



# National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 10

Once Navy, Always Navy

November 2022



**Remembrance Day  
National Ceremony**  
at the  
Australian War Memorial  
Canberra



*Top: NAA National President David Manolas (left) with Carl Schiller OAM CSM National President Air Force Association laying their wreaths*

*Middle: LSBM Matthew Joseph playing the didgeridoo at opening of the service*

*Photos Flickr*

*Left: Davis Manolas (left) with Russell Pettis, NAA National Secretary at the Australian War Memorial for the Remembrance Day ceremony*

*Photo: Manolas*



National Newsletter of the  
**Naval Association of Australia**



## Castlemaine's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*HMAS Castlemaine's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coincides with Navy Day Vic 2022, Williamstown, Victoria.*

*Photos: Leading Seaman James McDougall*

The return of Navy Day Victoria on October 9, after a pandemic hiatus, coincided with the 80th anniversary of HMAS *Castlemaine's* commissioning in Williamstown.

The people of Hobsons Bay were treated to a wet winching display from a MH-60R Seahawk and musical entertainment from the Royal Australian Navy Band.

An Air Force PC-21 Roulette put on an aerial display and flyover, while Navy technical trades, Defence Force Recruiting and the Australian Navy Cadets kept people occupied on the ground.

The day culminated in a ceremonial sunset on board *Castlemaine*, one of 60 corvettes produced by Australian shipyards during WW2.

Hundreds of visitors passed through *Castlemaine* during the day, getting a taste of life on the old corvette and seeing the work of the HMAS *Castlemaine* Association volunteers, who are restoring the ship to her previous glory.

The event was an opportunity for Navy to emphasise its links to the community and showcase some of the opportunities for potential recruits.

CDRE Yorke SNO VIC said Navy Day was a chance to show off some of our new technical equipment and show our community what Navy does and how we do it. It's very important in this day and age to get technical-minded people interested in careers they could have in Navy. It's a highly technical force and the more we can encourage this, the better off we'll be," Commodore Yorke said.

*Castlemaine* was constructed at Williamstown Naval Dockyard at a cost of £250,000. She was laid down on 17 February 1941 and launched, with some difficulty, on 7 August 1941 by Mrs RG Menzies, wife of the then Prime Minister. Cold weather had set hard the tallow on the slipway and the obstinate ship refused to budge. After 20 minutes she was eventually pulled into the water by the tug Keera.

*Castlemaine* commissioned at Melbourne on Wednesday 17 June 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Philip J Sullivan RANR(S).

Battle Honours

PACIFIC 1941-45

DARWIN 1942-43 NEW GUINEA 1942-44

### The Naval Association of Australia

ABN 56 653 989 978

221 Centenary Avenue

MELTON VICTORIA 3337

Editor: Peter Cooke-Russell Contact [peter.cookerussell@gmail.com](mailto:peter.cookerussell@gmail.com)

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



## CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE ORDER OF THE DAY

### A MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

Please find a message below from His Majesty King Charles III expressing his deep gratitude and appreciation to the men and women of the Australian Defence Force.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

On the occasion of my Accession as Sovereign, I would like to send to all who serve in the Australian Defence Force my heartfelt gratitude for the unstinting loyalty and professionalism you displayed throughout the reign of my beloved mother.

I know that The Queen took the greatest possible pride in the way servicemen and women from Australia performed their duties in many parts of the world, and often in the most testing and difficult circumstances.

I share my mother's high regard for your courage and commitment. I know, for my part, that you will continue to serve your country with the dedication and bravery which you have demonstrated with such success over the years.

## ADF continues support to flood response

Up to 650 ADF personnel are deployed on Operation Flood Assist 22-2 as part of the Australian Government's response to flooding in Victoria and NSW.

The ADF continues to work closely with National Emergency Management Australia in monitoring potential floods across the community.

The ADF remains postured to provide additional support to State Emergency Services should a request be received via National Emergency Management Australia.

### Victoria

What has happened?

- Defence has made available up to 400 personnel to support Victoria's flood response.
- Tasks conducted have included: filling and distribution of sandbags, transport support to isolated families and emergency services stakeholders, diversion of water from a small dam and construction of three levees, door knocking to support flood-affected residents, clean up activities, and transport of SES water rescue personnel, Army medics and stores to Shepparton and Echuca via CH-47.

What is happening today?

- As at October 23, about 350 ADF personnel are supporting local authorities with flood-related tasks across regional Victoria including Kerang, Wangaratta, Rochester, Echuca, Shepparton, Seymour, Bendigo and Barmah.
- Two CH-47 Chinook helicopters are available to assist with reconnaissance, the evacuation and relocation of communities, lifting and moving heavy equipment, provision and resupply of

essential food supplies to isolated communities, and provision of feed and fodder for livestock.

Visit <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/> or <https://nema.gov.au/> for support or further information.

### NSW

What has happened?

- Defence has made available up to 250 personnel to support the NSW flood response.
- Two helicopters are providing night-time search and rescue in the Northern Rivers region.

What is happening today?

- As at October 23 about 100 personnel are assisting in Moree, Dubbo, Condobolin, Deniliquin and Hillston with flood preparations, community engagement and sandbagging.
- About 100 personnel are assisting flood preparations, community engagement and sandbagging in Northern NSW.
- About 50 personnel are on standby to assist the Hunter region.

What is happening in the future?

- From PM October 24, a third helicopter will be on standby for night-time search and rescue on the South Coast.

Visit <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/> or <https://nema.gov.au/> for support or further information.

Imagery of Operation Flood Assist is available on the [Defence Image Gallery](#).

*Below: Ground crew from 816 Squadron replenish a MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter at RAAF Base Williamtown in preparation to support the NSW flood response.*

*Photos LAC Samuel Miller*





**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**  
**Media release—1 September 2022**  
**Understanding the wellbeing characteristics of ex-serving**  
**ADF members**

## **Most veterans faring well in education, employment and income**

The majority of ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members had attained higher education qualifications, were employed, earned higher incomes than the Australian population, owned their own homes (including those paying mortgages), and were socially connected by living in a family type household, according to a new report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report, *Understanding the wellbeing characteristics of ex-serving ADF members*, uses data from the 2016 Census to examine experiences of education and skills, employment, income and finance, housing circumstances and social support among 72,000 veterans who had served at least one day of service on or after 1 January 2001 and were ex-serving as at 31 December 2015.

Today's release expands reporting on the [Veteran-centred model](#) as part of an ongoing body of work in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and contributes to understanding the wellbeing needs of veterans and their families after separation from the ADF. For the first time, comprehensive information is available on the wellbeing characteristics of female ex-serving ADF members.

'Education is an important factor when transitioning from the ADF to civilian life. In the general population, higher levels of education are associated with better health and wellbeing outcomes,' said AIHW spokesperson Ms. Caitlin Szigetvari.

Nearly 2 in 5 (38%) ex-serving female members of the ADF held a university qualification in 2016, 1.4 times higher than all Australian females (26%). While one quarter (25%) of ex-serving males had a bachelor degree or higher, similar to all Australian males (22%).

Attainment of higher education is closely associated with rank. Four in five (81%) ex-serving females who were Commissioned Officers at the time of separation held a university qualification, 3.1 times the rate of ex-serving females who were other ranks (26%). More than two-thirds of ex-serving male Commissioned Officers (68%) held a university qualification, 4.5 times the rate of ex-serving males who separated as other ranks (15%).

'The ADF provides secure and stable employment, and following their separation, many veterans aim to transition to the civilian workforce,' Ms. Szigetvari said.

Over three quarters of ex-serving ADF males and females (78% and 76% respectively) were em-

ployed in 2016, compared with 67% of Australian males and 57% of Australian females. After adjusting for age, ex-serving females were employed at a higher rate than Australian females, while ex-serving males were employed at a similar rate to Australian males.

'Employment following separation from the ADF is a key issue among the veteran community, as those managing mental and physical health impacts are likely to face challenges in returning to work,' Ms. Szigetvari said.

Ex-serving males and females generally had a higher weekly personal income compared to the Australian male and female population.

More than 3 in 4 (76%) ex-serving ADF males earned a weekly personal income of \$800 and above, compared to around half of Australian males (52%) in 2016. Three in five (60%) ex-serving ADF females earned a weekly personal income of \$800 and above, compared to just over one third of Australian females (34%).

'The findings in this report present a largely positive picture of wellbeing outcomes following separation from the ADF, however, it is important to note this is not the case for all veterans,' Ms. Szigetvari said.

'Those who separated from the ADF involuntarily for medical reasons experienced wellbeing challenges such as higher unemployment rates, had lower levels of education qualifications, and were receiving lower incomes in 2016 than those who separated for any other reason. Those who served fewer years or who separated from the Navy experienced similar wellbeing challenges when compared to those who served longer or who served in the Army or Air Force'.

The varied experiences of Australia's veterans reinforce the importance of today's release and AIHW's ongoing partnership with DVA for research that supports the needs of Australia's veterans and their families.

Further work is underway to expand reporting on the health and wellbeing of Australia's veterans and their families, including the exploration of data from the 2021 Census, Australian Tax Office, Government Payment Benefits from the Department of Social Services, and health service use and medications from the Medicare Benefit Scheme and Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme.

*Full Report*

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

*Canberra*

*Cat. no. PHE 224*

## Permanent Telehealth information for clients

### Last updated:

4 November 2022

### Introduction of permanent Telehealth Arrangements from 1 January 2022

**In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with whole-of-government arrangements under the Medicare Benefits Schedule, telehealth services were introduced for DVA funded general practitioner (GP), specialist, nurse practitioner, midwifery and allied health services. These arrangements are due to cease on 31 December 2021.**

On 13 December 2021, the Government announced permanent telehealth arrangements will be introduced from 1 January 2022. These arrangements will flow through to DVA health care arrangements.

Now that the risk of COVID-19 has reduced, transitioning to permanent arrangements is intended to promote high quality health care for patients while still enabling access to telehealth where clinically appropriate and consistent with whole-of-government arrangements.

Permanent telehealth arrangements will benefit DVA clients by enabling flexible access to health care delivered both in person and by telehealth services.

### GP visits

DVA clients can continue to receive telehealth services from 1 January 2022, however are reminded of the need to have had at least one face-to-face service with their GP or another doctor at the same practice in the last 12 months.

### Medical Specialist services

DVA clients can continue to receive medical specialist telehealth services from 1 January 2022.

### Allied health services

Allied health services (except dental, optical and neuropsychology services) can continue to be delivered to DVA clients under permanent telehealth arrangements. Allied health services delivered via telehealth should achieve the same or better outcome(s) or benefit as an in-person service.

Permanent arrangements for allied telehealth services are based on the following principles:

- Telehealth services are not intended to

replace in-person services and can be provided to clients who have an established clinical relationship with the provider.

- ◇ Telehealth services are only available for subsequent consultations – initial and extended consultations should be undertaken in person, except for allied mental health services where appropriate.
- Telehealth services can only be provided if the full service can be delivered safely and in accordance with all relevant professional standards and clinical guidelines.
- ◇ Telephone consultations can only be provided where videoconferencing is not available.
- ◇ Some telehealth services, including initial mental health consultations, should only be delivered by videoconference not telephone.
- ◇ Group therapy cannot be delivered by telehealth.
- ◇ Services requiring specialised equipment or facilities cannot be delivered by telehealth.
- ◇ Services requiring assessment of the client's residence or site inspection of their home cannot be delivered by telehealth.
- ◇ Telehealth items are also claimable for telehealth services delivered to clients in hospital or residential aged care facilities, for services not requiring prior approval.

DVA clients should note that a key change to these permanent arrangements is initial consultations are required to be delivered in person, except for allied mental health services where appropriate. Clinical research shows that telehealth is less effective for initial diagnosis but generally provides equivalent outcomes for ongoing care. However, if there are circumstances in which an initial consultation needs to be delivered by telehealth, this can be considered through DVA's usual Prior Approval arrangements.

From 1 November 2022, DVA clients can access allied mental health services by telehealth, without the need for initial consultations

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Diabetes organisations membership

### Last updated:

1 July 2022

We may cover costs to help you become members of state or territory diabetes organisations. This will help to better understand and manage your overall health.

### What is state and territory diabetes organisation membership

Each state or territory has its own diabetes organisation offering services and resources to help you manage your health.

We offer to fund your membership to help you manage your health.

### Who can receive it

We will pay for your membership if you have diabetes and either a:

- [Veteran Gold Card](#)
- [Veteran White Card](#) with diabetes listed as an accepted condition.

### What you can receive

Membership to a diabetes organisation can provide access to:

- the organisation's member magazine and website
- social support and education programs
- a booklet specific to your diabetes

- workshops and support groups.

### How you access membership

After your diagnosis, your state or territory organisation may contact you about membership. You can also contact them to join.

Let the organisation know you hold a Veteran [Gold](#) or [White](#) Card for us to pay your membership fees. If you hold a [Veteran White Card](#), you must have diabetes listed as an accepted condition.

### State and territory organisations

You can find more information about specific state and territory organisation's on their websites:

- [Diabetes NSW & ACT](#)
- [Diabetes QLD](#)
- [Diabetes SA](#)
- [Diabetes Tasmania](#)
- [Diabetes Victoria](#)
- [Diabetes WA](#)
- [Healthy Living NT](#)

### [National Diabetes Services Scheme \(NDSS\)](#)

Membership to the NDSS is free to all Australians who live with diabetes. You can speak to your GP or health care worker for more information.

## Permanent Telehealth information for clients

(Continued from page 6)

to be held in person.

Initial mental health consultations can only be accessed by telehealth where the patient and provider have visibility of each other, using video conferencing technology. This applies to psychology, clinical psychology, mental health social work and mental health occupational therapy services. Initial telehealth consultations cannot be accessed by telephone.

Treatment cycle arrangements continue to apply for DVA clients accessing allied health services delivered by telehealth.

Permanent telehealth arrangements will be reviewed from 2023 to ensure arrangements remain appropriate and address any issues that may have arisen.

DVA clients are reminded that referrals for allied health services can only be provided by

the client's usual GP. This means a GP (or another GP in the same practice) who:

- has provided the majority of care to the DVA client over the previous twelve months; or
- will provide the majority of care to the DVA client over the next twelve months.

Telehealth or online GP services which have not provided regular clinical care or at least one in-person service to the DVA client are not able to issue valid referrals for DVA-funded allied health services.

### Need more information?

For more information about what the changes to telehealth services means for veterans and their families, contact DVA on

[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](#).

## Federal Government takes action on veteran and family support

30 September 2022

### The Hon Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

The Albanese Government has this week passed two vital pieces of Legislation supporting Defence personnel, veterans and families.

Legislation extending the Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying Pilot Program, and the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package will both go a long way to ensuring veterans and families get the support they need and deserve.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said extending the pilot program until June 2023 means that veterans undertaking study as part of their Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) funded return to work rehabilitation program will continue to receive incapacity compensation payments calculated based on 100 per cent of pre-injury earnings.

"This pilot program will ensure that hundreds of veterans can continue their education as they transition from service without having to worry about changes to the household budget. This will ultimately increase their capacity and, indeed, opportunities for employment, which is a key predictor of success as they return to civilian life. It will ensure they are best placed to succeed," Minister Keogh said.

"This Legislation is backdated so those veterans whose payments ended on 30 June 2022 due to

the inaction of the previous Government are not out of pocket.

"Making sure our veterans and their families are well supported and looked after as they transition from the Australian Defence Force is an important task and responsibility of government—a solemn commitment. And that's why it is so disappointing the former Liberal-National Government did not deliver on the passage of these pieces of Legislation in the last Parliament."

The Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package will enhance the existing program by expanding services available to families in times of crisis and allowing families greater choice in how they use those services.

Minister Keogh said the Acute Support Package will better equip working-age families to adjust to new or challenging life circumstances when they occur and also in the future.

"This Legislation will better improve support for families who are bereaved, and those who are in crisis—no matter the nature of that crisis. We want to ensure supports are wrapped around families when they need it—and quickly." Said Minister Keogh

The Federal Government is committed to the task of saving lives and ensuring a better future for our Defence and veteran communities.

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office):  
[+61 407 034 485](tel:+61407034485)

DVA Media: [media.team@dva.gov.au](mailto:media.team@dva.gov.au)

## Contract Awarded for Hobart Class Destroyers

BAE Systems will be charged with evolving and optimising sustainment of the Hobart-class destroyers as the new Capability Life Cycle Manager (CLCM) for the asset class. Following a competitive tender process, the six-year contract was officially signed by the Commonwealth and BAE Systems in early October.

Under the contract, BAE Systems will work closely with the guided missile destroyer Systems Program Office to steward the destroyers through life under Defence's innovative new sustainment model. A key part of this will be coordinating the delivery of the Destroyer Capability Enhancement (DCE) Program in 2025 when the destroyers will undergo significant upgrades to their combat management system.

Head Maritime Sustainment Rear Admiral Wendy Malcolm said it was a critical time for the destroyers with the DCE Program and the complex strategic environment. "Our priority is ensuring the availability of this key asset class, and optimising them so they are reliable and fit-for-purpose,"

BAE Systems understands the asset class and its sustainment requirements; as the new CLCM, they will ensure we have a skilled and prepared indus-

try partner who can effectively steward the destroyers throughout the DCE Program and beyond under the new arrangements."

Destroyers are the first major in-service asset to have a CLCM appointed as part of the realisation of the Future Maritime Sustainment Model under Plan Galileo. The plan is Defence's new national, innovative approach to sustainment in support of continuous naval shipbuilding and will provide continuous sustainment.

Long-term, the CLCM will be part of an Asset Class Enterprise – led by the Systems Program Office – for the destroyers that will work with Regional Maintenance Centre East, which is also part of the new approach and is being established to maintain multiple asset classes.

"Realising Plan Galileo means we will have a continuous sustainment environment that acknowledges sustainment as a capability in its own right so we can deliver the fleet where and when it is needed," Rear Admiral Malcolm said.

Visit [Plan Galileo](#) for more information on Horizon Three: Sustainment 2025

By Laura Redman



## Recollections of Escorting HMY *Britannia* during the 1986 Royal Visit to Victoria and South Australia

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia in March 1986 a few weeks before her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. They arrived in Canberra on Sunday 2 March where Her Majesty signed a proclamation making Australian law independent of British parliament and courts. The next day Her Majesty unveiled the naval memorial commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the RAN. Following a short visit to Sydney the Royal Party arrived in Melbourne Wednesday evening joining the Royal Yacht HMY *Britannia* late Thursday where they travelled by sea from Port Melbourne to Western Port. A new Queen's colour was presented for the Shore Establishments of the RAN in a ceremony at HMAS *Cerberus* on Friday 7 March. *Britannia* sailed for Adelaide that evening, arriving at Inner Harbour Adelaide Sunday afternoon. Her Majesty attended a range of events held to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the colonisation in South Australia before departing Australia by air late afternoon Thursday 13 March.

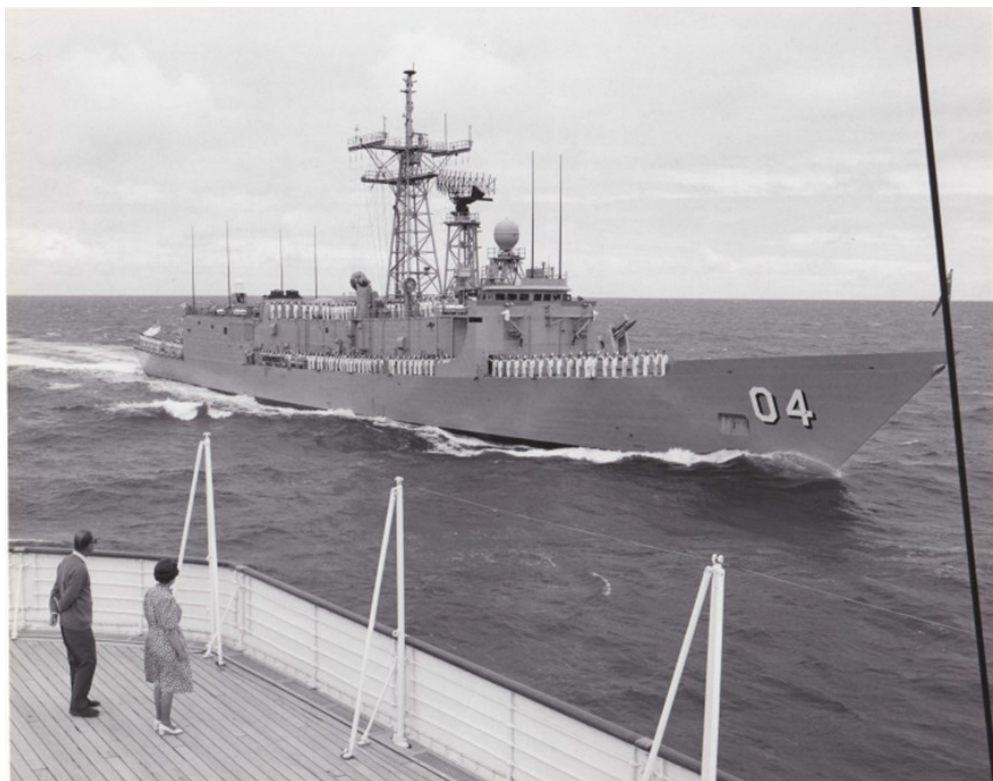
During the 1986 Royal Visit the duty of escort ship to HMY *Britannia* fell to HMAS *Darwin* of which I was in command. Following exercises in the Bass Strait area *Darwin* detached on Thursday 6 March and at 1000 berthed at Station Pier, Melbourne. At 1400, *Britannia* under the command of Rear Admiral John Garnier CBE, LVO berthed astern and at 1600 *Darwin* 'chopped' to Flag Officer Royal Yachts and began her duty as Royal Escort as a member of the Royal Squadron. A detailed brief was given to *Darwin*'s officers by *Britannia*'s Navigation Officer and subsequently the ship's company was briefed on their involvement in Royal Duty. Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh embarked in the Royal Yacht at 2145 and both ships sailed at 2215 for Western Port. A large crowd had gathered on the wharf which, prior to Her Majesty's arrival, had been entertained by a ceremonial Beat the Retreat conducted by *Britannia*'s Royal Marine Band. On sailing, those sailors on the upper deck were pleased to receive an ovation from the very enthusiastic crowd remaining.

*HMAS Darwin steams past HMY Britannia conducting her Royal Escort Steam Past for HRH The Queen and Prince Philip who are in the foreground*

*Darwin* anchored in formation with the Royal Yacht at 0900 the next morning, a manoeuvre made quite difficult with the large number of boats greeting Her Majesty obstructing the way. A 21-gun salute to Her Majesty was fired as the Royal Couple made their way to Stoney Point Jetty. Following the presentation of the new Queen's Colour at HMAS *Cerberus* the Royal Party embarked in *Britannia* and the Royal Squadron sailed for Adelaide late afternoon with a westerly gale blowing. Following a transit through Backstairs Passage, Sunday 9 dawned with calm seas and at 1100 *Darwin* conducted her Royal Escort Steam Past in full view of the Royal Party. Three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen were given in hearty fashion with the ship fully manned. Her Majesty's pleasure at the high standard of the 'man and cheer ship' was reflected in a congratulatory message from Flag Officer Royal Yachts. Given the mixed results when practising for the event, the excellent result was a relief.

The Royal Party disembarked in Adelaide Outer Harbour to follow their program and *Darwin* berthed ahead of *Britannia* in Adelaide Inner Harbour at 1830. An interesting period of Royal Duty followed as the Royal visitors engaged in celebrations associated with the South Australian 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Of interest to *Darwin* was the firing of a 21 gun salute on Monday 10 to mark the 22nd birthday of His Royal Highness The Prince Edward. Prince Philip had expressed an interest in visiting *Darwin* and on Tuesday morning, accompanied by Flag Officer Royal Yachts, RADM Gar-

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Recollections of Escorting HMY *Britannia* during the 1986 Royal Visit to Victoria and South Australia



*(Continued from page 9)*

nier and Captain of the Queen's Flight, Air Vice Marshal John Severne LVO OBE AFC, toured the ship. The Prince showed a keen interest in the FFG class and to the enjoyment of the ships company held many discussions with them.

A VIP sea day was held on Wednesday 12 while Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited Whyalla. *Darwin* and *Britannia* sailed at 1015 and when at sea *Darwin* performed several manoeuvres and displayed her weapons systems to the guests onboard the Royal Yacht. These were mainly local businessmen, and one was heard to remark during the demonstration that he was 'unaware that the RAN had modern ships like that'. *Darwin* took the opportunity to embark ship's company families. Some members of the local police force and a number of No 92 Wing RAAF personnel. The ship returned to Adelaide Inner Harbour, berthing at 1615.

Shortly after berthing, at Her Majesty's request. I introduced ten members of *Darwin's* ship's company to her onboard *Britannia*. Despite having had a busy day she took the time to have a short and friendly chat to all. That evening I had the honour of dining with Her Majesty onboard *Britannia* and afterwards in her company, viewing the Royal Marine Band conduct a Beat the Retreat on the wharf. I was interested to note from her questions over dinner that she had remembered some elements of the conversations with the ten personnel she had met earlier. Later that evening I attended a formal 'farewell' in Her Majesty's study where she presented me with a signed photograph.

The Royal Squadron disbanded at 1645 Thursday 13 March following the departure of Her Maj-

esty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh by air for the UK. Her Majesty sent a congratulatory signal to Darwin as follows:

*From FOR Y*

*To HMAS DARWIN*

*I am commanded by Her Majesty The Queen to convey the following message:*

*Thank you for your escort during my visits to Victoria and South Australia. I have been much impressed by the admirable way in which you have carried out your duties and by the smart appearance of your ship and her company. Prince Philip and I greatly enjoyed your splendid steam past on Sunday, and he has spoken highly of what he saw during his visit to you. I also understand Darwin acquitted herself very well during yesterday's sea day demonstration. Please convey the best wishes of Prince Philip and myself to all onboard and our hope that you enjoy a well-deserved leave period in Sydney.*

*Splice the mainbrace.*

*Darwin* remained in Adelaide for the weekend conducting a program of social and sporting event with the Royal Yacht. I paid a departing call on Flag Officer Royal Yachts at 0805 Monday 17 sailed in company with *Britannia* shortly afterwards. At mid-day as *Britannia* was due to turn west, *Darwin* detached east for Sydney at speed after passing close by and receiving three rousing cheers from *Britannia's* ship's company together with the strains of Waltzing Matilda from the RM Band gathered on the forecastle.

*Hector Donohue  
CDRE AM RAN Rtd*

*Top: CAPT Donohue being introduced to HM The Queen*

*Below: HMAS Darwin departing for Sydney*

*Photos: Donohue collection*





## INDO-PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR 22

### Legal officers chart course in the Philippines

28 October 2022

Legal experts from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) conducted a maritime security workshop with officials from the Government of the Philippines in Manila during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 22.

Commander Cameron Moore, RAN Reservist and Associate Professor at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security, was one of the presenters at the workshop, which focused on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"Our Defence strategy involves upholding the rules-based international order of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and specifically mentions the Law of the Sea Convention," Commander Moore said.

"To uphold that order we need to talk about the rules."

UNCLOS is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all maritime activities, including economic and commercial, and dispute settlement relating to ocean matters.

"The seas link maritime states such as Australia and the Philippines to the world, and security and prosperity depend on safe passage and stability at sea," Commander Moore said.

"Through workshops like these we gain the confidence to assert the laws of the sea by talking about them and how they apply in real-world situations."

Participants in the workshop included officials from the National Security Council, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of National Defence and the Philippine National Police.

Legal Officer Major Justine G. Santos, from the Philippines Legal Office of the Naval Judge Advocate, appreciated the interactive nature of the day.

"This is different because it's not just learning about UNCLOS, it's challenging how it can be ap-



*Officials from the Philippines Government attend Australian-run maritime security workshop as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 in Manila, Philippines*

*Photo: Defence*

plied in scenarios that are not black and white," Major Santos said.

"As legal officers, we need to challenge what has been instilled in our minds so we can give the right advice to a commander when different operational factors impact a situation."

Australian Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines Richard Sisson closed the first day with a reception celebrating 40 years of UNCLOS.

"Australia continues to support the region to uphold international law and norms, such as UNCLOS, which offer universally agreed and equitable solutions for how we manage the world's oceans," Mr Sisson said.

"Countering grey-zone activities and maintaining freedom of navigation represent new challenges to UNCLOS principles.

"Creativity and a commitment to international law will be essential ingredients to any peaceful solution."

*By CAPT Zoe Griffyn RAN*

## AWM Development Project Progress

I am writing to inform you that as the Development Project enters its next construction phase we will make changes to the accessibility of the plaques that are displayed in the Captain Reg. Saunders Courtyard area. The plaques listed in the attached document will be behind construction fencing from mid-October 2022 through to October 2023. During this time these plaques will be unavailable to view.

All plaques are National Collection items and, as such, have been photographed and are available to view on the Memorial's website. To view a plaque online, go to [www.awm.gov.au/plaques](http://www.awm.gov.au/plaques) and enter the name of the plaque.

Through the period of the Development Project, the Memorial will remain open and accessible to visitors including the heart of the memorial, the Commemorative Area.

If you are planning a visit, please note all visitors require a free ticket to enter the Memorial or attend the Last Post Ceremony. Session times and online booking is available at [www.awm.gov.au/visit](http://www.awm.gov.au/visit). Due to limited capacity during construction, I highly recommend that you book your ticket(s) in advance as during peak periods, such as school holidays, sessions are often at capacity.

Thank you for your understanding during this time and I look forward to welcoming you and your membership to the Memorial.

To find out more about the Development Project, please visit [www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory](http://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory).

Matt Anderson PSM  
Director AWM



## Head-to-head charity run for veterans

Navy has supported a 57km charity run from Sydney's North Head to South Head that raised vital funds for Australian veterans.

A small group of Navy people were among those who completed the head-to-head Run, which travelled through Navy establishments HMA Ships Penguin, Waterhen, Kuttabul and Watson.

Organised by military charity Bravery Trust, the Bravery Trek goes for 31 days as an official Veterans' Health Week event and can be completed on foot, on a bike or in the water.

The head-to-head run in Sydney was completed in just one day as a launch activity to kick-start efforts to raise money for veterans.

Aviation warfare officer Sub-Lieutenant Tiffany McCormack finished the run and said it was great to be alongside a group of like-minded individuals all working towards the same cause.

"I always felt as though I appreciated the necessity of supporting veterans but this experience really made me realise just how much this support can mean to someone who is struggling," Sub-Lieutenant McCormack said.

"Awareness is such a key factor and Bravery Trek allowed us to speak to so many people along our 57km adventure – people who potentially hadn't considered the effect service life can have mentally and physically."

Navy veteran Murray Bruce, a former submariner who joined at the age of 15 before returning to high school and later re-joining as a weapons electrical engineering officer, ran the course to launch the trek on October 10, accompanied by the Navy per-

sonnel and other runners.

Mr Bruce served in submarines and developed a passion for veteran advocacy that he has channelled into Bravery Trust and the Bravery Trek event.

"It's OK not to be OK when you leave the military. We often carry home a hidden kit bag full of health and mental health struggles we've incurred during our service," he said.

"Sadly, veterans often distance themselves from those around them and feel isolated and disconnected.

"Bravery Trek raises vital funds to close that gap, to increase awareness of the available support, to say 'it's OK to not be OK', and to put roofs over families and meals on tables when they are needed.

"In addition, through counselling they're helping vets and their families dig themselves out of unenviable holes that their circumstances have forced them into."

Go to [braverytrek.com.au](http://braverytrek.com.au) for more information.

By Leut Max Logan RAN

*Runners and support team of the annual Bravery Trek charity fun run, with Commanding Officer HMAS Waterhen Commander Michael Miller at HMAS Waterhen in Sydney.*

*Photo: Able Seaman Benjamin Ricketts*



## Flying in the fast lane at Bathurst

Tickford Racing driver Thomas Randle experienced a 'hot lap' of a different kind at the weekend at Bathurst 1000.

Switching out his Ford Mustang for an EC-135 helicopter, the V8 Supercar driver got a bird's-eye view of the Mount Panorama circuit with the Commanding Officer of 723 Squadron, Commander Sam Dale, at the controls.

When the opportunity arose to represent the Navy at the Bathurst 1000, it was an opportunity Commander Dale couldn't turn down.

With a background in motor racing in various forms, he has kept a keen and lifelong interest in motorsports.

"I think it is important to highlight the parallels between motorsport and military aviation. Managing risks, making high-speed decisions, and working in a team are all key elements across both endeavours," Commander Dale said.

"That's why it is great to take an aircraft to Bathurst – we've got dozens of young people just like Thomas Randle in our classrooms and aircraft, training for their own great race, and we've got room for plenty more.



*Thomas Randle with aircrew from 723 Squadron before his 'hot lap'.*

*Photo LS David Cox*

A small team of personnel from 723 Squadron set up a static display of the EC-135 aircraft from October 6-9, engaging with the public at the Bathurst 1000. Similar support will be provided to the MotoGP at Philip Island from October 14-16.

*By SBLT Jess Gould*

## Email to the Editor

Good morning Peter

FYI. This is the response I received from SBS.

I emailed them back and thanked them for replying to me but pointed out that the South Vietnamese in 1972, when we left South Vietnam, had over 1 million men under arms, a navy albeit small, an air force with high quality aircraft and over twice as many artillery and armoured assets than did North Vietnam. I reiterated we were never defeated on the battlefield the only defeat was suffered by politicians and senior union members who subsequently became politicians.

Regards

Allan

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rosie (SBS Australia)"

[<help@sbs.com.au>](mailto:help@sbs.com.au)

**Subject:** [SBS Australia] Re: Australia Come Fly With Me

**Date:** 5 October 2022 at 8:39:52 am AEDT

**To:** Allanjoyce [<allanjoyce@icloud.com>](mailto:allanjoyce@icloud.com)

**Reply-To:** SBS Australia [<help@sbs.com.au>](mailto:help@sbs.com.au)

**Rosie (SBS Australia)**

5 Oct 2022, 8:39 am AEDT

Dear Mr Joyce,

*I refer to your letter on 1st September in regards the SBS series "Come Fly with me". The SBS Ombudsman has referred your complaint to me for a response as it did not meet the criteria for a Code complaint, being out of time.*

*Firstly I would like to apologise for any distress caused and we thank you for bringing this to our attention.*

*In researching this film and consulting with historians, one could reasonably argue that in general terms Australia was defeated in Vietnam because, in tandem with the United States, it failed to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam. However, as you point out we fully acknowledge that there is also a valid counter argument to this view.*

*As such, SBS agrees the narration could be better framed, as it currently could seem to imply that the reason or fault lay with The Australian troops. This was never intended to be an interpretation.*

*As a result we will edit out the narration that states "defeated." We will make this change for any subsequent broadcast and for our SBS On Demand Platform. (This may take a week or so.)*

*I hope this is of some comfort and addresses your concerns.*

*Very best wishes,*

*Joseph Maxwell*

*Head of Documentaries.*

## Veterans' and Families' Hub Expansion - Information Sessions

4 November 2022

As part of the Federal Budget, the Australian Government is investing \$46.7 million for eight new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country, to provide important services to veterans and families in areas with significant Defence and veteran communities.

The new hubs will be located in:

- Geelong/Surf Coast, VIC
- Hawkesbury region, NSW
- Hunter region, NSW
- Ipswich, QLD
- Northern Adelaide, SA
- Queanbeyan, NSW
- Southwest Perth, WA
- Tweed/North Coast region, NSW

Grant funding of \$5 million is available to support the establishment of each new hub. Building on the existing hubs network, the new hubs will help connect veterans and families to a range of wellbeing services in their local area.

Starting 14 November 2022, DVA is running a series of online information sessions for ex-service organisations, community organisations, and other parties that may be interested in leading one of the eight new hubs.

You must register to attend an information session.

Email: [veteransandfamilieshubs@dva.gov.au](mailto:veteransandfamilieshubs@dva.gov.au) to register.

More information about Veterans' and Families' Hubs is available at: [www.dva.gov.au/vfhubs](http://www.dva.gov.au/vfhubs)

## Changes to the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Income Threshold

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) provides access to Australian Government concessions on medical and pharmaceutical costs. The CSHC is available to Australian residents over pension age who are not entitled to an income support payment such as Service Pension (who are entitled to a Pensioner Concession Card and so already entitled to similar concessions) and whose income is below the CSHC income threshold.

The CSHC Income Threshold will be increased with effect from 4 November 2022.

The CSHC income threshold is set to increase from

- \$57,761 for singles,
- \$92,416 for couples, and
- \$115,522 for separated couples (separated by illness),

to

- \$90,000 for singles,
- \$144,000 for couples, and
- \$180,000 for couples separated by illness

from 4 November 2022.

Increasing the CSHC income threshold will allow more older Australians access to the relevant pharmaceutical and medical benefits discounts and other associated concessions that the card provides.

Current CSHC holders are not impacted by the change, however increasing the Income Threshold may allow people who currently do not receive a CSHC access to it. To check if you meet the eligibility criteria including income test limits, [visit the webpage](#).

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](mailto: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](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017

(Option 2 Allied Health)