



BROADSIDE

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Editorial



VOLUNTEERISM

In his role as a volunteer on the Committees of a number of volunteer-populated, not-for-profit, charitable Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) based in Victoria, the author of this month's NVN Broadside Article is constantly in awe of the self-sacrifice, dedication and enthusiasm of so many of his serving and ex-Navy colleagues who are doing great work to support the ideals and philanthropic objectives of these and many other ESOs. Whilst it is understandable that volunteerism is not everybody's cup of tea (indeed, the vagaries of full-time Service and the challenges of post-Navy careers make it difficult to commit to additional unpaid work), it is nevertheless fascinating to understand why some people are inspired to "stay connected" and to "give back". And if this analysis resonates with any of our readers, this article will offer up a few excellent opportunities within the ex-service community where there is a strong need for more volunteers.

At the most basic end of the spectrum of reasons why people are willing to give up some of their spare time (to, for instance, attend events or be part of an organisation), is the natural desire for many of us to stay connected with like-minded people who have shared similar experiences, particularly if those experiences have involved hardship or have left particularly fond memories. There is often a sense of camaraderie and fellowship that participants find welcoming and supportive. And sometimes these like-minded people also come together to commemorate or celebrate specific historical events that represent their shared values and priorities. So, if you hold fond memories of certain aspects of your service in the RAN, be-it in a particular ship or from your service in a branch or specialist qualification, one of the 11 ship associations or one of the 6 branch or specialist associations based in Victoria might suit you as a location where you can find connections (and share

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Events Calendar

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



09 Aug – HMAS Canberra
Commemorative service

11 Aug – Defence Force School of Music
– concert

14 Aug – OP PEDESTAL Service

18 Aug – Vietnam Veterans march and
service

19 Aug – Recruit School graduation

19-21 Aug – Supercars

03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day service

07 Sep – Battle for Australia Memorial
service

08 Sep – Defence Force School of Music
concert

09 Sep – Open Day HMAS Castlemaine
and commencement of Navy Week

09 Sep – Recruit School graduation

11 Sep – Battle of Bitia Paka service

camaraderie) with like-minded people. Alternatively, there are 6 Victoria-based associations that are dedicated to upholding the broader cultural heritage, welfare, communication and advocacy needs of the RAN and ex-Navy community in Victoria. (Note: Rather than repeat the names of all these 23 ESOs here, readers are referred to the January 2022 Broadside Article: (<https://navyvic.net/news/broadside/january2021broadside.pdf>).

At a more altruistic level, if “doing good” is important to you, particularly in relation to supporting the more needy Serving and ex-Service personnel (or their families) who are suffering as a result of their (or their loved-one’s) service in the ADF, then there are a number of organisations that are always seeking volunteer (and paid) support staff. If you have spare capacity in your current profession or are retired with a range of specialist legal, psychology, financial and counselling qualifications that you’re keen to put to good use, there are a number of Government and private instrumentalities listed in the NVN’s “welfare” directory (<https://navyvic.net/welfare/welfare.html>) that would welcome your specialist skills.

Don’t despair if you don’t have any specialist welfare-related qualifications. There are two other organisations that will give you the necessary skills to be productive and valuable volunteer support staff. The first is the iconic Australian charity “Legacy”. With 10 Legacy Clubs scattered throughout Victoria, there is sure to be a Club somewhere near you. 2023 marks the Centenary of its philanthropic support to the families of Veterans who have given their lives or health in the service of their country. Legacy Clubs are always on the lookout for new Legatees to become mentors and advisors to struggling widows, widowers and descendants of deceased or incapacitated Veterans. Ex-Service personnel are particularly valued nominees and, with a little training, invariably become excellent Legatees. To find out more, visit: www.legacy.com.au/legatee

The second is the DVA’s “Advocacy” program. Many of us will recall that, prior to paying-off, we were advised to take a full copy of our medical records and then make contact with a DVA Advocate (normally via our nearest RSL Club) to assess whether any injuries sustained during our service (that resulted in permanent impairment) were “claimable” under one of the relevant Commonwealth compensation and rehabilitation Acts. Depending on the degree of permanent impairment, claimants may have been deemed eligible for compensation and/or ongoing treatment via a

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VIDEOS.....

- Deployable Geospatial Survey Team
- Navy Cadets want you! Call for adult volunteers
- U.S. and Partner Nations Conduct SINKEX as Part of RIMPAC 2022
- Aligning Priorities in the Indo-Pacific with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles
- Thank you for your service, Sir - Chief of Navy Farewell Video
- HMAS Canberra arrives for RIMPAC 2022
- Chief of Navy Australia Change of Command Ceremony
- Powerful ships arrive at Pearl Harbor for the biggest exercise RIMPAC 2022
- Navy stands up Indigenous Cultural Performer Roles



NEWS.....

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond is energised and eager to get on with the huge task he has been entrusted with to lead the 15,000 people in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

These are the approximate positions of the U.S. Navy’s deployed carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups throughout the world as of July 25, 2022, based on Navy and public data.

The Albanese Government is introducing legislation to ensure that no veteran pays higher income tax because of the Federal Court decision in Commissioner of Taxation v Douglas (the Douglas decision). A draft bill, Treasury Laws

DVA White or Gold Card, or the TPI program. Although there are now over 700 qualified Advocates attached to numerous ESOs around Australia who are able to help veterans and their families with wellbeing and claims advocacy, there is plenty of room for more highly trained and experienced Advocates to help deal with the sheer volume of painstaking work that needs to be dealt-with in a timely manner. So, if you have an abiding interest in safeguarding the welfare of your fellow ex-Navy colleagues, are willing to undertake a comprehensive training program (most of which is undertaken 'on-the-job' with an experienced mentor) and love a "challenge", don't hesitate to learn more about the "Advocacy Training and Development Program" (ATDP) and register your interest via their website: <https://www.dva.gov.au/civilian-life/support-ex-service-organisations-and-advocates/advocacy-training-and-development-3>. Whilst most Advocates are sponsored by their local RSL, there are two Navy-related ESOs listed on the 'Advocate Register' in Victoria (the Naval Association of Australia and the Submarine Association) who you could ask to nominate you for the ATDP.



At the far right of the spectrum of reasons

why you might consider undertaking volunteer work is a desire to "extend

yourself" beyond your comfort zone by taking-on

sometimes deeply challenging, heart-wrenching, physically demanding and unpredictable "disaster relief" work anywhere in Australia and overseas. Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is not for the faint hearted or physically impaired, but the organisation offers a range of operational and administrative roles that cater for most levels of membership commitment and skills. Founded in 2016, DRA deploys veterans and emergency services specialists to assist communities in disaster resilience and recovery. Although members of DRA are encouraged to develop new skills through numerous tailor-made courses (for instance, first aid, chainsaw operations, fencing, plant and equipment operations, load handling, 4WD driving, aerial mapping, logistics etc), all veterans deployed to disaster zones are also expected to draw-on the training, teamwork, discipline and experience they gained during their service in the ADF. Of the 18 disaster relief operations involving DRA over the past 5 years, Bushfire and Flood Relief in numerous towns throughout Australia featured as the most common tasking for DRA.

Having joined DRA a year ago, the author of this NVN Article can attest to his great sense of achievement, purpose and pride after

Amendment (Measures for a later sitting) Bill 2022: Taxation of military superannuation benefits, and associated draft explanatory material, have been released for public consultation.

Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 has provided a plethora of opportunities for interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the 25 participating nations. But it's not every day that the United States Navy contacts your ship to say "kudos to the bridge crew" for planning highly complex movements down to the exact second.

Dressed like Wally from Where's Wally while riding postie bikes around Australia, three former sailors are contending with 14,500km of road to raise awareness of PTSD and veteran suicide.

The military balance between China and Taiwan is shifting in China's favor, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said Friday. Speaking at his regular press conference at the Ministry of Defense, Kishi said the security environment around Japan is becoming severe at an unprecedented speed, as Japan released its annual defense white paper the same day, highlighting the threats posed to Japan by Russia, China and North Korea, while Chinese and Russian ships continue to operate around Japan this week.

There is no place for sexual misconduct in Defence. All allegations are taken very seriously. Incidents of sexual misconduct do not align with Defence values. Defence acknowledges our previous failures to adequately handle sexual

participating OP KELLIHER ('Delta' Wave) providing flood relief in Coraki, a small flood-ravaged town in the Northern Rivers area of NSW, near Lismore. And would you believe it? He finally caught up with an old shipmate there (amongst all the mud and muck) who served with him in the Commissioning Crew of HMAS *Adelaide* (FFG) in USA some 42 years ago! What an unexpected, pleasant surprise! If this has sparked any interest, please visit the DRA website (<https://disasterreliefaus.org>) for more information.

Although there are many other reasons why people also consider gifting some of their energy, skills and time to a specific cause, organisation or philanthropic endeavour, the three reasons outlined in this NVN Article (and the organisations to which they apply) appear to be the most commonly sought-after by the Serving and ex-Navy people known to the Author. If you don't already volunteer, give it a go. By helping others in need, you take the focus off your own problems, putting into perspective how precious having a healthy, fulfilled life really is. Many volunteers realise that, while not perfect, their life is a blessing to be celebrated every day. In my opinion, this is priceless.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team



If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We will list their names in perpetuity on our special [Memorial Wall](#) on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † MECH1 R.A. Lamond, R54134, July 2022. Aged 81.
- † SAW2 K.J. Payne, R42709, 12 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † POSV G.E. Ives, R49906, 10 July 2022. Aged 86.
- † CPOETS R. Wyness, 09 July 2022. Aged 68.
- † RO J.R. Barlow, R94370, 08 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † POETC R.J. Miller, R94253, 07 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † PORP R.S. Towell, R64154, 07 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † ABROS B.P. Brooks, R63820, 07 July 2022. Aged 74.
- † LCDR B.S. Ferrie, 06 July 2022.
- † ABSTD E.A. O'Sullivan, R62299, 05 July 2022. Aged 76.
- † LCDR P.L.D. Sochon, O.3007, 04 July 2022. Aged 70.
- † CMDR W.A. Parkins, R42553, 25 June 2022. Aged 77.
- † CPOUC A.W. MacLachlan, R59053, 23 June 2022. Aged 77.
- † AB C.C. Garrick, B5327, 22 June 2022. Aged 95.
- † AB B.G. Scanlon, R53654, 06 June 2022. Aged 85.
- † ME G.F. Baker, R51089, 04 June 2022. Aged 84.

Lest We Forget

misconduct incidents. Defence is committed to doing better.

When HMAS Canberra pulled into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, the pipe sounded across the ship "all spare hands muster for garbos" as members on board made their way down to the large bins in mass numbers.

How to bridge the capability gap in Australia's transition to nuclear-powered submarines.

Two U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey aircraft are embarked on an Australian amphibious ship for the duration of the 2022 Rim of the Pacific exercise, advancing efforts to integrate the two nations' amphibious forces for operations in the southwest Pacific.

The UK's Laser Directed Energy Programme (LDEW) Dragonfire, led by missile defence company MBDA, has successfully conducted a series of trials to prove the accuracy and power of the novel laser weapon.

The US Navy announced Friday it disciplined more than two dozen service members for their roles in the July 2020 fire that destroyed the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard in San Diego.

Royal Australian Navy hydrographic surveyors aboard the San Antonio-class transport dock ship USS Portland (LPD-27) are working with surveyors from the Royal New Zealand Navy to locate inert mines along the coast in Southern California, USA as part of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 in Southern California.

Our July Navy Hero:



Able Seaman Reuben Joseph Edwin Mitchell DSM, o/n 7476

The following story is of an Australian Able Seaman whom some military historians believe should have been awarded the Victoria Cross for his courage and compassion while under enemy fire from Turkish guns in the Dardanelles during World War I. The most senior

survivor was Petty Officer Coxswain Robert Perkins, DSM who wrote in a report:

"Reuben Mitchell acted most gallantly. He was on the conning tower with three officers, passing orders below to the helmsman. All the officers were swept off the bridge by shellfire and he was left all alone. Although the enemy had the exact range and he was clearly visible, he stuck to his post and took charge of the boat until it sank. When in the water, he then rescued the wireless operator who was unconscious from head wounds. There was no senior officer left to recommend him for his outstanding gallantry, and his only reward was the self-evident fact that he had done his duty."

Reuben Joseph Edward Mitchell was born in Ballarat, Victoria on 28 July, 1894. Having joined the Royal Navy based on the Australian Station, he served on several ships before joining HMS Challenger and sailing to England on the ship's return in 1913. It was while at Portsmouth that he volunteered for submarines and on completion of his training at HMS Dolphin based on Fort Blockhouse, and at HMS Vernon, which included training in HM Submarines A6, A13 and E4, he joined HMAS AE2 to return to Australia as an Able Seaman.

Read his full biography on our website:

<https://navyvic.net/heroes/mitchell.html>

Beware of Scams

DVA is warning veterans to be cautious of potential scammers operating online.

We would like to remind veterans and their families to be vigilant and protect themselves from any incident that may compromise their private or personal information.

If you are a veteran, or know someone who is a veteran, please pass on the following tips:

- If you receive a phone call or letter asking for your DVA client number or banking details, do not provide them. Contact your nearest [DVA office](#) to confirm the request is legitimate.

Harnessing resources from industry through to armed forces, Australia, the United States and their allies must together develop an effective level of military power in the Indo-Pacific to avoid 'a catastrophic failure of deterrence', says Defence Minister Richard Marles.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles has prioritised the need to bridge the divide between the 2020 strategic update's warning that Australia could face a major conflict within 10 years and current plans to strengthen the Australian Defence Force over several decades.

A 10-year-old's submariner wish came true on Sunday thanks to the Starlight Children's Foundation and friendly submariners aboard HMAS Farncomb.

The strong relationship between the Australian and Indonesian navies was further enhanced recently with a logistics port visit and a cooperative training activity between the two nations' warships.

The sprawling Rim of the Pacific 2022 exercise is not designed to counter or threaten China, according to the head of the U.S. Pacific Fleet — but it does focus on the skills and technologies that would be "most salient for potential conflict in the years ahead."

World War II Navy veteran Larry Storch, the rubber-faced comic whose long career in theater, movies and television was capped by his "F Troop" role as zany Cpl. Agarn in the 1960s spoof of Western frontier TV shows, died Friday. He was 99.

- Be cautious if you are contacted out of the blue by someone claiming to be from **any** government department requesting personal information. Always contact the organisation before responding, using contact details from a trusted source.
- Never give personal details to someone you do not know and trust.
- Never provide information such as passwords, tax file numbers or bank account details via email links.
- Do not open suspicious texts or click on links or attachments in emails received from unknown or unexpected sources.
- If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.
- If you think you have provided your DVA number to a scammer, contact the nearest [DVA office](#).

If you, or someone you know, has been approached by someone posing as a DVA representative please contact your nearest DVA office.

If you have shared personal information and believe you may be at risk, you can contact IDCARE, a not-for-profit organisation that provides assistance and support to victims of identity theft and other cybercrime. Visit idcare.org or telephone 1800 595 160.

For additional information about scams, visit scamwatch.gov.au – you can also subscribe to a free alert service to receive updates about the latest scams.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre also provides advice for individuals, a free [alert service](#) to help you understand the latest online threats and the ability to report online crimes via the [ReportCyber page](#).

Assistance dogs and public places: be informed



trains, taxis and airlines.

It is important for veterans with a DVA assistance dog to be aware of their rights around legally accessing public places with their accredited assistance dog, particularly when using public transport such as buses,

A Russian Navy submarine armed with a strategic nuclear torpedo the size of a school bus was delivered to the Kremlin this week, according to an announcement from the shipyard.

The Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Pat Conroy MP, is pleased to announce Defence personnel will now have access to a new computer interface that allows for better informed and faster decision-making.

In early 2022, whilst on routine maritime security operations, Royal Navy ship HMS Montrose seized Iranian weapons from speedboats being operated by smugglers in international waters south of Iran.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, together with the US Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, conducted a trilateral exercise in the East China Sea to East of Okinawa.

A Royal Australian Navy MH-60R helicopter has evacuated three residents from their home in the Upper Kangaroo Valley following threats to their safety from rising flood waters.

The Royal Australian Navy has welcomed the new Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, during a ceremony in Canberra.

The initial response to the July 2020 fire that destroyed the multibillion-dollar amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard was uncoordinated and hampered by confusion as to which admiral should cobble together Navy and civilian firefighters, according to new information from the then-head of Naval Surface Forces.

If you have an accredited DVA assistance dog, you and your dog are legally allowed to enter all public places, including travelling on public transport and entering hospitality venues such as cafes and restaurants. There are some exceptions, including:

- Where your assistance animal has an infectious disease and denying you access is reasonably necessary to protect public health or other animals,
- Where allowing you access would impose an 'unjustifiable hardship', such as where access would cause major difficulties or unreasonable costs,
- Where the operator or pilot in command of a flight reasonably believes that the assistance animal may have an adverse effect on the safety of the flight.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) outlines the rights of those with assistance animals for individuals with disabilities, including mental health conditions.

While there is currently no national standard within Australia to identify accredited assistance dogs, it is unlawful to deny entry of an assistance dog and there are a few things you can do if you are refused access to a public space or transport, including:

- Telling the operator that your dog is a working accredited assistance dog
- Showing your handler ID card
- Ensuring your dog is wearing its assistance dog coat
- Telling the operator that you are legally allowed to access the service with your assistance dog under your relevant state legislation or the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth).

You may also wish to report the incident to the venue or transport provider or make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Commission has the power to investigate and attempt to conciliate complaints of discrimination under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. More information is available here: [Complaints | Australian Human Rights Commission](#).

DVA provides four types of assistance dogs to help veterans in need, including psychiatric assistance dogs, guide dogs, hearing dogs and mobility dogs. For more information on assistance dogs from DVA visit the [DVA website](#).

HMAS Supply successfully completed a first-of-class firing trial of the Phalanx close-in weapon system (CIWS) during a regional presence deployment.

Two sailors from a capsized yacht were rescued in extreme sea conditions by the crew of the Royal Australian Navy destroyer HMAS Brisbane on July 2.

It has been my great honour and privilege to serve as Chief of Navy for the past four years. I sincerely thank the women and men of the Royal Australian Navy for their outstanding work and dedication during my term.

Five Navy RIM-116 Rolling Airframe Missiles have found a new home in the briny depths of the Pacific Ocean after a helicopter dropped them into the water during a vertical replenishment June 17, officials have confirmed.

For the first time ever, it is known that 581,139 Australians have reported they have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), as announced in the release of the Census 2021 data today.

FlyBy – A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [July edition.....](#) (Note: right mouse click link and download document)

Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network [June update.....](#)

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