



# BROADSIDE

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## Editorial

### FLYING STATIONS II The Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm 1998-2022

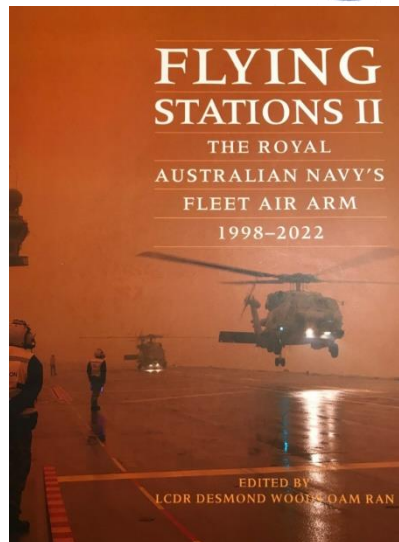
Edited by Lieutenant Commander  
Desmond Woods OAM RAN

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5071

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Reviewed by **CMDR David Hobbs MBE RN (Ret'd)**, (former RN FAA  
pilot and highly regarded naval historian and author of many books on naval aviation.)

In 1998 Allen & Unwin published *Flying Stations* to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm in 1947. It was edited by Mike Lehan, Director of what was then the Australian Naval Aviation Museum run by a Foundation Trust and written by a team of experts and historians, many of whom had first-hand experience of the events they described. In 2006 the RAN resumed full control of the Museum and restored its original name, the Fleet Air Arm Museum. *Flying Stations* had a picture on the dust jacket painted by the late David Marshall which depicted an S-2E Tracker of 816 NAS landing on HMAS Melbourne with flight deck personnel and a parked Sea King helicopter of 817 NAS in the foreground, clear of the wingtip safety line. The island is depicted to the left of the picture. The foreword was written by Admiral Sir Victor Smith AC KBE CB DSC who referred to the pride he felt in having served as an observer and in being associated with the Fleet Air Arm's



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## Events Calendar

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



11 Nov – Remembrance Day Service

18 Nov – Recruit School graduation  
(night)

19 Nov – HMAS Sydney  
Commemorative Service

20 Nov – HMAS Goorangai  
Commemorative Service (Queenscliff)

30 Nov – Soundwaves concert

01 Dec – HMAS Armidale  
Commemorative service

05 Dec – Pearl Harbor Remembrance  
service

08 Dec – Defence Force School of Music  
concert



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establishment and development. He predicted that in due course there would be a sequel and *Flying Stations II* exactly fulfils that expectation. It has been published by the RAN Fleet Air Arm in association with Avonmore Books to mark its 75th anniversary and continue the story.

Like its predecessor, this book has no single author but contains text which, in many cases, was written by people who took part in the events they describe. The material has been expertly edited by Desmond Woods to create a chronological narrative with added chapters enlarging upon specific subjects. The earlier volume made use of black and white images but its successor takes advantage of improved printing technology to include a large number of coloured images, often several to a page, and many of them are the work of Navy photographers and imagery specialists. The result is a beautifully-illustrated volume that captures the spirit of the Fleet Air Arm from the perspectives of its history, aircraft and people during the period from 1998 to the present. The foreword is written by Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC, a former Captain of HMAS *Albatross* who was Commander of the Australian Naval Aviation Group between 2005 and 2008. He draws attention to Sir Victor Smith's comments and adds that *Flying Stations II* is the current generation's account of 'what has been occurring at sea, ashore, on operations and deployments in war and peace in the Fleet Air Arm'. This exactly describes what the book achieves so well.

To say that this book is impressive is an understatement as there is so much to engage readers' attention. The picture on the dust jacket is a photograph that has been chosen with care to complement David Marshall's original painting. It is taken from the same perspective and shows MH-60R Seahawks of 816 NAS landing on HMAS *Adelaide* during Operation Bush Fire Assist in early 2020. Again, the island is to the left and flight deck personnel are stood clear of the wingtip safety line watching the aircraft. Smoke from the fires burning ashore gives the image a distinctive burnt orange colour which, together with the aircraft lights reflecting on the wet deck, makes the image stand out. The book is divided into five chapters and an appendix. They are preceded by informative pages which list Commanders of the Fleet Air Arm under the various titles used since 1998, commanding officers of HMAS *Albatross*, RANAS Nowra, and the badges of units in existence during the period described. A thoughtful touch is the inclusion, on page 10, of an illustration of the 75th Anniversary shoulder patch.

## VIDEOS.....

- *Lack of support given to defence personnel likened to 'genocide'*
- *HMAS Adelaide Marine Technicians*
- *HMAS Glenelg Decommissioning*
- *Submariner Command Course*



## NEWS.....

*A Navy chef with diverse experience in restaurants, cruise ships, food trucks and the mining industry has integrated smoothly into a tight-knit chef team on board the destroyer HMAS Hobart.*

*Australia is in style inside the Washington beltway. While AUKUS might not yet have a slogan like the 'Throw another shrimp on the barbie' that characterised earlier rounds of American Australophilia, it h*

*After a year of intense research, the head of the 350-strong nuclear-powered submarine taskforce is confident the Royal Australian Navy will be equipped with SSNs.*

*The Department of Defence has refuted claims it plans to permanently block public access to the popular Beecroft Peninsula on the New South Wales South Coast.*

*Tensions rise as the two Koreas exchange warning shots along maritime border.*

*Defence bosses are promising new employment perks as the Australian military struggles to overcome "significant challenges" to meet ambitious recruitment and retention targets.*

*China's Accelerated Timeline to*

Chapter One contains a chronology of events from October 1998 to March 2022. It is, therefore, as up to date as it can be at the time of publication. Events are covered in the order in which they occurred and the text is enhanced by carefully selected photographs of the people, aircraft and ships involved. There are also short service histories of some personalities which, apart from paying due respect to the individuals concerned, help to give the book a feeling of 'family'. The Fleet Air Arm has never been a large organisation but the descriptions of its many and varied activities tell a fascinating story. They are as diverse as aid to civilians in fire and flood situations in Australia, humanitarian aid overseas, rescues at sea and combat operations. There are, of course, many ceremonies, displays and other events that occur on a regular basis and it would be impractical to include them all but the editor has carefully chosen examples that are both illustrative and interesting. Whilst this book ideally captures the spirit of the moment in marking a significant anniversary, it deserves to be recognised as an invaluable resource for telling the Fleet Air Arm's story in an accessible way for many years to come. The appendix complements the text by listing the 76 members of the Fleet Air Arm who have been awarded Australia Day, Queen's Birthday Honours and foreign awards between 1998 and 2022.

After the chronological history in the first chapter there are three chapters which cover specific subjects in greater detail, all written by people who were intimately involved with them. Chapter 2 describes how a combination of factors led to the cancellation of the Seasprite project after the type had been evaluated and found wanting between 1997 and 2006. Imaginatively, in Chapter 3 the editor has included the stories of RAN aircrew who flew on long-term exchange programmes with the Royal Navy, the Royal New Zealand Navy and the United States Coast Guard. Some of these are remarkable stories in their own right and together they add to the completeness of the activities covered by the book besides allowing comparisons to be made with other air arms. Chapter 4 builds on the description of the tragic loss of Sea King *Shark 02* in 2005 in the main text by giving details of the subsequent Board of Enquiry and ends with a photograph of the Sea King Memorial at Russell Offices in Canberra. The last chapter describes a visit to 817 NAS, *Shark 02*'s parent unit, by a reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald* in August 2006 which revealed how the unit had been re-built as a team after the Sea King's loss.

*Take Taiwan Pushing Navy in the Pacific, Says CNO Gilday.*

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

*The mother of a veteran who took his own life has called on the federal government to "fix" the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, saying it's hamstrung by parliamentary privilege protections.*

*About 170 ADF personnel are providing support to the State Emergency Service in Victoria as La Niña continues its deluge across the nation.*

*Established in 2011, the Navy Clearance Diver Trust exists to provide support for life for serving and ex-serving clearance divers and their dependants.*

*U.S. Navy Supports Australia's Indo-Pacific Deployment Alongside Canada, Japan in the South China.*

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

*INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) on October 14, 2022. The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced in a statement:*

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

I was delighted to be able to add an early copy of this outstanding book to my library. Not only would I highly recommend it, I would go further and say that I cannot understand why anyone with a connection or interest in the Fleet Air Arm would not want to own a copy. It will, of course, also be of considerable value to anyone following the evolution of the RAN during the twenty-first century. The editor has carefully selected and used both text and illustrations in a way that allows the reader to be absorbed into the recent history of a tightly-knot, gallant and resourceful organisation that has achieved success in a variety of different ways. One day there will be a *Flying Stations III*; I hope its editor will do as well.

**Note:** Ordering copies of the book can be done through the FAA Museum Director Mr Stuart Harwood [stuart.harwood@defence.gov.au](mailto:stuart.harwood@defence.gov.au)

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](#). If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † WRROT D.G. Pegler (McLoughlin), W106225, 25 October 2022. Aged 70.
- † LCDR K.J. Vote, O.2679, 22 October 2022. Aged 76.
- † AB A.D. Garwood, PM8547, 20 October 2022. Aged 96.
- † NS1 R.L. Asquith, R56772, 18 October 2022. Aged 82.
- † CMDR B.F. Matthews, A37052, 17 October 2022. Aged 94.
- † CAPT H.E.F. Tooth, 07 October 2022. Aged 85.
- † AB P.D. Laphorne, H1785, 06 October 2022. Aged 99.
- † WOMUSN A. Bekendam, 06 October 2022. Aged 65.
- † POAH L.J. McDonald, R/50547, 05 October 2022. Aged 85.
- † CERA G.A. Lucev, R43594, 03 October 2022. Aged 70.
- † WO R.J. Gilmour, R55105, 03 October 2022. Aged 81.
- † CPOCK(O) T.H. Fowler, PM5187, 03 October 2022. Aged 103.
- † POCK B. Shipley, R66529, 01 October 2022. Aged 72.
- † CPOEAW T.E. Thornett, R/51577, 27 September 2022. Aged 86.

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

**Lest We Forget**

*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.*

*The United States Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is tasked with creating a solution to intercept enemy Hypersonic Glide Bodies (HGB) that threaten allied naval and maritime vessels and interests.*

*The United States and its allies want a force of 100 unmanned surface vessels patrolling waters from the Red Sea into the Persian Gulf by next summer, the commander of U.S. 5th Fleet said on Tuesday.*

*The Royal Australian Navy has decommissioned Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS Glenelg at HMAS Coonawarra, Darwin following 14 years of service.*

*A Russian Navy submarine that carries bus-sized nuclear torpedoes was spotted in the Arctic after sparking headlines earlier this week over fears of a nuclear weapons test, according to new photos published on Wednesday.*

*North Korea launched two ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters on Thursday, as the United States redeployed one of its aircraft carriers near the Korean Peninsula in response to the North's recent launch of a powerful missile over Japan.*

*Australians on a pension will today be waking up to see a boost in their bank accounts, thanks to the largest pension indexation increase in more*

## OUR OCTOBER HERO

### Admiral Sir Victor Alfred Trumper Smith AC KBE CB DSC



Victor Smith was born on 9 May 1913 at Chatswood, NSW, to George and Una Smith (nee Trumper). He was the second of three children and christened Victor Alfred Trumper. Victor and Alfred were his parent's brothers – uncle Victor Trumper being the famous Australian cricketer.

Smith was educated at Chatswood public primary school, then at Chatswood High for a year during which he passed the entry exams for the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay.

Smith was a keen student and enjoyed sports such as rugby, tennis, and swimming. He also had an interest in music and was active in the local Chatswood Wolf Cub Pack, where one of their instructors, a Lieutenant Commander Sims, taught the Pack bends and hitches and telling stories about naval life. This was the starting point for Smith's interest in the navy, an interest that grew as he sought more information, further influenced by a teacher with a son at Jervis Bay who spoke to him about the Navy. He entered the Royal Australian Naval College in 1927 as a Cadet Midshipman.

In 1931 he was posted to HMAS Canberra, then in May 1932 he went on the Orient Line RMS Otranto to the Mediterranean to join HMS London, the Flagship of the First Cruiser Squadron, at Malta. An exciting time occurred when he was sent on a two-week course to HMS Glorious, the aircraft carrier in the Med Fleet. Smith found the air course to be engaging and full of interest. The advantages of an aircraft carrier to the fleet were immediately apparent and the duties of the Fleet Air Arm officers fired his enthusiasm with the realisation that aircraft were to play an increasingly important role in the navy. The experience on Glorious was a major influence in his decision to specialise in naval aviation. His story is continued in our [Heroes Section.....](#)

*than 12 years and the largest increase to allowances in three decades.*

*HMAS Glenelg added one last rescue to the ship's log during their final port visit to Cairns before decommissioning. On the evening of September 24, Petty Officer Boatswain Daniel Leschke was on the bridge wing and noticed a vessel in the harbour had lost propulsion and a strange smell.*

*From this week, Veterans, war widows and widowers living in residential aged care will benefit from expanded access to clinically necessary allied health care services and rehabilitation aids and appliances, regardless of the level of care they are receiving.*

*A military judge on Friday acquitted a sailor of arson in a fire that destroyed the USS Bonhomme Richard, a blow to the Navy as it faces allegations of improper training and maintenance of the \$1.2 billion amphibious assault ship.*

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

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

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