



# BROADSIDE

<https://navyvic.net/>

APRIL 2026 -- Volume 16 Edition 4

## Editorial



### Opportunities for Veterans to harness the healing power of Music and Art

This month's Broadside reveals two amazing veteran-led programs that harness creativity and social connection through the mediums of both music and art to provide veterans with new purpose, new mateship and a sense of achievement.

#### *"Guitars for Veterans Australia" (G4VA)*

G4VA is a well-established and powerful music-based initiative that is helping Australian veterans experiencing the challenging effects of PTSD to express themselves and discover new purpose through the healing powers of music.



*"Where words fail, music speaks."*

Many veterans live with the effects and daily trauma of PTSD together with the often-difficult re-adjustment and transition to civilian life after service. To assist, G4VA provides veterans with a guitar and a formal lesson plan as

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or

[Click here to go to the Registration page](#)

### Events Calendar

(see [Calendar](#) for full details)

#### NOTE:



For information on all Shrine ceremonies:

Phone: 03 9661 8100 or,

Email: [ceremonies@shrine.org.au](mailto:ceremonies@shrine.org.au)

**01 May** – 12:30 – HMAS

Castlemaine service – Shrine – Sanctuary

**03 May** – 11:30 – Battle of the Coral

Sea Commemoration – Shrine – WW2 Forecourt

**06 May** – 1400 & 1900 –

Soundwaves Concert – HMAS Cerberus Band – Cinema complex

**20 May** – TBA – Defence Force

School of Music "At Home Concert" – Simpson Barracks

**25 May** – 1900 – Naval Historical

Society meeting – Clayton RSL – Sovereign bistro

an opportunity to learn a new skill, find a creative outlet or perhaps a new tribe or direction.

G4VA is a not-for-profit ACNC-approved charity with a grassroots team of volunteers, also veterans, that source guitars from the community and donors and provide them to veterans, together with a structured and formal lesson plan to learn how to play the instrument.

By enabling veterans to create music at their own pace and with expert tuition, the program aims to help veterans express their thoughts and experiences through music. Some vets have taken to busking, others are exploring songwriting aspirations or just sitting on the back porch chilling and playing guitar with a cup of coffee alone or with friends and family.

The program operates throughout Australia and so far, has helped over 650 veterans; that's 650 guitars and 6500 lessons placed into the hands of veterans at no cost to them. The program provides self-music therapy, enabling veterans to play basic songs to themselves, family or friends. G4VA is open to all ADF veterans regardless of service or branch. Some of the program graduates are now gathering at RSL's and other locations jamming with the G4V "coffee and chords" program.

Dave Cox, founder and Executive Director for the organisation, said "the ability to enable the music potential within a person, particularly a veteran may just open new horizons, ideas and direction for those that served our country. We all know how a few words, a piece of wood and six strings can change lives."

G4VA was established 8 years ago after observing a successful program operating in the United States which has now supported over 18,000 veterans. While managing the veteran applications, acquisition of guitars and organising lessons to willing participants is the current goal, G4VA hopes to further expand in the long term with forums, jam sessions and song-writing coaching, all of which will provide new opportunities for veterans to express themselves and discover a new outlook through the power of music.

For veteran and general enquiries, contact: [dave@g4va.org.au](mailto:dave@g4va.org.au)  
To support G4VA with donations and sponsorship, please visit: <https://g4va.org.au>

**31 May** – 11:00 – *Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service Shrine – WWII Forecourt*

**06 Jun** – 11:00 – *Normandy Veterans Association – D Day – Shrine – WWII Forecourt*

**14 Jun** – 11:00 – *N Class Destroyer Service – Shrine – Sanctuary*

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## **Latest Videos and News Headlines**

*Keep up to date on all the news and videos by visiting our website:*

<https://navyvic.net>

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## **VIDEOS.....**

- 📺 *Anzac Day Hero video*
- 📺 *HMAS Toowoomba as they commemorate Anzac Day at sea*
- 📺 *CDF ANZAC Day Address 2026*
- 📺 *Bugle Spotlight Able Seaman Bryce*
- 📺 *HMAS Toowoomba – High Seas Firing*
- 📺 *Exercise Kakadu 2026*
- 📺 *HMAS Stuart live-fire Naval Gunfire Support Exercise*

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## **NEWS shorts.....**

*Two Royal Australian Navy (RAN) members have been forging connections at sea on board the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force frigate JS Kumano.*

*KD Lekir and HMAS Warramunga arrived at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia recently to complete the bilateral Malaysia-Australia Training Exercise (MASTEX).*

*As the sun rose on another Anzac Day at Anzac Cove, Türkiye, the members of Australia's Federation Guard and the Royal Australian Air Force Band were ready to showcase their hard work.*

Guitars For Veterans Australia is also very active on social media, Facebook and LinkedIn with country wide activity.

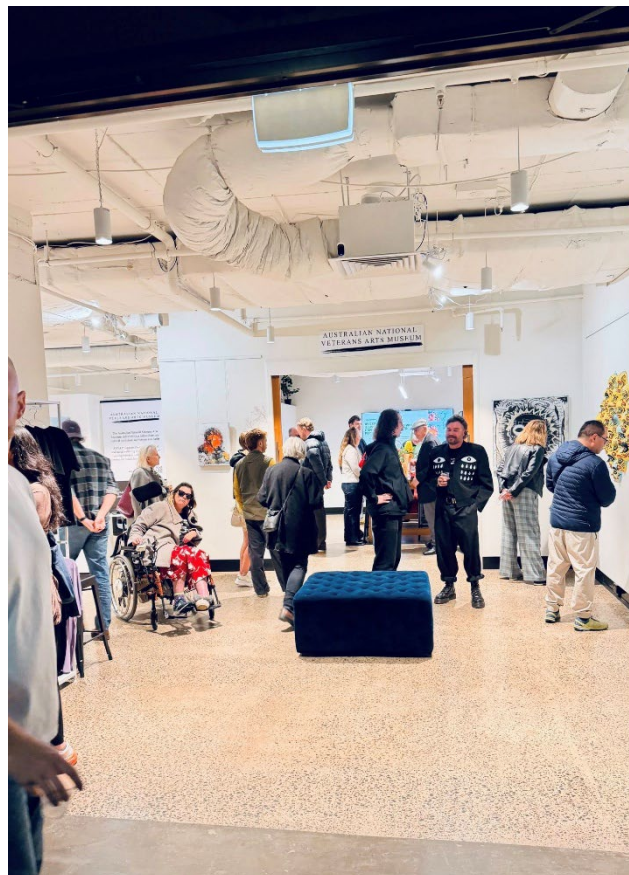
### **The “Australian National Veterans Arts Museum” (ANVAM)**

It has also been widely acknowledged that engagement in art can have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of veterans, particularly during periods of convalescence. Art’s nourishment of creativity and innovation can also bring dynamism into other areas of veterans’ lives and help to prevent poor mental health outcomes.

It was precisely for these reasons that the “Australian National Veterans Arts Museum” (ANVAM) was established in 2013, its objective being to promote and advocate for the wellbeing of the veteran community through the arts. Although it’s ambition to establish a permanent gallery for veterans artwork in the unused former *Repatriation Commission Outpatient Clinic* at 310 St Kilda Road in Southbank, has yet to be realised, the organisation nevertheless continues to promote the healing value of art amongst veterans, open pathways for new participants into ANVAM’s programs and coordinate art exhibitions that showcase veterans’ stories of unique lived experience, during and post-service.

ANVAM offers a variety of workshops and creative programs throughout the year, providing veterans with opportunities to learn new artistic skills, collaborate with peers, and find personal meaning through art.

These activities are tailored to suit a range of experience levels, from complete beginners to professional artists, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.



*Norway has joined the Royal Navies of the UK, Canada and Australia to forge a formidable future Global Combat Ship partnership.*

*Australia’s multi-billion-dollar deal with Japan for its future warships could set a template that will help Tokyo rapidly expand defence exports across Asia as Tokyo mulls an overhaul of its post-war pacifist constitution.*

*Reflecting on a long and proud legacy of service  
A message from Chief of the Defence Force Admiral David Johnston*

*For many officers and sailors on HMAS Toowoomba, Anzac Day isn’t just a day of remembrance, it’s the touchstone of who they are.*

*The Australian Government has accepted an offer from the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, His Excellency José Ramos-Horta, to extend the eligibility criteria of the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal.*

*Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) from across the country recently flocked to Cockatoo Island for the ANC 2026 Fleet Engagement Camp.*

*Musician Able Seaman Andrew Bryce has sounded the Last Post for more than 26 years, and understands the power of the simple bugle call in the lead-up to Anzac Day.*

*The Government will more than double investment in counter drones for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with up to \$7 billion allocated.*

*RAN personnel recently gained first-hand exposure to Japan’s Mogami-class frigate and a clear view of the advanced capabilities shaping Australia’s future surface fleet.*

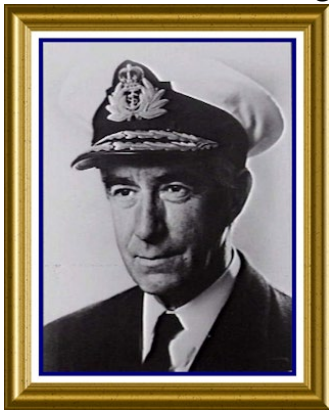
Any veterans (and ADF personnel who are transitioning out of the Services) who believe that they could benefit from an introduction to the Veteran Arts Community should not hesitate to “get the ball rolling” by clicking on the following link: <https://www.anvam.org.au>, or by sending an email to: [info@anvam.org.au](mailto:info@anvam.org.au), to seek guidance on the most appropriate pathway applicable to their current circumstances, skills and interests. ANVAM’s facilitators are available to support you on this journey through meaningful engagement with, and exploration of, your individual creative expression.

Why not give one of these skill-building programs a go!

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

## OUR APRIL HERO

**Vice Admiral Sir Richard Innes Peek,  
KBE CB DSO\* US Legion of Merit**



Richard Innes Peek joined the Royal Australian Navy College in 1928 as a cadet midshipman. During his time there he let it be known that he preferred to be known as "Peter" because he disliked the 'RIP' monogram.

He specialised as a Gunnery Officer and in 1942 was involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea on board HMAS *Hobart*. In 1943 on HMAS *Australia*, he was involved in the Battle of Leyte suffering severe burns. Then in the Battle of Lingayen Gulf as the Squadron Gunnery Officer. During the Korean War he commanded the destroyer HMAS *Tobruk*. Ever upwards, Peek climbed the tall command tree, ending with his promotion to Vice Admiral as Chief of Naval Staff (CNS). [Continue reading about this outstanding hero.....](#)

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If you know of any of our Navy family who has crossed the bar and don't appear on our list below or Memorial Wall on our website, please don't hesitate to contact the webmaster at: [webmaster@navyvic.net](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net). If possible, list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age. Thank you.

- † LSRPSM B.A. McLennan, R65890, 26 April 2026. Aged 76.
- † ABMTP G. Alford, April 2026. Aged 71.
- † CPOQMG R.M. Perkins, R96083, 20 April 2026. Aged 74.

*Beijing's newest and largest aircraft carrier is expected to achieve full operational readiness this year.*

*Dutch regional broadcaster Omroep Gelderland was able to track the Royal Netherlands Navy air-defense frigate Evertsen in real time by sending a Bluetooth tracker to the ship by military mail.*

*Australia's 2026 National Defence Strategy has confirmed plans to fund and introduce a fleet of Spearhead large uncrewed underwater vehicles.*

*A large torpedo-shaped device discovered near an island in a strategically important strait between Bali and Lombok has been identified by defence analysts as a Chinese undersea monitoring system.*

*A bigger, stronger and more lethal Defence Force is better placed to defend Australia and its interests, according to Chief of the Defence Force Admiral David Johnston.*

*A team of Royal Navy divers safely detonated more than 3½ tonnes of explosives during a visit by HMS Tamar to the remote Pitcairn Islands.*

*The Australian Government is pleased to recommend to Her Excellency, the Governor-General, a number of senior command changes within the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Subject to the Governor-General's consideration and approval, these changes will take effect from July 2026. The Chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO RAN will be appointed as the Chief of the Defence Force.*

*In a display of maritime cooperation, Australia and Vietnam have sharpened their skills together in the South China Sea.*

- † LCDR M. Cliffe, 16 April 2026. Aged 80.
- † STO.MECH J.A. Kennedy, R47141, 14 April 2026. Aged 91.
- † NAAH W.K. Jones, R44918, 14 April 2026. Aged 92.
- † CPOWTR R.I. Rose, W117727, 13 April 2026. Aged 69.
- † CAPT T.R. Duchesne, 10 April 2026. Aged 96.
- † LCDR M.G. Higgins, 08 April 2026. Aged 84.
- † LCDR S.S. Dowd, 8087254, 07 April 2026. Aged 54.
- † LAM(A) J.W. Ikin, R37390, 05 April 2026. Aged 94.
- † LCDR A.R. Dennison, 04 April 2026.
- † EAA B. Rudkowsky, R42191, April 2026 Aged 84.
- † POSN R.T. Metcalfe, R54389, 31 March 2026. Aged 91.
- † POWRREG M. Patterson, R85313, 29 March 2026. Aged 91.
- † LSCKSM P. Jones, 28 March 2026.
- † CMDR W.M. Shaw, O42192, 25 March 2026. Aged 83.
- † Ord J.D. Duncan, 1699NS, 13 March 2026. Aged 92.

All of the above names now appear on the special [Memorial Wall](#) of our website.

## Lest We Forget

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**Due to lack of sales the Gala Ball has been cancelled.  
All monies will be refunded.**

*Able Seaman Taryn Dickens achieved exactly what she set out to do at the 2026 Winter Paralympics from March 6 to 15.*

*Acting Sub-Lieutenant Sharni Pierce joined Navy to help people and explore the world. Little did she know she would first see the world in Sydney Harbour, as she played a critical role in navigating one of Navy's warships through the bustling waterway during the Exercise Kakadu Fleet Review.*

*After about two years working as a corrections officer in Western Australia, Leading Seaman Ryan Armstrong returned to sea on a regional presence deployment.*

*A Republic of Korea Navy attack boat docked in Guam on Tuesday, completing the first leg of what will be the longest voyage of a South Korean submarine to date.*

*HMAS Warramunga's Command Warrant Officer Kathryn Holmes is preparing to retire this year after 37 years of service. Originally from the small coal mining town of Leigh Creek, Kathryn joined Navy shortly after finishing high school.*

*HMAS Stuart's principal warfare officer Lieutenant Sebastian Chee is no stranger to working with partner nation navies, and Exercise Kakadu was no different.*

*Australia's world-leading Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) is set to play a central role in Canada's ambitions to build the largest and most sensitive over-the-horizon radar (OTHR) system ever developed.*

*Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for more news articles not included in this newsletter.*