, many honorary naval appointments followed; he was promoted captain in 1988; rear admiral in 1998; vice admiral in 2002; admiral in 2006; and was made Admiral of the Fleet in 2012; along with numerous other honorary appointments across the Commonwealth including the ranks of vice admiral in the Royal Canadian Navy, and Admiral of the Fleet in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

His Majesty did not accompany his parents on their Silver Jubilee visit to Australia in early 1977 but he did visit later in the year as the patron of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal for Young Australians. He arrived in November attending various events in connection with the Jubilee including inspecting an RAN Royal Guard upon his arrival at RAAF Base Fairbairn. His visit is remembered by many for a memorable interview conducted by flustered television compare Ian 'Molly' Meldrum for the popular ABC program, Countdown. His Majesty recorded a message for the show's 40th anniversary in 2014 in which he quipped; "Was it really 40 years ago? It seems like yesterday. I wish it were tomorrow, I'd cancel it."

The future King was back in Australia the following May for the funeral of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, which he attended in naval dress uniform. He returned for the third consecutive year in March 1979 primarily to celebrate the sesquicen-

tenary of the founding of the Swan River colony in Western Australia.

His eighth visit to these shores occurred shortly after his engagement to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. A naval Royal Guard of Honour again welcomed his arrival at RAAF Fairbairn on 12 April and the following day he officially opened the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Valour, an event also attended by the RAN's most highly decorated officer, Lieutenant Commander Leon Goldsworthy, GC, DSC, GM, RANR. Later in his visit he opened the 50th Anniversary Convention of Apex Clubs of Australia in Geelong.

The 1983 visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and their infant son, Prince William, proved to be a more elaborate affair than His Majesty's previous visits as they were welcomed by large crowds in Alice Springs, Albury, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide. A Royal Guard of 100 sailors and officers from HMAS Albatross once again greeted the Royal Party in Canberra. The couple visited again in 1985 but it was their visit in 1988, coinciding with the nation's Bicentennial celebrations, which cemented the Prince's strongest ties with the RAN.

The Royal couple arrived in Sydney on 25 January where they were once again greeted by a Royal Guard of Honour. That afternoon they attended the official presentation of Britain's Bicentennial gift to Australia, the brigantine STS Young Endeavour, in Farm Cove, Sydney Harbour, in front of a crowd of about 10,000 people. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said that the ship was "a timely reminder of the sea links that were for so many years the only lines of communication between Australia and the rest of the world." The ship had departed England for Australia on 3 August 1987 with a crew that included 24 young people from Australia and the UK. Mr Hawke pledged her to serve Australian youth and handed her over to the RAN to operate and maintain.

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme was established in partnership with the RAN to manage the sail training program with its head office established at Garden Island. The ship routinely participates in major events around Australia and the world undertaking around 20 voyages per year with a crew comprised of 24 young Australians and nine RAN officers and sailors. She has since circumnavigated the country on numerous occasions, and has twice circumnavigated the world; in 1992 and 2015. As of August 2018, she had completed 569 voyages and been crewed by 13,466 people.

On Australia Day 1988 the Royal Couple joined some two million Australians who lined the shores of Sydney Harbour to witness a re-enactment of the arrival of the First Fleet. His Majesty later delivered a Bicentennial address on the steps of the Sydney Opera House and shortly after 3.00pm the

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King Charles III and the Royal Australian Navy

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Royal Couple and other dignitaries embarked in HMAS Cook to review the fleet. His Majesty met and spoke to the majority of the ship's company in their respective areas of duty before lines were cast off and the ship manoeuvred to her reviewing station south of Bradley's Head. She anchored at 4.15 and over the next hour and a half the Parade of Sail was reviewed by the Royal Couple. The Royal Party disembarked shortly after 6.30 at Woolloomooloo.

His Majesty has made five further visits to these shores since 1988; in 1994; 2005; 2012 when His Majesty and the Duchess of Cornwall laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial and visited a number of bases in Sydney including the Navy Heritage

Centre at Garden Island; 2015; and his last visit was in April 2018 for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

His Majesty visited HMAS Cairns during that visit where he took pleasure in presenting HS Blue Crew with the prestigious Duke of Gloucester's Cup aboard HMAS Leeuwin, the first time that the award for the most proficient unit in the RAN had been won by a hydrographic unit.

King Charles has enjoyed a close association with Australia and the Royal Australian Navy. The Navy has been in attendance during each of his visits, whether in a ceremonial capacity such as providing guards of honour, or behind the scenes. That association will no doubt continue in his new role.



The future King with HS Blue crew after presenting the Duke of Gloucester's Cup seated with Commander Adam Muckalt (Commander Australian Hydrographic Meteorological Group), Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead, AM, (Commander Australian Fleet) and Lieutenant Commander Dean Battilana (Commanding Officer HS Blue) aboard HMAS Leeuwin on 8 April 2018



The then Prince Charles, Prince of Wales places a poppy on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial on November 11, 2015, in Canberra, Australia. [Mick Tsikas - Pool/Getty Images](#)

Farewell to the first of its class

4 April 2023

Armidale, the first of its class and the latest to be decommissioned, has conducted a wide variety of operations alongside Australian Border Force, Australian Fisheries and the Australian Federal Police.

The vessel has sailed more than 571,000 nautical miles and visited a range of ports including Singapore, Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

In 2021, *Armidale* rapidly deployed to Solomon Islands to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force in managing civil unrest.

Armidale's final task involved the apprehension and detainment of a foreign fishing vessel.

The final Commanding Officer of *Armidale*, Lieutenant Commander Adrian Hicks, said it had been a pleasure to take on the role.

"Being Commanding Officer of *Armidale* and working with the magnificent people who have served on board the ship these last two years has been the most rewarding time of my naval career," Lieutenant Commander Hicks said.

"I will deeply miss the family we created and the pride we have for our ship. But, like all things, they must come to an end as we introduce new capability into the fleet."

Patrol boats are the primary enablers of the ADF's contribution to Operation Sovereign Borders and a



key arm of Operation Resolute.

Navy is transitioning from the *Armidale*-class and *Cape*-class patrol boats to 12 *Arafura*-class offshore patrol vessels.

The new *Arafura*-class will provide a significant increase in capability over the patrol boats they will replace and will enhance Australia's capacity to patrol its maritime territory and near region.

Armidale sailor Able Seaman Timothy Adams reflected on the bittersweet moment.

"I've learnt and achieved a lot on board *Armidale* and will miss the boat and the team a lot," he said.

"But all things end and I'm looking forward to my next posting."

By Lieutenant Harrison Thomas



Above: Ship's company of HMAS Armidale line the upper decks during its decommissioning ceremony

Left: Captain Patrol Boat Group, Captain Melanie Verho with the first and last Commanding Officers of HMAS Armidale (II), Commander Andrew Maher (centre) and Lieutenant Commander Adrian Hicks, after the decommissioning ceremony of HMAS Armidale (II), conducted alongside HMAS Coonawarra

Photos: POIS Peter Thompson

HMAS Canberra returns to Fleet Base East, Sydney after a deployment to support the Government of Vanuatu's response to devastation caused by Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin.



Photo: LSIS David Cox 3 April 2023

Keeping Young Endeavour ready to sail

14 April 2023

Since 1988, more than 14,000 young Australians have sailed in Sail Training Ship (STS) *Young Endeavour* and been part of inspiring experiences that helped them develop self-awareness and confidence.

On March 17, Australia's leading general marine company, Noakes Group Pty Limited, was selected as the industry partner that will deliver services to *Young Endeavour*, until the end of its service life.

After a competitive tender process, Noakes was awarded a two-year contract with extension options for a further three years.

The company will maintain Navy's *Young Endeavour* at HMAS *Waterhen* and provide support to its crew during operations away from their home port in Sydney.

Head Maritime Sustainment Rear Admiral Steven Tiffen said the contract would ensure *Young Endeavour* was operationally available to serve the youth of Australia where and when needed.

"Noakes has been instrumental in providing maintenance, engineering, supply and operating

services to *Young Endeavour* for the past 30 years and are well suited to ensure the vessel is kept in a reliable and safe state to deliver youth development activities," Rear Admiral Tiffen said.

"This contract will ensure all necessary support is given to *Young Endeavour* until a replacement vessel is made available, continuing the proud history that began in 1988 when the ship was handed to Australia from the United Kingdom to mark the bicentenary."

Young Endeavour is Navy's national sail training ship and conducts a year-round development program on behalf of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.

In learning to sail the ship, the youth crew develop skills which translate to everyday life, helping them become better leaders and team players, and better equipped to make an active contribution to their schools, workplaces and communities.

Young Endeavour has sailed more than 400,000 nautical miles, including two world voyages and four circumnavigations of Australia.

Australian youth aged 16-23 can apply to be part of the program at: <https://youngendeavour.gov.au/apply-now>

Head of Naval Engineering Change Over

On Friday 03 March 2023, a transfer of authority ceremony was held in Canberra to mark the changing commands of Head of Navy Engineering and Director General Engineering for Navy. During the ceremony, Head of Navy Engineering, Rear Admiral (RADM) Kath Richards, AM, CSC, RAN, (left) handed the weight of command to RADM Rachel Durbin, CSC, RAN. Director General Engineering for Navy was also handed from RADM Rachel Durbin, CSC, RAN, to Mr Joseph Cole

Photo: POIS Jake Badior



Oldies play Rugby

Navy Old Salts and ACT Veterans rugby union teams faced off in a charity match raising funds for ACT Legacy and the Canberra Hospital. The Old Salts team comprises current and ex-serving members, with players required to be over 35 to qualify for the team. More than \$300,000 has been donated to charity since the inaugural match in 2010

Defence



Above: Navy Old Salts rugby union team at GIO Stadium, Canberra

Left: Navy Old Salts and ACT Veterans rugby union teams play a charity match raising funds for ACT Legacy and the Canberra Hospital

Photos : POIC Jake Badior

Request for help

NAA administration

I am a Compensation Advocate (in Qld) for the Veteran community and am seeking assistance by locating RAN personnel who may have served with Leading Seaman Ian William Wakely who was on HMAS Arrow when wrecked during Cyclone Tracy in the Darwin Harbour on Christmas Eve 1974. Assistance will help with a WW claim to DVA on behalf of widow and children.

I have attached the article for help that was printed in the last edition of VetAffairs newspaper. Would you be able to circulate this request for assistance throughout your membership base?

I await your reply on this important matter.

Kind regards

Kev Plumb
Compensation Advocate L2

NAVY

Ex HMAS Arrow

Seeking anyone who served with Leading Seaman Ian William Wakely from January 1975 until his discharge in May 1980. Following the loss of HMAS Arrow, Ian continued his service in the RAN on the following postings until discharge: *Coonawarra* 26.12.1974, *Waterhen* 27.01.1975, *Buccaneer* 10.02.1975, *Watson* 02.02.1976, *Harman* 03.01.1977 and *Perth* 24.01.1977.

Information is required to assist with a DVA claim on behalf of his widow and family.

Contact: Kev

✉ secretarywalkpleyrs1@bigpond.com

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:1800838372)

International callers:

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

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

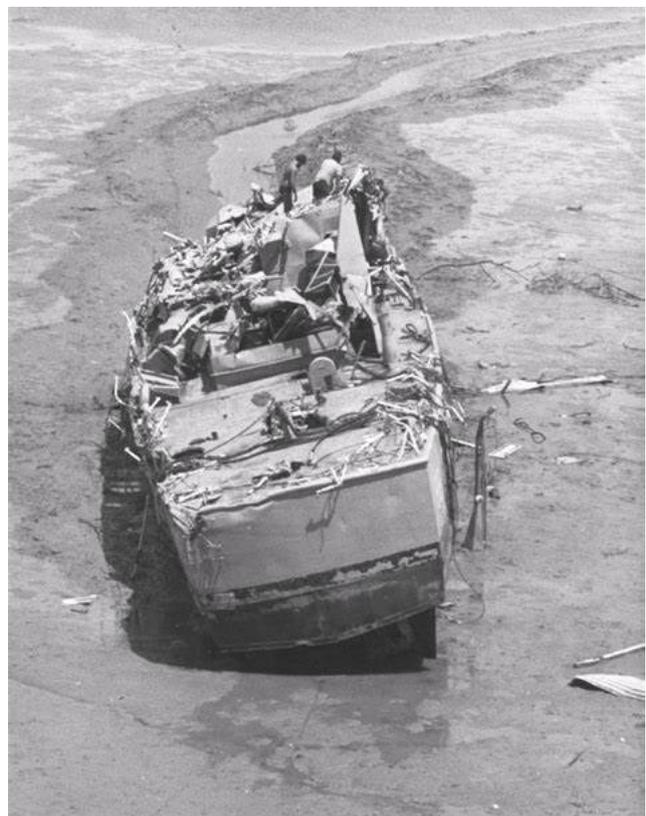
<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

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

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

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

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



HMAS Arrow post Cyclone Tracey Darwin 1974