



# National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 9

Once Navy, Always Navy

October 2022

## Navy's largest exercise—KAKADU—comes to a close



*Ships participating in Exercise Kakadu 2022 sail in formation during a photo exercise off the coast of Darwin.*

*Photo: Leading Seaman Tara Morrison*

Exercise Kakadu 2022 has come to a close, with the theme of 'partnership, leadership and friendship' woven through a full program of activities in the seas and skies off Northern Australia and in Darwin from September 12-24.

Kakadu 2022 was one of the biggest iterations yet, having grown in scale and complexity over the past 30 years.

This year's exercise involved 15 warships – including a submarine – and 34 aircraft from 22 different nations, along with more than 3000 sailors and officers.

Speaking at the official closing reception hosted by Administrator of the Northern Territory Vicki O'Hall-

oran, Commander of the Australian Fleet Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley said the contribution of Australia's regional friends and partners to Exercise Kakadu was a true reflection of longstanding friendships and cooperation.

"Exercise Kakadu is the Royal Australian Navy's most significant international engagement activity and is vital for building relationships between participating countries," Rear Admiral Earley said.

"I thank our international partners for their contribution to this maritime activity, which helps to reinforce the importance of peace, stability and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific."

*(Continued on page 3)*



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

**THE HON MATT KEOGH MP**

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

***MEDIA RELEASE***

17 OCTOBER 2022

**GOVERNMENT SEEKS YOUR FEEDBACK ON VETERANS' LEGISLATIVE REFORM**

Consultation on reforming veterans' legislation has commenced today with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) seeking submissions from the community.

The Australian Government recently agreed to Recommendation 1 of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Interim Report, which called for the development and passage of legislation to simplify and harmonise the framework for veterans' compensation, rehabilitation and other entitlements.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs the Hon. Matt Keogh said the Government is determined to deliver on its commitment to implement this recommendation in accordance with the timeline set out by the Royal Commission.

"The existing legislative framework is too complex, making it challenging for the department to process claims and difficult for veterans to access the services and support they need," Mr Keogh said.

A significant investigation of the legislative framework has already been completed by the Productivity Commission in its 2019 inquiry report *A Better Way to Support Veterans*. The Royal Commission identified recommendations in this report for the Government to consider as part of this reform process and we are now seeking feedback on both the recommendations made by the Productivity Commission and the Royal Commission in relation to legislative reform.

"This is an important opportunity for the community to share their views on how we can improve the legislation in line with the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's report.

"I encourage current serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force, family members, ex-service organisations, medical providers and others who interact with the veteran and family system to share their views."

Those wishing to provide feedback can do so, anonymously if they wish, by 14 November 2022 at [www.dva.gov.au/pcconsultation2022](http://www.dva.gov.au/pcconsultation2022) or by emailing [PCConsultation2022@dva.gov.au](mailto:PCConsultation2022@dva.gov.au).

*Authorised by The Hon Matt Keogh MP.*

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

**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

## Navy's largest exercise—KAKADU—comes to a close

(Continued from page 1)

This year, participating forces steamed more than 24,500 nautical miles, conducted 13 anti-submarine warfare exercises, 15 air warfare serials and 17 gun-firing exercises, and expended more than 13,000 rounds of ammunition in high-end training scenarios.

The air component flew 163 fixed-wing aircraft sorties, providing the Kakadu fleet and aviation task force with some of the best maritime air warfare training opportunities experienced in recent years.

The capabilities exercised ranged from humanitarian and disaster relief, seamanship and maritime law enforcement operations to high-end maritime warfighting, including anti-air and anti-submarine warfare in a combined environment.

Ashore in the Exercise Control organisation, for the first time in the exercise's history, representatives from international partners filled almost all key positions, supported and mentored by their Australian counterparts.



"The post-COVID environment allowed us once again to build relationships through a range of cross-decking opportunities, where sailors and officers were immersed in the way partner navies do business, creating enriching learning and development opportunities," Rear Admiral Earley said.

He thanked Mrs O'Halloran and the Darwin community for hosting the busy period of military training.

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Northern Territory Government and members of the Northern Territory community for their continued support of the Australian Defence Force and interest in Exercise Kakadu," Rear Admiral Earley said.

"There is no doubt this exercise wouldn't be possible without your ongoing support."

The next Exercise Kakadu is scheduled for 2024.

To see all of the Exercise Kakadu 2022 images, visit the [Defence Image Gallery](#).



*Top* HMAS Perth fires her 5" gun during anti aircraft firing serials in the Northern Australian Exercise Area off the coast of Darwin for Exercise KAKADU 2022.

*Middle* HMAS Perth's flight deck marshaller Boatswains Mate, Leading Seaman Matthew Penhorwood, guides a French Navy Dauphin SA-365N helicopter as it departs the ship on completion of a cross-decking activity.

*Photos:* Leading Seaman Jarryd Capper

*Bottom* A German Air Force (Luftwaffe) Eurofighter takes off from RAAF Base Darwin for a sortie

*Photo* Sargent Pete Gammie

By  
Commander E. Curtis RAN

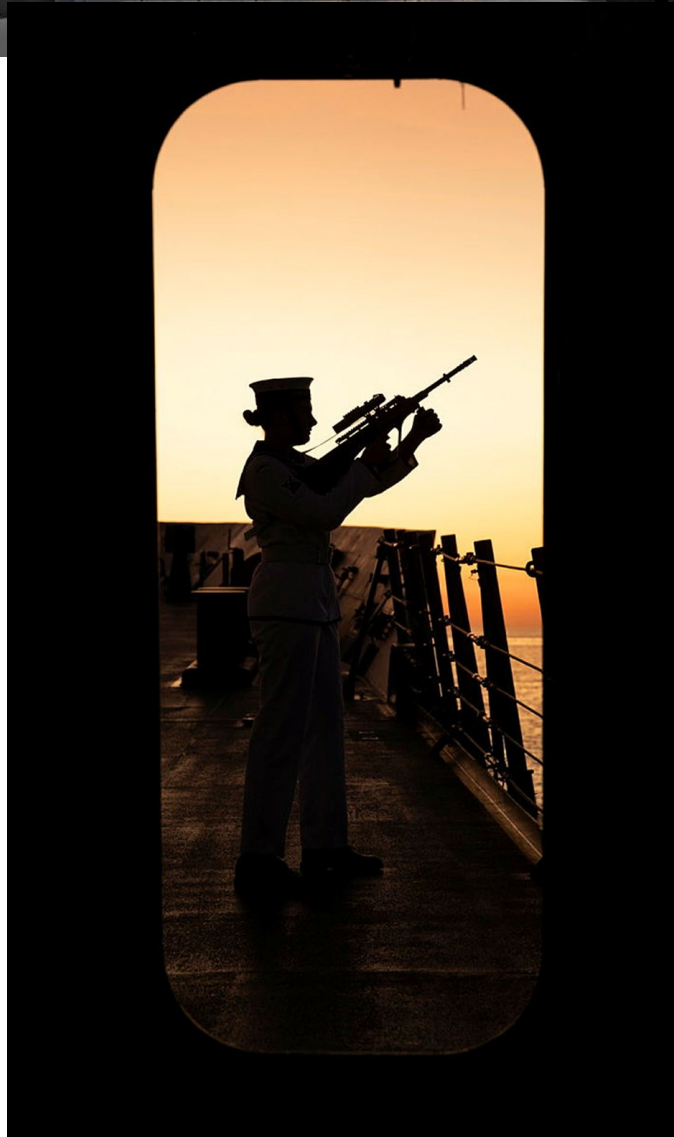
Lieutenant Commander A Herring RAN





*During Exercise KAKADU HMAS Hobart ship's company participates in a sunset memorial service to honour the Queen.*

*Photos LS Tara Morrison*



*Seaman Boatswain's Mate Shae Baldwin forms part of a ceremonial guard in a HMAS Hobart memorial service to honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

**A personal invitation to share in this most memorable occasion!**

In this letter I seek to provide an overview of my activities, impressions, and experiences during my stay in London on the occasion of the State Funeral for Her Majesty the Queen, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

As I am sure you will agree there are times in our lives where we find ourselves in surreal circumstances as to what is happening around you, wherein it can be nigh on impossible to fully appreciate the significance of it all. Similarly, that you are actually participating or witnessing events of such magnitude and historical significance adds to your bewilderment and sense of awe.

For the honour and privilege of representing the NAA at the Queen's Funeral Service, I am much indebted to every member of our Association.

Yours most sincerely,

*David Manolas*





*Top left: On my way to the Abbey, I recognised Daniel Alan Keighran, VC there from Australia, and he was kind enough to take this photograph*

*Above: On entering the Nave - Area within the Abbey I was able to find a seat that was to afford me a close-at-hand view of all the Heads of State; members of the Royal Family; the King and The Queen Consort; and the Funeral Procession. I was sitting in the second row from the centre aisle, I don't think I could have been much better placed.*

*Photo: BBC London*

*Bottom right: Standing outside the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey on completion of the Service*





## THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Patron: His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC FTSE

17 October 2022

To The Members of the NAA,

As I am sure you will be aware by now, I was able to represent the NAA at the Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in London on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This is an account of my six-day visit to London. A detailed account of the funeral service is being compiled for presentation at a later time.

It all began on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022. While taking a cursory look at my emails I was surprised to see a message from the Buckingham Palace Private Secretary's Office wherein I was *"asked to nominate one representative of the NAA to attend The Queen's Funeral, which was to take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00 am"*. The invitation was being extended to the NAA as Her Majesty had been our Patron-in-Chief since 1952.

The email went on to stipulate that if the invitation was to be accepted it was *'on the basis that it was confirmed the representative would be attending'* i.e., travel and accommodation had to have been arranged. Further, I was asked to provide details of the representative and the address to which the formal Invitation was to be posted (i.e., it would need to be a UK address to be delivered in time), and were to be provided *'as soon as possible and no later than 1200 noon on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September'*.

After initially assessing the cost and time constraints for booking flights and accommodation it did seem it would be beyond the reach of our NAA resources. But when my wife asked *'why aren't you going'*, that changed everything! I decided I would accept the invitation and meet the costs and, fortunately, we were able to make all the necessary arrangements that afternoon.

Notwithstanding a delayed flight out of Canberra and challenges at the International Terminal at Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne enroute to Perth for the non-stop flight to Heathrow, I arrived safely in London on the 16<sup>th</sup> September! I took the Airport train to Paddington Station and made my way to the hotel which, despite being an old dwelling with very few amenities, was only a 3-minute walk from the Station.

Over the next few days, I made several forays into London to work out the best route to ensure I would be at the right place and at the appointed time to attend the Service. Though I have been to London on a number of occasions and am so very fond of all that it has to offer, it was busier and more crowded than usual. This time I would find a maze of road closures and pedestrian barriers and vast numbers of Police and Service personnel amidst the hustle and bustle of this historic time. On this visit I found myself repeatedly asking Railway Station Staff and *'Bobbies'* to confirm what day it was; which train to catch; and, the whereabouts of landmarks and other details. My questions were more to reassure myself of where I was and what I was to do for though I was delighted my *'body clock'* was still working I was not sure I had adjusted it correctly for UK day and time! A great deal had happened in such a short time and I was very conscious of the privilege and responsibility entrusted to myself, I certainly couldn't afford to be adrift on the day.



Though I still had not received the Invitation I had spoken to 'The Palace Staff' on my second day in London and was assured it was '*on its way*', so I continued with my excursions. I had decided I would catch the Tube to Westminster Station on the day of the funeral. Satisfied with my plan, I ventured off to see some of the sights and places I regularly visit whenever I am in London.

It would not surprise anyone that there would be a naval theme to my tour schedule. First, I made my way from Westminster Station past The Cenotaph, No 10 Downing Street, and the memorial to THE WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II and then on to Trafalgar Square. From there I made my way through Admiralty Arch, paying my respects at the statue of Captain Cook. Then it was on to St Paul's Cathedral to pay my respects to Admiral Lord Nelson. There is a magnificent statue of him in the church and his tomb is in the crypt. The supremacy of British sea-power after his emphatic victory at Trafalgar in 1805, afforded the colony of New South Wales an unchallenged degree of security allowing for further development and the strengthening of its future prospects. Time then for a cruise down the Thames River to the Old Naval College at Greenwich where Captain Cook worked for some years putting together his account of his voyages, discoveries, and services to the Crown. There is a plaque in the floor of the Greenwich Naval College where Nelson's body had been held in-state while preparations for his funeral and entombment were being made in St Pauls. I then went to the Greenwich Maritime Museum to see the Nelson and Captain Cook displays. Greenwich is also the location of the Tea Clipper the *Cutty Sark*, which had frequented our part of the world. On the return cruise I visited the Museum Ship HMS *Belfast*, moored in the Thames opposite the Tower of London. On returning to the City of London I went on to see the Commemorative Plaque in Westminster Abbey honouring Admiral Arthur Phillip RN wherein the words inscribed are: '*First Governor of New South Wales & Founder of Modern Australia*'. There is a great deal of our Australian national and naval history in this City.

Leading up to the funeral I joined the vast crowds making their way along The Mall towards Buckingham Palace and then on to Green Park to see the Floral Tributes to HM The Queen. The displays of flowers were arranged so that the members of the public could meander amongst the poignant expressions of love and appreciation for this most wonderful and endearing Monarch. Also found along The Mall are the beautiful statues of The Queen Mother and King George VI. In the British media some commentators were pondering what might be done to acknowledge and honour Queen Elizabeth II.

On my return to the hotel on the Saturday evening (18<sup>th</sup> Sep) I was relieved to receive the Invitation. It had arrived earlier that day by courier and its arrival was as much a relief for the hotel staff as I had been pestering them each day asking if any mail had arrived. On opening the package, I found that my plan for Monday would not work as Westminster Station would be closed. The 'Joining Instruction' provided details of recommended routes to arrive at the Accreditation Point in Victoria Tower Gardens which was within walking distance of Westminster Abbey. I saw then that a new plan requiring another reconnaissance run was necessary and, contrary to the advice provided before I left Australia, medals were to be worn. For whatever reason, I had decided to pack them anyway! That I had actually got to London despite nearly missing the connecting flights; that my luggage arrived on the same flight (I had carried my suit with me during the flight as a precaution wherein the worst-case scenario would require me to buy another pair of shoes); now with the Invitation document firmly in hand; and, having packed my medals, convinced me someone was watching over me!

On the day of the funeral my plan to travel via Lambeth North Tube Station and then make my way on foot to the Accreditation Area via Lambeth Bridge worked well. I reached the



designated location early which resulted in my gaining access to the Abbey earlier than many others. The colour of my invitation indicated the area in which I could sit. On entering the Nave - Area within the Abbey I was able to find a seat that was to afford me a close-at-hand view of all the Heads of State; members of the Royal Family; the King and The Queen Consort; and the Funeral Procession. I was sitting in the second row from the centre aisle, I don't think I could have been much better placed. Though I had no visibility of what was occurring in the Quire and High Altar area of the Abbey I could hear everything that was taking place. It was a very moving service and there is much to remember and to cherish.

After the funeral I made my way back to Lambeth Bridge aiming to then walk on to the Lambeth North Tube Station for my return journey to Paddington. When I reached the bridge, I found it was temporarily closed to pedestrian traffic as it was a designated exit route for dispersed groupings of fast-moving SUVs carrying VIPs clear of the area, following the funeral. While I was waiting there amongst the ever-increasing crowd a Bobbie made his way towards me seeing I was holding the 'Funeral Service Booklets'. On confirming I had been an invitee to the Service I was allowed to make my way across the bridge ahead of the mostly patient souls waiting behind the barriers. I didn't look back as there had been some disgruntled comments amongst the penned-up pedestrians over the closure.

In the few days I still had before returning home I returned to the city and retraced some of my steps. I paid my respects at the Australian War Memorial in Hyde Park Corner and revisited Westminster Abbey. To mark the completion of my visit to London and to say farewell to this wonderful city I made my way again to Greenwich, this time to visit the Chapel at the College. Afterwards I had a quiet lunch in the Trafalgar Tavern which is located by the river just outside the College and is packed to the gunwales (pn: gunnels) with Nelson memorabilia.

Looking back over the whole experience there are many memories: pomp and circumstance as only the British can do; solemnity; kindness; a welcoming air amidst all that was taking place; and, the quiet and unassuming manner in which the Police and Military personnel went about their duties.

This will undoubtedly be one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences of a lifetime and truly a privilege and an honour. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to represent our Association on this most poignant and historic occasion.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Manolas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Manolas  
National President  
Naval Association of Australia

## Honoured to take part



*Royal Australian Navy personnel taking part in Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II state funeral at Wellington Barracks, London. (L-R) Petty Officer William Garlick, Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth OAM, CSM & Bar, Lieutenant Commander Kara Wansbury and Leading Seaman Cameron Green..*

*Photo Cpl John Solomon*

Australian Defence Force personnel represented the nation in the United Kingdom following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022. On behalf of the three services and Defence organisations which the Queen was directly associated with, the 40 personnel participated in official commemoration and memorial ceremonies as part of the official national contingent alongside the Governor General and Prime Minister of Australia.

All the military personnel marching in the procession are undertaking a rigorous training program to ensure that on the day all will proceed in a timely and respectful manner.

On a cold and overcast English morning, a full dress rehearsal was conducted in the early hours to prepare the formation for marching through London, and to provide valuable practice for those involved in the ceremonial activities.

Slow-marching through the streets of London in a dress rehearsal for next week's royal funeral procession is an experience one Australian sailor won't forget.

Parade and ceremonial staff from the Royal Navy, British regiments and the Royal Air Force have put on an impressive display of instruction and exper-

tise in the planning of the Queen's funeral.

The 39 ADF personnel trained every day from the moment they arrived, including a full dress rehearsal in the early hours of Thursday morning.

The Australians joined a Commonwealth platoon of more than 100 personnel from Canada and New Zealand. The Commonwealth contingent was led by a mounted detachment of Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The contingent slow marched along the route of almost five kilometres with officers' drawn swords reversed.

The Australian contingent represented each of the services, coming from Australia's Federation Guard and the special relationship organisations, where the Queen had held Honorary military appointments.

It was reported by Lieutenant Anthony Martin on 16 September that Leading Seaman Avionics Technician Cameron Green, from Hobart said, "As a member of Australia's Federation Guard, I am very impressed with the ceremonial skills and drill on display,"

"Standing here in the darkness this morning really brought home the significance of this occasion



## An Emotional Farewell to the Queen

and I am so humbled and proud to be here and contribute. I am honoured to be here to pay my respects to Her Majesty the Queen,”

In an emotional farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 39 members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), along with troops from Canada and New Zealand, led the Queen's funeral procession through the streets of London.

Senior representatives of ADF organisations, with which the Queen had a special relationship, as well as the Head of Australian Defence Staff in London, Brigadier Grant Mason, also attended the service.

“Being in the Abbey for the service was a deeply moving experience for all of us and one that I doubt we will ever forget,” Brigadier Mason said.

The Brigadier, along with the senior officers, took their place in the march, ahead of the State Gun Carriage carrying the Queen's coffin, as an estimated audience of 4 billion people around the world watched.

As the 3000 military personnel taking part were gathering at Wellington Barracks, Captain Joshua Downs felt the weight of history.

“There was palpable electricity among all of us. We knew this would be a special moment in time,” Captain Downs said.

The Commander of the Australian contingent for the march, Commodore Ray Leggatt, paid tribute to those taking part.

*Edited version of reports by Lieutenant Commander John Thompson and Lieutenant Anthony Martin*

*Photos Sgt Jarod McAneney*





## National Memorial Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



*Below:*

*Deputy Chief of Navy - representing Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Chris Smith CSM and Special Operations Commander - Australia, representing Chief of Army, Major General Paul Kenny DSC, DSM attend the National Memorial following the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. The two NAA representatives present also placed wattle sprigs in to the wreath*





## Great Hall Parliament House Canberra 22 September 2022



Above:

*Left to Right: Deputy Chief of Navy - representing Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Chris Smith CSM, Special Operations Commander - Australia, representing Chief of Army, Major General Paul Kenny DSC, DSM and Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman AM, CSC attend the National Memorial following the passing of Her Majesty The Queen*



## DVA News

### myGov has changed

28 September 2022

myGov has been upgraded with a fresh look, modern functions and personalised information to help you find government services when you need them. Your myGov account includes a new homepage to make it easier to see your correspondence all in one place.

You will still find myGov at [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au) and continue to sign in to your myGov account in the same way. Your information is still the same, and remains safe and secure. All of your linked myGov services are the same, including your link to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

There is no change to how you access or use MyService.

If you have questions about myGov, please contact the myGov help desk on 132 307 and select Option 1.

Take a look at [myGov](https://my.gov.au) now.

### Access to Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package

10 October 2022

Legislation has recently passed in Parliament to enable the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package. This package expands the existing Family Support Package to provide more practical services and flexibility for families.

Requirements for veterans to have warlike service or be participating in rehabilitation will be removed. Eligibility will be expanded to working age families of veterans eligible for certain payments under all three Acts, who are at risk of or are in crisis. Working age widowed partners of veterans whose death was related to service, including suicide, under all three Acts will also now be eligible. This eligibility expansion allows veteran families to access important support when they need it most.

Support for widowed partners will be improved by allowing them to access support for two years from the date of acceptance into the program, rather than the date of death of the veteran.

Financial limits for each service category of child-care, counselling and household services will be replaced with an overall yearly cap, providing families with greater flexibility. Additionally, a range of new practical supports will be available to help families build independence and resilience including but not limited to financial literacy, mental health first aid, academic and wellbeing support for children, resilience development and counselling.

Access to the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package commences 14 October 2022.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, [visit the webpage](#).

### More supports available for veterans in residential aged care

4 October 2022

From 1 October 2022, DVA expanded access to allied health care services and the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) to all eligible veterans, widows and widowers living in residential aged care facilities, regardless of the level of care they are receiving. Previously, only those DVA clients with low level care have been able to access DVA-funded allied health care services and aids and appliances.

These DVA clients will now have access to allied health and RAP services in their residential aged care home, so long as they don't duplicate those the aged care facility is funded to provide.

This change has been made from 1 October 2022.

Services provided as part of residential aged care range from assistance with tasks of daily living and personal care, to complex nursing care. Residential aged care is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing and is for older people who can no longer live at home, or who no longer wish to live at home.

To find out more about residential aged care and to arrange a free assessment with an Aged Care Assessment Team, call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422. For more information on the Rehabilitation Appliances Program, visit [www.dva.gov.au/providers/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap](https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap)

### Certificate of Appreciation

12 October 2022

If you're a veteran or a veteran's family member, you may be able to apply for a Certificate of Appreciation. These are issued as a national gesture of thanks for military service.

#### Why issue certificates?

The certificates are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served:

- overseas in Australia's Defence Force during the Second World War and in overseas wars, conflicts and peace operations since
  - on the home front in the Second World War
- They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the:

[Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986](#)

[Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004](#)  
[Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988](#)

Certificates are issued as part of the Australian Government's Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants program.

#### Who can apply

You can apply for a certificate if you are a:

- veteran who served in the wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations for which certificates are available
- family member on behalf of a deceased eligible person



## New Pension Rates

20 September 2022

For other information about payments under the [Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 \(MRCA\)](#), refer to [Compensation Payment Rates](#).

The rates quoted are fortnightly amounts unless otherwise indicated. These rates are current from 20 September 2022 to 31 December 2022. Where relevant, the rates quoted include the energy supplement.

If your pension is still assessed under the pre-20 September 2009 rules, please refer to the rates labelled as "Transition" rates and limits.

<b>NEW PENSION RATES FROM 20 SEPTEMBER 2022</b>			
<b>SERVICE PENSION</b>	Old Rate (fortnightly)	New Rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single Person	\$987.60	\$1026.50	\$37.90
Couples (each)	\$744.40	\$773.80	\$29.40
Single Person - transitional	\$824.00	\$856.40	\$32.40
Couples (each) – transitional	\$664.70	\$690.90	\$26.20
<b>WAR WIDOW(ER)S</b>			
War Widow(er)'s pension	\$1004.70	\$1044.30	\$39.60
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$297.60	Not listed	Not available
<b>DISABILITY PENSION</b>			
TPI (Special rate)	\$1518.80	\$1578.70	\$59.90
Intermediate rate	\$1031.40	\$1072.10	\$40.70
EDA	\$839.50	\$872.70	\$33.20
100 percent	\$540.10	\$561.40	\$21.30
10 percent	\$60.94	\$63.07	\$2.13
<b>VETERAN PAYMENT</b>			
Single person	\$1069.50	\$1112.30	\$42.80
Couples (each)	\$833.50	\$867.20	\$33.70
<b>MRCA</b>			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1004.70	\$1044.30	\$39.60
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1518.80	\$1578.70	\$59.90

### Notes

1. Old figures taken from DVA Vetaffairs Newsletter, New Figures taken from DVA website.
2. These rates include Energy Supplement. Refer to Energy Supplement

## Preparing for a Medieval Tradition

Fleet Air Arm, HMAS *Albatross* and HMAS *Creswell* personnel are preparing to conduct a Freedom of Entry march through the City of Shoalhaven on October 21, 2022.

The march dates back to medieval times when trusted military units would be granted permission to enter walled towns to replenish victuals and arms.

A pre-event for the Freedom of Entry, the signing of the scroll, took place recently and in attendance was Commander Fleet Air Arm Commodore David Frost, Commanding Officer *Albatross* Captain Robyn Phillips, Commanding Officer *Creswell* Captain Dugald Clelland and Shoalhaven Mayor Amanda Findley.

The signing and later exchange of the scroll will allow Navy's passage of entry into the town of Nowra.

Numerous major naval activities have been postponed or cancelled since the emergence of COVID-19.

This year, activities have been gradually reintroduced to local communities.

The Freedom of Entry ceremony and march hosted by the City of Shoalhaven will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Fleet Air Arm.

The Fleet Air Arm public open day will be held at *Albatross* the following day, October 22.

"It is an honour for *Creswell* and the Royal Australian Naval College to have the opportunity to participate in the Freedom of Entry Parade in support of our colleagues in the Fleet Air Arm and *Albatross*," Captain Clelland said.



Commander Fleet Air Arm Commodore David Frost, left, Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Amanda Findley and Commanding Officer HMAS *Albatross* Captain Robyn Phillips come together for the signing of the scroll.

Photo: Petty Officer Justin Brown

The Freedom of Entry march provides a chance for locals to show their appreciation and gratitude to the Navy for its service, as well as being part of the celebrations.

"The day after the march, we invite the community to visit the home of Australia's naval aviators, meet our people and see our capability up close," Commodore Frost said.

The open day will include aviation and static displays, a performance by the Navy band and stalls from NSW Police Force, Shoalhaven City Council and community groups.

Visit [www.navy.gov.au/heritage/museums/fleet-air-arm-museum](http://www.navy.gov.au/heritage/museums/fleet-air-arm-museum) for further details.

By Midshipman Jordon Maloney RAN



HMAS *Perth* took on a pirate ship persona as part of a charity event before embarking on an Indo-Pacific deployment.

On a calm morning in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Commanding Officer *Perth* Commander Tony Nagle was ceremoniously marched through a sea of sailors to walk the plank.

Commander Tony Nagle walks the plank for childhood brain cancer research in a charity event held in the Pacific Ocean.

Photo: Defence

## Electrified Bushmaster on the Army's think tank wishlist

Striving to achieve stealth in the air with a modern fighter aircraft – or under the water with a submarine – is a multibillion-dollar exercise, but to do the same on the ground could be as simple as a retrofit, thanks to electric-vehicle technology.

After 30 years of production and on the cusp of retirement, the loud diesel rumble of the Australian Army's venerable Bushmaster armoured vehicle could be banished by the installation of a battery pack and electric motors, injecting further life – and considerably more pace – into the old battlefield workhorse.

Known to the acronym-loving army as the ePMV (electric protected mobility vehicle), the electric Bushmaster is the latest project from an internal tech think tank that dips into such wide-ranging areas as robotics, autonomous systems and quantum sensing.

For more than three decades, the Bushmaster has been flogged across deserts, jungles and wastelands, carrying soldiers into battle and lugging the wounded out while protecting them from mines, shrapnel and small-arms fire.

More than 1000 have been delivered and most recently it has been providing similar sterling service to Ukraine's army, with 20 of the big Bendigo-built machines flown to the northern hemisphere to aid in the battle against Russian invaders.

In designing a steel-hulled vehicle that weighs more than 12 tonnes unladen and is the size of a bull elephant, stealth was never in the army's original Bushmaster brief. And yet, strangely enough, after all this time, removing the rumble and soot of the 7.2-litre Caterpillar turbodiesel engine has given the big soldier-lugger a new-found ability to creep into places where it previously could not.

Replacing the Bushmaster's diesel engine with two powerful electric motors and big lithium-ion batteries built by 3ME Technology in Newcastle saves about two tonnes, has lowered the ePMV's centre

of gravity rearwards and downwards for more stability, freed up a lot of space inside the cabin, and taken a big weight burden off the front axle.

Though driving range is reduced from 1000km in diesel form to about 200km in electric, a parallel project is under way in the think tank to attach mini-generators to the outside of the vehicle so that it can self-charge during downtime and extend the range to at least match that of the combustion version.

There is also enough battery power aboard to run an average Australian home for about six days.

The side benefit is that by lifting the flip-up side panels, the vehicle becomes a remote electric command post, capable of powering up field equipment and communications.

Colonel Robin Smith, in charge of the army's robotic and autonomous implementation and co-ordination office (RICO), described the zero-emission Bushmaster as "wickedly fast" for a huge, armour-plated people-mover. While the diesel version lumbers to 100km/h in 42 seconds, the high-torque electric version takes about 12 seconds.

"Changing to battery power delivers a number of immediate benefits: it moves much more quietly and quickly, there's a very low thermal signature so it's a harder vehicle to detect, and there's less fatigue on the driver and crew," he said.

"The army is about to take a fresh look at what alternatives there are to the Bushmaster.

"But perhaps the alternative isn't all that different but uses a different drivetrain, perhaps electric, perhaps hybrid."

Field trials of the electric Bushmaster will be held in the next few months.

STEPHEN CORBY *the Australian* 16 SEP 22



**The Bushmaster (pictured) is an 11-tonne armoured military vehicle and is proving very popular with Ukrainian defenders since Australian sent 20 to the besieged country in April**



## Director of War Graves is appointed

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

**The Hon Matt Keogh MP**  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

Mr Timothy Bayliss AM has today been appointed as the Director of War Graves for the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG).

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh said Mr Bayliss had acted in the position since the beginning of the year and in that time had demonstrated an exceptional ability to successfully lead OAWG, a critical function within Veterans' Affairs.

"The Office of Australian War Graves maintains, in perpetuity, the graves of over 78,000 Australian war dead around the world, as well as honouring some 36,000 on Memorials to the missing," Mr Keogh said.

"The role of Director of War Graves plays an important part in ensuring those who have lost their lives in the defence of our nation, are commemorated, honoured and never forgotten.

### 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:1800338372)

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)

**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://www.openarms.gov.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://www.defencehealthportal.gov.au).

**Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on [1800 624 608](tel:1800624608)

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