



BROADSIDE

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March 2025 -- Volume 15 Edition 3

Editorial



THE NAVY HERITAGE COLLECTION IS ON THE MOVE!

This month's article builds upon the Heritage and History Editorial provided by CAPT Alastair Cooper, RAN and published in the January 2025 edition of BROADSIDE. The article provides an update on the relocation of the Navy Heritage Collection (NHC) by the Project Officer, CMDR Cameron Eastman, OAM, RAN.

Recent Developments

The last 15 months have been an exciting time as funding has now been provided by Navy Headquarters to relocate the NHC from the former RAN Armament Depot Buildings on Spectacle Island (SI) to the Multi-User Depot at Banksmeadow, NSW.



The NHC has been located on Spectacle Island for the past 50 years. By the end of the year the aim is to have the entire collection re-located to Banksmeadow, adjacent to the Sydney Airport.

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Events Calendar

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



06 Apr – 10:00 – 16:00 – Open Day
HMAS Cerberus.

09 Apr – 11:00 – HMAS Vampire
service – Shrine – Sanctuary

13 Apr – 12:00 – George Cross
Award Day - Maltese Australia
Assoc. – Shrine – WW2 Forecourt

25 Apr – 06:00 – Anzac Day Dawn
Service – WW2 Forecourt

28 Apr – 11:00 – Melbourne
Legacy's Annual Anzac
Commemoration for Students –
WW2 Forecourt

28 Apr – 19:00 – NHSA Meeting –
Guest speaker Dr Campbell Miles
"Defeat of Scurvy in the Royal
Navy"

02 May – 12:30 – HMAS
Castlemaine Service – Shrine –
Sanctuary

04 May – 11:30 – Battle of the Coral
Sea Commemoration – Shrine –
WW2 Forecourt

Many of the buildings on SI are in excess of 100 years old and are deteriorating rapidly, which has impacted the several hundred thousand artefacts that have been stored in them over the past 50 years. With CN's direction to relocate the NHC by the end of 2025 it has been great to see the project gain much needed momentum.



CMDR Cam Eastman holding one of the hundreds of life buoys that form part of the collection.

Since viewing the Banksmeadow site in July last year, it has been very encouraging to see the progressive transformation of the buildings, which were constructed in the 1980's for use by Army but have sat largely vacant for the past 10 years. The site is a hidden gem adjacent to the Sydney Airport and with excellent truck access.

To achieve the relocation, great assistance has been provided by personnel from the Fleet Support Unit at Kuttabul who have provided the working hands to clean and pack the artefacts, palletise them and load them onto the Crane Stores Lighter for transfer to

08 May – 11:00 – 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day – Shrine – WW2 Forecourt

NOTE:



For information on all Shrine ceremonies:

Phone: 03 9661 8100 or,

Email: ceremonies@shrine.org.au

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VIDEOS.....

- Royal Navy to fit deadly DragonFire £10-a-shot laser precision weapon
- Vin hits the right note to capture the Anzac spirit in song
- Navy Slang with the U.S.

• • •

NEWS shorts.....

The Government is making \$3.5 million available to honour the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans through the first round of the 2025-26 Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program.

Seventeen Vietnamese People's Army (VPA) personnel honed their ability to survive to fight at sea through combat survival training at HMAS Cerberus in March. It was a historic milestone for the Defence Cooperation Program, with the largest-ever contingent of VPA personnel conducting the training at Cerberus' RAN School of Survivability and Ship Safety (RANSSSS). The tailored course included training in ship-based firefighting, leak-stop repair, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence.

A group of Vietnamese People's Army (VPA) personnel hustles about on the fire pad at HMAS

Garden Island. Joint Logistic Unit-East have provided the trucks to transport and store the pallets temporarily last year at Moorebank before the Banksmeadow site was ready to receive the pallets in two small warehouses in December last year.



Relocating the collection one barge trip at a time, with thanks from the team at Waratah Marine.



Some of the almost 400 pallets transferred from Spectacle Island last year enroute to the Interim Repository at Banksmeadow. Only 400-600 pallets still to go!

Cerberus' RAN School of Ship Safety and Survivability, diligently donning firefighting equipment at the rush. Amidst their bold blue camouflage uniforms, the greyscale Aussie cams of a young naval aircraft technician seem out of place at first, until the sailor speaks. As he tightens a helmet chinstrap, he communicates with his VPA shipmate in flawless Vietnamese. Able Seaman Aviation Technician Aircraft Nguyen Le joined the RAN in 2001. Born in Saigon, he was always curious about Australia and its people.

Antarctica is about as far from tropical Cairns as you can get, but two recent trips to the frozen continent were the opportunity of a lifetime for a Queensland-based Navy hydrographer. Petty Officer Scott Thomas, from the Maritime Geospatial Warfare Unit, was part of a small Navy hydrographic team mapping the Southern Ocean on board Australian Antarctic Division icebreaker, RSV Nuyina. While Petty Officer Scott usually charts safe passage for ships around the Australian coast, or supports amphibious landings, this time he was charting the kilometres-deep ocean floor to find points of interest for Antarctic Division researchers.

China is using increasingly sophisticated grey-zone tactics against subsea cables in the waters around Taiwan, using a shadow-fleet playbook that could be expanded across the Indo-Pacific. On 25 February, Taiwan's coast guard detained the Hong Tai 58 after a subsea cable was cut in the Taiwan Strait. The vessel was registered to Togo but crewed entirely by Chinese nationals.

The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) arrived in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia for a regularly scheduled port call, March



The first group of palletised artefacts at Banksmeadow awaiting unpacking and transfer to separate smaller storage areas for uniforms, paper products, metal, plastic and timber objects, art works and ships bells.

Current Developments

Refurbishment at Banksmeadow has continued this year to prepare the various smaller rooms to create specific storage areas for the various types of objects, which include paper products, uniforms, wood, plastic and metal objects and as can be seen from the images – hundreds of ship’s life buoys! A fortnightly program of pallet removals via barge and truck will continue throughout the year and an expected 400-600 additional pallets are planned to be relocated.

Once the artefacts are all consolidated at Banksmeadow the site will act as an ‘Interim’ Repository to enable artefacts to be loaned to other Navy Heritage and Learning Centres (HLCs) for display and also to RSL’s, the War Memorial and National Maritime Museum. The ‘Interim’ status will remain until a purpose designed Repository is established.

Future Developments

The future vision for the Sea Power Centre - Australia is to construct a combined Repository with the relocated *Cerberus* HLC as the publicly accessible front section of the building. The proposed site would be on the north side of Sheean Ave and is located outside the secure working zone of the base. The project is an ambitious one and

25. Darwin is the 17th port call of Emory S. Land’s current deployment, which began May 17, 2024. “It is a fantastic opportunity to return where we first began our deployment,” said Capt. Kenneth Holland, commanding officer of Emory S. Land. “We look forward to working with our allies, the Royal Australian Navy, and look forward to all the events that we have during our visit.”

Sydney’s next three months of training and cooperation include Exercise Bersama Shield, alongside the Five Power Defence Arrangements nations Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom. Chief of Joint Operations Vice-Admiral Justin Jones said the deployments strengthened cooperation with partner nations across the Indo-Pacific region.

Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) *Reliant* deployed to Solomon Islands recently for vital survey work, reinforcing Australia’s longstanding commitment to the Pacific. In her first deployment this year, *Reliant* embarked with a crew including members of 12 Chief Engineer Works (12CEW) and the Littoral Riverine Survey Squadron (LRSS), from the Australian Army’s 17 Sustainment Brigade.

Australia announced today it is buying \$200 million AUD (\$125 million USD) worth of MK-48 heavy torpedos, which the minister for defense procurement said “will deliver a critical boost” to the country’s Collins-class submarines.

The 2025 Sailor of the Year program has recognised the outstanding service of eight sailors across the fleet. The nominees were chosen as their daily actions positively contribute to the success of Navy’s mission. Petty Officer Electronics

would form part of the works to be delivered in the next *Cerberus* Redevelopment.



Work is also underway to enhance the Cerberus Heritage and Learning Centre, with a new disable ramp entry soon to be completed.

Technician Stephanie Horswood won the program and thanked her HMAS Supply family for their support and nominating her.

More than 2 million kids live with a disabled U.S. veteran at home. Calls are growing to extend more support to these 'hidden helpers'.

It was horrifying every time it happened, every time Kylie Briest's father choked on his food and started to turn blue, every time her mom, Jenny, sprang out of her own dinner chair to attempt the Heimlich maneuver on her husband.

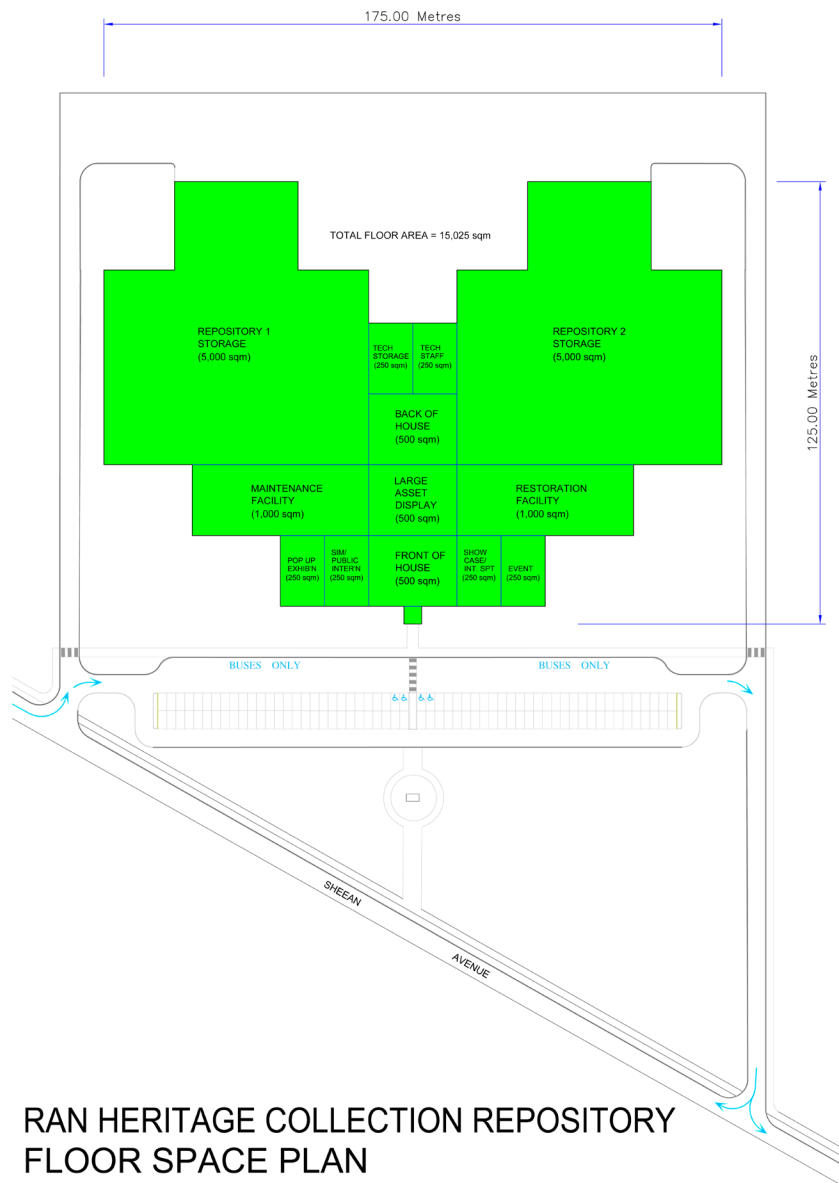
The first of the inaugural cohort of Australian submariners have qualified to serve on Royal Navy's Astute-class submarines as nuclear engineers. The sailors from the Royal Australian Navy are the first cohort to qualify within the UK training system as part of the Royal Navy's commitment to AUKUS, the trilateral defence and security partnership between the UK, Australia and USA.

Veterans and families are set to receive an increase in financial support when pension payments rise later this month, in line with the pension indexation process. Those who are eligible don't have to do anything to receive the payment increase, it will be automatically applied to payments received after 20 March 2025.

Nova Systems said it has developed cutting-edge AI technology to process sonar imagery from autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and detect unseen threats. The AI tool processes and examines sonar imagery collected from autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and notifies the operator if an unknown object or threat is detected.



Above and Below – Refurbishment of the external surface of the HLC is also occurring and will be completed by Open Day. Thanks to our former and current HLC Managers for initiating this project and seeing it come to fruition!



RAN HERITAGE COLLECTION REPOSITORY FLOOR SPACE PLAN

The proposed floor plan of the Permanent Repository, combined with the relocated Heritage and Learning Centre at the entrance to HMAS Cerberus.

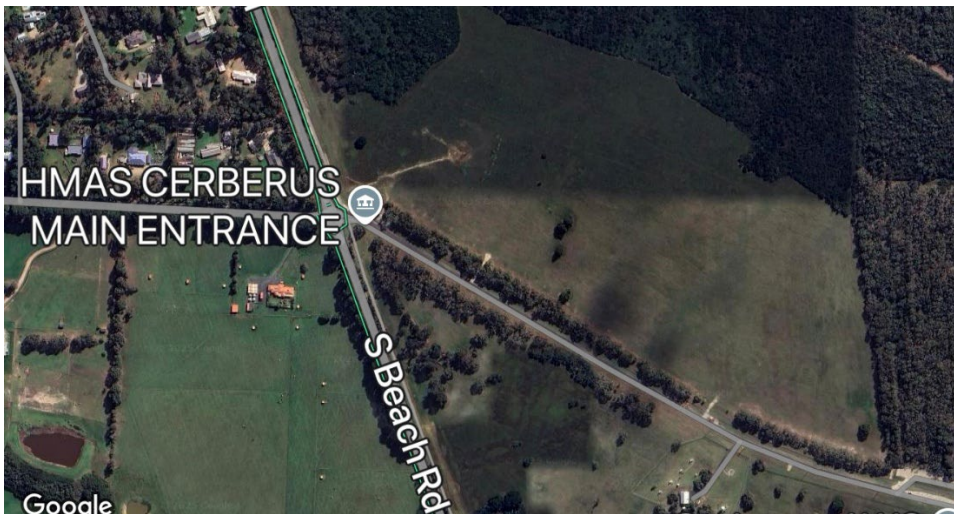
After more than seven decades, 92-year-old veteran Able Seaman Colin Cherry received his medals for service in HMAS Sydney III during the Korean War (1950-53). The special presentation took place on March 5, in front of Able Seaman Cherry's wife, Sue, and was made possible thanks to Lieutenant Commander (retd) Gavin Colgan.

Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East have been on the run, and raising funds for Legacy while they're at it. Personnel deployed to Bahrain for Operation Manitou and to the United Arab Emirates for Operation Accordion collectively ran the 480 kilometres between their respective bases to support Australian veterans' families.

Japan and Australia talk of 'collective deterrence,' but they don't seem to have specific objectives. The relationship needs a clearer direction. The two countries should identify how they complement each other. Each country has two standout areas: Japan has strengths in air and missile defence and in shipbuilding, whereas Australia needs help in both; and Australia has strengths in cybersecurity and its distance from China, both of which offer advantages for Japan.

5 Chinese satellites are "practicing dogfighting" in space to simulate orbital combat in yet another step up their wide-ranging effort to develop capabilities to deny, disrupt, degrade and/or destroy US space capabilities, the Space Force's second in command warned.

The Australian debate on considering alternatives to AUKUS regains traction. Naval News looks at perceived options for a "Plan B" and offers an assessment on plausible outcomes.



The proposed building would be sited on the former Australian Maritime Safety Authority aerial site on the north side of Sheean Ave.

Work is under way to overhaul a kilometres-wide and 300-metre-tall transmitter array in the remote West Australian town of Exmouth. The Naval Communication Station Harold E Holt is a US-Australian very-low-frequency transmitting station capable of sending messages to submarines deep underwater.

In the two months since President Donald Trump returned to the White House, his administration has cleared the military of most of its top female ranking officers, disappointing many women veterans and active-duty personnel. And following a series of high-profile departures in recent weeks, the U.S. military was without a single woman in a four-star general or admiral leadership position.

The U.S. military has struck more than 30 targets in Yemen since Saturday, part of the Trump administration's new campaign of airstrikes targeting Iran-backed Houthi rebels, a terrorist group that has halted international shipping for more than a year.

Sailors will be able to identify and neutralise mines and other underwater threats in safer conditions thanks to the delivery of new cutting-edge countermeasure systems. The Royal Navy now has the use of a 12m uncrewed surface vessel (USV) called Ariadne, a sophisticated payload and remote command centre – all when combined will mean mines can be rapidly detected in a more cost-effective and safer manner than previously.

The Royal Navy has struck a £5.4m hit to drug traffickers after HMS Lancaster pounced in the Middle East. In the navy's first bust of 2025, sailors and Royal Marines from the Portsmouth-based warship seized – and subsequently destroyed – heroin

It would be a striking building and form a great first impression on every Recruit entering *Cerberus* to commence their career, particularly if the landscaping component of the project can include a well-lit bronze statue of Teddy Sheean VC, firing HMAS *Armada*'s Oerlikon Gun at the entrance of the building! Hopefully I'll be there to cut the ribbon in 10 years time!

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

OUR MARCH HERO



Captain Emile Frank Verlaine Dechaineux **DSC MiD U.S. Legion of Merit**

Emile Frank Verlaine Dechaineux was born in Launceston, Tasmania, to a Belgian-born father, Florent Dechaineux, and an Australian mother. He entered the Royal Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay at the age of 14, graduated three years later, and was promoted to midshipman in 1920.

At the outbreak of World War II, Dechaineux was attached to the RN Tactical and Minesweeping divisions until April 1940. Then, as the commander of the destroyer HMS *Vivacious*, he made five trips to assist Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Dunkirk.

On 26 May the ship was allocated to Dynamo. At first, deployed from Dover, on 27 May the ship patrolled the beaches off Dunkirk, providing general anti-aircraft cover and protecting against fast E-boat attacks while scores of vessels crossed the mercifully semi-calm

Channel in evacuation. The pleasure steamer Mona's Isle, for example, now fitted out as an armed boarding vessel, was amongst the many. But her machineguns were no match for the attacking aircraft and occasional ship of the enemy: she was bombed as she reached the open sea outside Britain, and 40 on board were killed. This was the new and dangerous world of Dechaineux in action for the first time.

The next day the destroyer made two trips from Dunkirk to Dover, bringing out 326 men in the first trip and 359 in the second.

[Continue reading about this outstanding hero.....](#)



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. If possible, list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age. Thank you.

- † POME R.G.S. Christie, R63827, 28 March 2025. Aged 77.
- † STD R.A. Roberts, R66523, March 2025. Aged 76.
- † AB G.S. Quinn, R/51324, 25 March 2025. Aged 88.
- † CPOMED D.W. Hale, R106027, 22 March 2025. Aged 79.
- † ERA R.J.C. Garner, R42315, 21 March 2025. Aged 82.
- † NSA R.W. Shaw, R43442, 20 March 2025. Aged 74.
- † CAPT V. M. Thompson, 18 March 2025. Aged 67.
- † POEWR C. Hakkennes, R59792, 14 March 2025. Aged 81.
- † CPOBM M.I. Harris, March 2025.
- † EMP I. M. Galloway, R62854, March 2025. Aged 80.
- † WOWTR D.M. Benfield, R42582, 10 March 2025. Aged 78.
- † RADM A.L. Hunt, 09 March 2025. Aged 86.
- † CEAC E.J.C. Bannister, R54328, 08 March 2025. Aged 86.
- † POSV A.M.T. Maloney, R56524, 08 March 2025. Aged 85.
- † WOMED D.G. Moss, R108894, 07 March 2025. Aged 73.
- † LCDR R.L. Burge, R58635, 07 March 2025. Aged 81.
- † LAMAE A.J.L. Pavey, R62587, 08 February 2025. Aged 78.
- † POSBA K.N. O'Brien, R/36473, 09 December 2024. Aged 94.

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

Lest We Forget

and methamphetamine following a concerted effort which saw drones play a key role for the first time.

Navy has undertaken the most comprehensive upgrade of its first response medical training in more than a quarter of a century. From February, Navy medics undergoing higher learning will now complete the Extended Care Medics Course.

Aviation technician aircraft Able Seaman Georgia Spulnik-Ross has been recognised as one of Australian Defence Magazine's (ADM) 30 under 30 recipients for 2025. Able Seaman Spulnik-Ross was honoured for her technical expertise, proactive approach to problem-solving, and commitment to excellence in her field.

Russian, Chinese and Iranian naval ships are drilling together in the Gulf of Oman as part of an annual exercise. Meanwhile the Russian Pacific Fleet's flagship, cruiser RFS Varyag (011) and corvette RFS Sovershenny (333) departed Vladivostok on Tuesday for a deployment to the Asia Pacific.

A routine run for three sailors in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens turned into a real-life first aid exercise, after they helped an injured civilian who had broken her wrist. Able Seaman Bharatkumar (Brett) Thumar, Leading Seaman Chris Hughes and Leading Seaman Allyson Marsh used skills they had learned in training to help Liz Cumming as they saw her getting out of a car.

Thirty-six organisations across Australia will share in more than \$575,000 of funding under Batch 2 of the 2024-25 Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program.

2025 ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS' AWARDS

ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025



REMEMBERING GALLIPOLI: 110 YEARS

Use the Anzac Portal and other websites to research the Gallipoli campaign and the legend of the Anzacs to share their stories and experiences.

PRIZES

NATIONAL WINNER	\$5,000
STATE & TERRITORY WINNERS	\$3,000
SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNERS	\$2,000

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO ENTER
AND THE SELECTION CRITERIA GO TO

anzacportal.dva.gov.au/adsa

Each year, DVA is proud to host the Anzac Day Schools' Awards, a national competition recognising projects by students and teachers who engage with veterans and honour Australia's wartime history.

The theme of this year's Awards is *Remembering Gallipoli: 110 years*.

We encourage schools across Australia to investigate and learn about the experiences of those who served at Gallipoli to gain a greater understanding of Australia's role in the campaign, and our nation's broader involvement in the First World War.

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards allow students to explore different elements of wartime service, gain insight into key events in our military history and connect with their local veteran communities while respectfully honouring and developing a deeper understanding of their sacrifice.

There are a total of 14 awards, including \$5,000 for the national winner, \$3,000 for state and territory winners, and \$2,000 each for 5 special categories. We encourage students to collaborate on innovative and creative projects and help keep the memory of our service men and women alive for

Plymouth-based tech firm MSubs has launched the Royal Navy's first crewless submarine at Turnchapel Wharf. The goal of the project is to enhance the Royal Navy's experimentation with autonomous underwater systems.

Ultra Maritime Australia has been contracted to provide its hull-mounted sonar for the Royal Australian Navy's Hunter-class frigates.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia has kicked off local assembly of the first Multi Ammunition Softkill System (MASS) shipsets, destined for installation on Royal Australian Navy vessels.

South Korea suspended the training flights of air force aircraft and all live-fire drills following its fighter jets' accidental bombing of a civilian area, officials said Friday, posing a potential setback to its upcoming annual military training with the United States.

Earlier this month, the Australian government made its first payment of \$500 million toward eventually obtaining US nuclear-powered submarines under the 2021 AUKUS agreement. Because the submarine deal is unlikely to overcome budgetary, organizational, and personnel hurdles, that payment should be Australia's last.

From March 1, all transitioning full-time ADF personnel will receive a testimonial to recognise their contribution before their final date of full-time service. The testimonial will provide details of the member's performance, knowledge, skills and experience during their career and final posting. Director General Joint Transition Authority Air Commodore Kaarin Kooij said respect and recognition played a key

future generations.

For more details about how to enter and the selection criteria, visit the [Anzac Portal](#) where you can review [last year's winners](#).

Entries close 5 pm AEST on Thursday 29 May 2025.

HMAS Perth (I) Memorial officially opened.

On the 1st of March, 2025 the memorial was officially opened during a ceremony at the memorial by His Excellency Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia and Commander Dylan White RAN, Commanding Officer of HMAS Perth (III).



role in supporting every member through their transition journey.

The first regional presence deployment (RPD) for 2025 has opened HMAS Hobart to a number of training opportunities with counterparts from across the Indo-Pacific region. After departing Darwin in late January, Hobart participated in Exercise La Perouse, a French-led multilateral training activity in the Malacca, Sunda and Lombok straits around Indonesia.

A U.S. aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Sunday in a show of force, days after North Korea test-launched cruise missiles to demonstrate its counterattack capabilities.

Leading Seaman Summer Vardy received a letter of Commendation for exemplary service while deployed to Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain. It was presented by Commander of United States Naval Forces Central Command and Commander Combined Maritime Forces Vice-Admiral George M Wikoff.

This tiny island on Japan's western frontier has no chain convenience stores. Nature lovers can dive with hammerhead sharks and watch miniature horses graze on a hill. But the wooded mountain ranges now carry radar sites. A southern cattle ranch has been replaced with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Camp Yonaguni. Japan and its ally, the United States, hold joint military exercises here. Plans are underway to add a new missile unit and expand a small airport and port.

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