



BROADSIDE

October 2023

Volume 13 Edition 10

Editorial



70 YEARS ON FROM THE KOREAN WAR

On 27th July, Korean Veterans' Day, we paid tribute to the service of Australians who fought in the Korean War, and marked 70 years since the Armistice was signed to effectively end the conflict.

The Korean War began on 25th June, 1959, when North Korea (People's Democratic Republic of Korea) launched an invasion of South Korea (Republic of Korea) in an attempt to unify the country under its communist government.

Popular public opinion is that only the Army fought in Korea.

Nine Australian Ships altogether were sent to the operational theatres in Korea – *Anzac*, *Tobruk*, *Bataan* and *Warramunga* each having two tours of duty, while *Sydney*, *Culgoa*, *Condamine*, *Murchison* and *Shoalhaven* each made an operational tour.

R.A.N. Ships steamed some 463,000 miles and their main armament fired more than 26,000 rounds. R.A.N. Aircraft dropped about 1000 bombs, fired over 300,000 rounds of 20mm. shells and launched many thousands of rockets. A total of 311 Officers and 4196 Sailors served in the area, and thirty-two were awarded decorations.

In October 1951, Australia's first Aircraft Carrier HMAS *Sydney* arrived in Korean waters for a difficult three-month tour of duty through a harsh winter. She carried two squadrons of Sea Furies – 805 and 808 Squadrons RAN and 817 Squadron RAN, equipped with Fireflies. Operating off the East Coast in appalling weather, and launching her aircraft by catapult, *Sydney* survived a typhoon and dispatched 2,700 strikes against North Korean targets in one month for the loss of nine aircraft.

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Events Calendar

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

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11 Nov – 1100 – Remembrance Day Ceremony – Shrine Sanctuary

19 Nov – 1200 – HMAS Sydney Service – Shrine Sanctuary

22 Nov 1400 & 1900 – Soundwaves Concert – HMAS Cerberus cinema complex

26 Nov – 1100 – HMAS Goorangi Service – Queenscliff

27 Nov – 1800 – NHSA(Vic) Xmas Celebration Dinner – Waverley RSL

01 Dec – 1000 – HMAS Armidale Service – Shrine Sanctuary

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Latest Videos, Podcasts
and News Headlines

Keep up to date on all the news

To the knowledge of the Navy Family in Victoria, only 8 Australian Navy Korean Veterans are still alive in Victoria.

- ✦ Able Seaman Gerald "Gerry" Ernest SHEPHERD, PM7582/R44368, aged 97. HMAS *Bataan* in both WWII and Korea. 253 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Able Seaman George Clifford COLEMAN, R38132, aged 95. HMAS *Condamine*. 283 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Stoker Mechanic (Paid off as LSTO) John Henry BOYER, R28486, aged 95. HMAS *Bataan* and HMAS *Arunta*. 593 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Stoker Mechanic Arthur James "Cockie" ROACH, R28748, aged 93. HMAS *Sydney*. 176 days service in Korea. Life Member of Korea Veterans Association Australia Inc.
- ✦ Able Seaman (Paid off as PO) Kenneth William "Pony" MOORE, R36385, aged 93. HMAS *Bataan* and HMAS Murchison. 558 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Stoker Mechanic Henry Milton HOE, R39304, aged 92. HMAS *Anzac*. 294 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Stoker Mechanic Ronald Leslie CHRISTIE, R37007, aged 92. HMAS *Sydney*. 176 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Stores Assistant (Paid off as CMDR RANR) John Munro MOLLER OAM, R37963 / S61239. Sadly, passed away 10 September 2023, aged 91. HMAS *Sydney*. 176 days service in Korea.
- ✦ Able Seaman Reginald Ralph WOLLMER, R44068, aged 90. HMAS *Murchison*. 257 days service in Korea.

The Korea Veterans Association Australia Inc (Victorian Chapter) with amazing support from The Consul General Korean War Veterans (Vic) provide invaluable support to the Korea Veterans and their Families and still publish an excellent Quarterly Magazine, 'The Voice'.

On ANZAC Day, the ANZAC Day Parade in Melbourne was proudly led by three Australian Korea Veterans in an open car. CMDR John

by visiting our website:

<https://navyvic.net>

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VIDEOS.....

- *Able Seaman Boatswains Mate Kaibariki Tapera*
- *Exercise Cyber Sentinels*
- *Fallen Australian inspires Team Canada piper*
- *HMAS Toowoomba arriving in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*
- *Guardian-class Patrol Boat Handover*
- *HMAS Toowoomba - Helicopter Transfer Exercise*
- *HMAS Albatross visited by Supercars Driver Cameron Hill*
- *HMAS Toowoomba prepares for RPD*
- *HMAS Toowoomba Darwin Departure*
- *Britain's nuclear bomb guinea pigs: The untold story*

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NEWS shorts.....

AUKUS Sub Sale Will Cause 10-Year Dip in U.S. Attack Boat Inventory, Says Congressional Budget Office

Standing on the roof of the world, Lieutenant Commander John Dover spoke to his wife at base camp three and a half kilometres below.

Seaman Vimbayi Hakutangwi is hoping to inspire others, particularly young women, to pursue a career in Defence and show it doesn't have to come at the expense of achieving personal goals. Enlisted through the ADF Gap Year Navy program, Seaman Hakutangwi is currently balancing her ambitions of

MOLLER OAM, RFD, RD, RANR Rtd, John MUNRO OAM, RFD, E, Army and Lloyd KNIGHT, Air Force.

On Sunday 23rd April, 2023, in preparation for the 70th Anniversary of the cease-fire of the Korean War, all Korea Veterans including Carers and Families were invited to a property in Kew where the Consul General Korean War Veterans Photoshoot was held. 26 Veterans had their photographs taken and on the 70th Anniversary, after a moving service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, each Veteran was presented with a framed collage of their individual photographs by the Consul General personally, Mr Changhoon YI at a Luncheon at the Pulman Hotel, Queens Road, Melbourne.



Montage for LSTO John BOYER



Navy Veterans at their Christmas Party at Glenroy RSL

Back Row. L-R: "Cocky" ROACH, Milton HOE, Ron CHRISTIE

Front Row. L-R: George COLEMAN, John MOLLER, John BOYER

Adrift: Ralph WOLLMER, "Pony" MOORE, Gerry SHEPHERD.

As all Ship Associations associated with the Korean War are now closed down due to dwindling numbers, these brave humble men could not be in better hands.

The Bombardment of Chinampo

by John Boyer 28486 HMAS Bataan
(edited version)



Response to a new threat.

becoming a clearance diver with a 'passion for fashion', competing as a finalist in the Miss Universe Australia competition.

Warships from the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand took part earlier this week in a multilateral exercise following a recent spat between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.

Unmanned Surface Vessel Division One's (USVDIV-1) unmanned surface vessels (USVs) Ranger, Mariner, Seahawk and Sea Hunter arrived in Sydney, Australia, for a scheduled port visit October 24 ahead of their participation in bilateral exercises with the Royal Australian Navy.

After a busy three months, Indo-Pacific Endeavour's Vietnamese leg has wrapped up, coinciding with 50 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam.

The Australian Government is committed to a potent, enduring and agile submarine capability, and will use an independent assurance activity to inform the life-of-type extension of the Collins class submarine fleet.

The United States renewed a warning Monday that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a 1951 treaty, after Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

AUKUS's three pillars of uncertainty: sovereignty, strategy and costs.

With the entry of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) into the Korean War, the UN forces became hopelessly outnumbered and a general retreat began along the entire front. HMAS *Bataan*, having already been detached from the US 7th Fleet and ready to return to Australia, was immediately ordered to sail to the west coast of Korea and commence patrol operations at the mouth of the Yalu River, the border between Manchuria and North Korea.

On the 4th of December, 1950, *Bataan* was ordered to proceed to the Taedong River estuary and join her sister ship HMAS *Warramunga*, three Canadian destroyers (HMC Ships *Cayuga*, *Athabaskan* and *Sioux*) and the American destroyer, USS *Forrest B Royal*. In total darkness and being blacked out, the ships dropped anchor and the captains held a conference on *Cayuga*, being the senior ship, to decide what moves would be appropriate given the present situation. Communication with the threatened forces in Chinampo confirmed the decision to proceed up river to cover and assist in the evacuation of the UN troops.

A nightmare journey begins

At 2200 the order was given to sail and so began a nightmare journey. A blinding snowstorm immediately enveloped the vessels making visual observation impossible. Each navigating officer would have his ability and skill tested to the utmost facing the hazards that lay ahead.

The available charts were old and probably no longer accurate. The treacherous eddy and flow of the river current meant constant wheel changes by the ever-alert helmsman. Mud banks, large and small, and the varying depth of the riverbed all contributing to a most unpleasant voyage. Added to this were the minefields. Uncharted and unknown, this was the most serious threat to face each ship.

Within an hour of departure, *Sioux* signalled that she had run aground and was stuck fast. Shortly after that *Warramunga* suffered the same fate and both ships were left to their own devices, being advised not to attempt to refloat until daybreak.

The remaining destroyers cautiously carried on with their mission, and after long and nerve-racking hours, finally arrived at Chinampo at 0400. It had taken six hours to traverse the 45 kilometres. It was a tired but relieved crew that settled down at relaxed action stations to await the coming daylight.

Astonishment is the only way to describe the feeling of those on board when it was realised that the entire city was ablaze with lights. Frenzied activity was taking place along the whole of the waterfront. After being in near total darkness and restricted to minimum physical movement, it took some time for the scene to register. The morning light began to reveal what was actually occurring. Equipment was being swung inboard and lowered into the holds of waiting craft, orderly lines of troops making their way along the jetties and up gangways onto transports. Individuals in khaki were rushing backwards and forwards indicating with their arms at who knows what. Then, as the sun rose higher, another drama began to unfold. Further along the waterfront, away from the controlled loading of the troops and equipment, were several jetties jammed with panic-stricken civilians.

Victoria's Point Wilson Wharf to accelerate guided weapons for the ADF.

A Philippine supply boat collided on Sunday with a China Coast Guard vessel attempting to block it during an operation to resupply the grounded LST BRP Sierra Madre (LS57) at Second Thomas Shoal in the disputed Spratly Islands.

The Australian Government has listed the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessel (OPV) program as a Defence Project of Concern.

HMS Victory £45m restoration in nick of time as experts find wood 'turned to compost'.

Veterans claim they have uncovered evidence of the "systematic abuse" of Australia's honours and awards system that has allowed senior commanders, including current Defence Force Chief General Angus Campbell, to be wrongly awarded "distinguished service" medals for decades.

China's nuclear arsenal has more than doubled in the last three years, amid what a senior Pentagon official calls a "major expansion of their nuclear forces."

A U.S. Navy warship on Thursday took out three missiles and several drones that had been fired from Yemen and were heading north, the Pentagon said.

A bipartisan group of senators is appealing to the White House to release Pentagon cost estimates related to the submarine-industrial base as the Biden administration and Congress move to implement AUKUS, the

The death of innocent civilians

To escape the oncoming Chinese troops, they had fled towards the river and were trying to board the small craft tied to the wharves. In the mad rush to get to the boats some were pushed off the wharves. Others fell, while still others were carried over by the constant surge of people behind them. Others were trampled on, some were crushed between the pier poles and the boats and even then, after making the sanctuary of the craft, some were bodily thrown overboard to make room for others following behind.

It was complete chaos and the onlookers could only stare in disbelief at what was happening, unable to intervene. On the river, large and small vessels were scurrying downstream as fast as they could. A constant flow of humanity sailing past the anchored warships with one common purpose - Escape!

Suddenly it was realised that many small boats were making their way towards the destroyers, no doubt seeing them as a means of rescue. Unfortunately for these poor people, the warships could not cope with an influx of such numbers. The Canadians, being closest inshore, were first to react. Fire hoses were directed at the oncoming craft with immediate and disastrous effect. The leading boats took the initial blast of water and the occupants began a mad scramble to the rear to dodge the water jets. This caused the stern to dip and in no time, water began to pour in.

Knowing their boat was doomed they tried to move forward again, but were caught in a fight with those who had stayed put. Then the boat sank and its entire load was now struggling in the water. Being dressed in heavy winter clothing, some soon disappeared from sight. Others now tried to swim to the nearest boat but were quickly dissuaded by those onboard, who beat their hands or hit them to make them let go.

In an effort to escape the freezing jets of water, the following boats tried to turn around and some were rammed. Others were flooded and more people went into the icy river. The whole scene could not have lasted for five minutes but it was long enough for other escapees to know there was no rescue to be had. For several minutes pathetic bundles drifted slowly downstream before finally sinking below the surface. And still, oblivious to the happenings around them, fleeing ships went downstream ignoring the cries for help from those unable to leave.

Disquieted, the crews are called to action

For the destroyer crews going about the various duties there was a feeling of disquiet. They were witnessing the other side of the coin of war, and they were unable to change what was unfolding. Then, at 1600 the signal was received that the evacuation of the 8000 American and South Korean troops had been successfully completed and the transports were already leaving.

Another signal was then transmitted saying, "Destroy everything that could be of use to the enemy." Then came the announcement "Hands will go to action stations at 1630." Every man on board began to ready himself to carry out his allotted task when the time came. At 1630 the order was given, "Hands to action stations." And the waiting began.

trilateral submarine-sharing pact with Britain and Australia.

Protected against the elements by what must be the world's largest black bin bag, this is a huge section of HMS Dreadnought on the move. In fact, this section of the first of the Submarine Service's next-generation strategic deterrent boats is the largest segment or 'mega unit' of Dreadnought yet completed.

Navy's first cohort of coaches trained in-house and in line with international and national standards has been hailed as a milestone.

More than 100 people attended the West Head gunnery range at Flinders, Victoria, for the final firing and decommissioning of the 76mm medium calibre gun (MCG), marking the end of more than three decades of service at the range.

With the rapidly developing landscape of defence technology, it is essential that Navy training materials and capabilities reflect this continually evolving environment. In this field, the Navy Training Force Multimedia Unit (TFMU) is the definition of a small team with a large footprint.

All ADF personnel will receive a pay rise of 11.2 per cent over three years after the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal agreed to the latest Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) on October 3. Under the WRA 2023-26, personnel will receive the increase to their salary and salary-related allowances with no loss of conditions of service. The increase will be distributed as 4 per cent in year one, 3.8 per cent

Enduring images of war: an eyewitness account

An uneasy calm seemed to settle over the scene as those on board prepared for their next task. At 1700 the order was given "Commence firing." Immediately the silence shattered as broadsides fired from the ships, each shell landing into a preselected target area. With each blast the destroyers rocked and heeled. Asbestos began to fall from pipes and trunking in the mess decks and the other spaces where the material was in use.

Following a direct hit ashore, an enormous smoke-ring mushroomed skywards. It was huge and it rose majestically upwards. It stayed visible for a long time before finally dissipating and losing its shape high in the still atmosphere. The shelling continued unabated, the orange and yellow shell bursts preceding the clouds of dust and smoke.

As the firing went on the smell of cordite began to permeate the entire ship. Mess decks, magazines, store-rooms, boiler rooms, engine room, all compartments being filled with the acrid fumes. Asbestos dust now floated lazily about and covered most flat surfaces.

The noise of the gunfire was deafening. There was the heavy blast of the 4.7 inch, the lighter crack of the 4.0 inch, the peculiar 'cough, cough, cough' of the 40mm bofors, and the rapid 'pmmf, pmmf, pmmf' of the 20mm pom poms, all adding their own contribution to the cacophony of thunderous sound.

Fires were now beginning to show ashore. Some were large, some small - all starting to burn out of control. Slowly and efficiently the calculated placement of shot was not only destroying the targeted area, but was providing the fires with a steady supply of material to burn, assisting in the destruction of the city.

Darkness fell quickly and now the fires were becoming the focal point of the operation. Explosion after explosion hurled flaming debris high into the darkness. It fell back into the raging inferno below. Tracer shells glowing red sped through the dark and disappeared into the flames. The whole waterfront was now ablaze. At 2000 came the order "Cease firing." The guns fell silent and an eerie hush prevailed.

To the onlookers the scene was awesome. As far as the eye could see in either direction was one unbroken wall of flames. Their reflections danced on the inky black waters and a bright red glow dominated the skyline. For several minutes those responsible surveyed the results of the bombardment, then it was time to leave.

One by one the ships slipped away from the devastation and began the journey downstream. There was no jubilation or bravado amongst the crew. There was subdued talk. Snatches of quiet conversation like "Point blank range," "Just like target practice," "Couldn't miss at that range," and "God help those poor bastards ashore," seemed to sum up the mood of those on board.

Fifty years on: a symbol of hope

On the 25 June 2001, I attended the annual Korean War Memorial service held at the Korean Uniting Church in Malvern. For the first time in years, I felt that

in year two and 3.4 per cent in year three.

Almost 6000 current and former defence members, their family members and experts have made submissions to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. There were at least 1600 deaths by suicide within the defence community between 1997 and 2020, about 20 times the number killed in active duty over the same period.

Under the Modernisation Program, DVA is working to improve the claiming process in MyService. We are pleased to announce that from Sunday 15 October 2023 you will see some new features in MyService. The following improvements will first be applied to Initial Liability claims, but over time you will see these changes applied to other claims.

Defence Space Command's six newly accredited Defence personnel are leading operations for Joint Commercial Operations (JCO-AUS). The operators, from across the ADF and Australian Public Service (APS), recently completed their JCO200 qualification course ahead of the cell's operational readiness review by a US Space Force strategic adviser on October 6.

The ADF welcomed its latest aviators to the skies following their graduation from 723 Squadron – Joint Helicopter School on September 29. The second cohort to graduate from the school this year included Navy and Army pilots and aviation warfare officers.

North Korea lashed out Friday at the arrival of a U.S. aircraft carrier battle group in South

here in this church was perhaps the reason for the wastage of Chinampo. The congregation were free to worship and live the life that was theirs by choice. At least that is what I hope.

Note: *This is an edited version of the original 2001 piece.
First published in 2001 in Do This in Remembrance: Healing the Wounds of War Addresses, Sermons and Scripts from the St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church Annual Memorial Service 1992-2001 (ed. John Bottomly)*

Turning to our commemorative program for November at the Shrine of Remembrance:

Legacy Remembrance Service

05 November 2023 11:00 am

A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of Australian Defence Force personnel and their families.

Second World War Forecourt

Watch Livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URQiaOFXPmM>

Remembrance Day

11 November 2023 10:30 am

Pause a minute to remember.

Shrine of Remembrance

Watch Livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BENb-Ue2wHM>

HMAS Sydney and Vietnam Logistic Support Unit

19 November 2023 12:00 pm

A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of those on HMAS Sydney I, II and III.

Sanctuary

Corvette Association / HMAS Armidale with Star of the Sea

01 December 2023 10:00 am

A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of those aboard HMAS Armidale.

Sanctuary

For information on all Shrine ceremonies:

Phone: 03 9661 8100

Email: ceremonies@shrine.org.au

Finally, do you have a DVA Veteran Gold Card?

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Items such as skin care, sun care, fibre supplements,



Korea, calling it a provocation and again raising the specter of using nuclear weapons to defend itself. Emboldened by its advancing nuclear arsenal, North Korea has increasingly issued threats to use such weapons preemptively.

Austral Australia has delivered the sixth of eight Evolved Cape-class Patrol Boats (ECCPB's) to the Royal Australian Navy. The vessel, ADV Cape Pillar, was officially accepted by the Commonwealth of Australia at Austal's Henderson, Western Australia shipyard.

Queensland's Kenilworth war memorial seems unremarkable to the average passerby. If you blink, you'll miss it, and even if you don't blink, you might still miss it. But a keener observer would notice that there are four services represented.

Petty Officer Cassandra Duncan always said her blood type 'B-Positive' is inspirational, but she was never sure if she could be a donor. Major complications following a routine surgery in 2015 resulted in massive haemorrhaging, and she was placed into an induced coma.

From steering MV Sycamore and Survival at Sea training, simulated parachuting and Fire Section demonstrations, the Australian Navy Cadets got a taste of all things maritime at their annual camp in September.

What will you be doing over the Christmas period this year?

Three current and former ADF members will be rowing for two hours on, two hours off, for six weeks, in a small boat across the Atlantic Ocean – with a bucket for a toilet. The 'Aussie Old

dressings, antifungal agents, joint pain, arthritis and many more medications for an assortment of ailments. We have a new page on our website that lists the pharmaceutical benefits you are entitled to if you have a Gold Card. This can possibly save you hundreds of dollars a year. Just go to our website <https://naavyoic.net> and click on "Gold Card" on the menu. There you will find a list of pharmacy medications available with a doctor's prescription to Gold Card veterans under the RPBS scheme. At the bottom of the page there is a link enabling you to download this list and print it out for future use.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

OUR OCTOBER HERO



LCDR Henry Albert Longdon HALL, MBE OAM MiD RAN

Henry "Nobby" Hall was one of the most decorated naval combat veterans of WWII, and after, in a long permanent navy career. His service spanned 1938 until 1981. He joined the Royal Australian Navy as an ordinary seaman second class and retired as an officer after 43

years of loyal and distinguished service. He was a member of the "vanishing present", one of the great generations, who dedicated his life to the naval profession. That same good citizenship continued with his active involvement as he contributed to the wider local community.

"Nobby" is the sobriquet given to all Halls who joined the services. Short of stature, intelligent and wise, he was feisty, as the occasion demanded, but no less effective or efficient. His speech was clear and direct, and his bark and bite were moderate in their application, often deservedly so. He was widely respected as a personality who was the very embodiment of the navy.

Henry was born in Sydney on April 4, 1922, joining the pre-war RAN at 16. After four years' service, as an able seaman, he found his baptism of fire in one of the crucial battles of WWII. It was during his draft to HMAS Canberra that he was a witness and participant at Savo Island in 1942. He was a range taker in the foremast of Canberra when it was crippled and sunk on August 9. For his heroic actions, he was mentioned in despatches (MiD).

Continue reading about this fascinating sailor at:
<https://naavyoic.net/heroes/hall.html>

Salts' are the only Australian team entered in the December 2023 'World's Toughest Row' – a trans-Atlantic Ocean crossing, out of a fleet of about 40 boats.

HMAS Hobart celebrated her sixth birthday in grand style on September 29, with family and friends invited on board 'the green ghost' to experience naval life and acknowledge the deep support from the home front at Fleet Base East, NSW.

HMAS Toowoomba has come of age, celebrating 18 years since commissioning. In true naval tradition, the ship's company celebrated Toowoomba reaching 'adulthood' with Commanding Officer Commander Darin MacDonald and the youngest crewmember on board, 19-year-old Seaman Jack Lefevre, cutting a cake using a naval sword.

The September 2021 announcement of Australia's transition to nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) under the AUKUS program indicated that 'at least eight' would be acquired. More recently, the rhetoric has firmed up to eight, with the program director telling a Senate committee in May that there would be three Virginia-class SSNs and five AUKUS SSNs.

Pets – close companions who love, share ups and downs and put a smile people's faces – play an important role in the lives of many. Acknowledging this, Navy Chaplain Stephen Briggs, of HMAS Moreton, has been conducting a 'blessing of the animals' service since 2017 to celebrate all living creatures.

The use of technology and the impact of increasing sugar

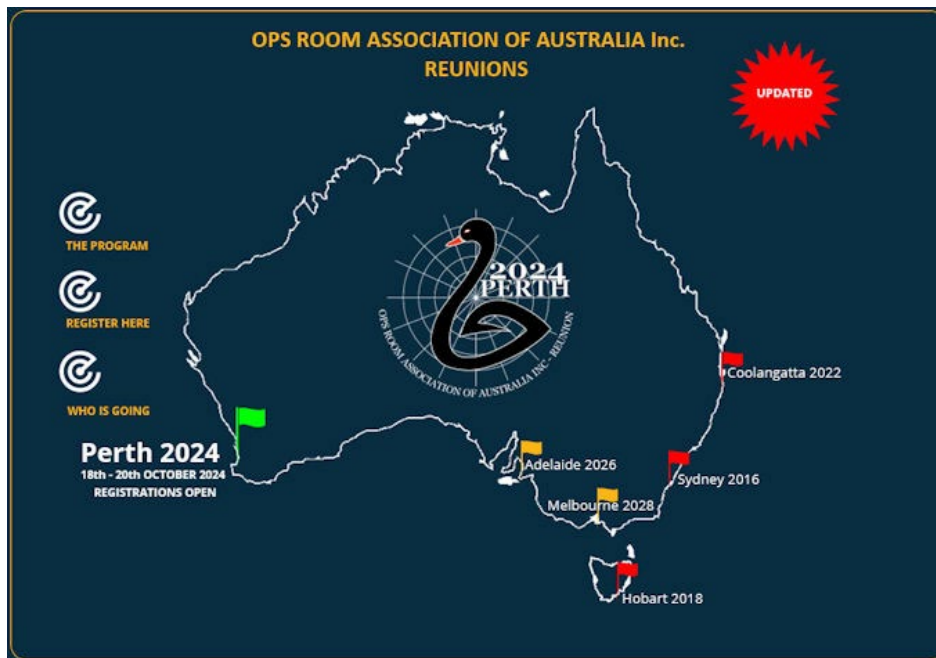


If you know of any of our Navy family who has crossed the bar and don't appear on our list below or Memorial Wall on our website, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). If possible, list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † ABMTPSM L.B. Cheetham, R96337, October 2023. Aged 71.
- † POMT A. Mills, S115297, 18 October 2023. Aged 67.
- † SAP R.J. Crofton, R42362, 13 October 2023. Aged 79.
- † ABWM C.R. Cooper R57935, 12 October 2023. Aged 81.
- † LSSE B.W. Flanagan, R54533, 10 October 2023. Aged 84.
- † ABSN A.A. Bathgate, 10 October 2023.
- † ABRP P.H. Banfield, R95806, 01 October 2023. Aged 72.
- † C.J. Freemantle, 01 October 2023. Aged 58.
- † AB G.H. Selkirk, NS3974, 29 September 2023. Aged 88.
- † SAP I.W. Irving, R42617, 27 September 2023. Aged 78.
- † CEAW(SM) J.W. Jackson, R37628, 23 September 2023. Aged 95.
- † CAPT J.A.P. Graham AM CSM, 25 August 2023. Aged 68.
- † WOMED B.J. Burnet, R55607, 17 August 2023. Aged 85.
- † ABSN D. Lowe, R93881, 27 June 2023. Aged 76.

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

Lest We Forget



For full details of the 2024 Reunion go to the [Ops Room Association website](#)

consumption were on the agenda when dentists from defence forces around the world met in Sydney to discuss oral health issues relevant to the military.

Traditionally crewed ships and aircraft teamed up with 12 unmanned platforms to conduct enhanced maritime security operations in the Strait of Hormuz last month. The exercise involved "tracking" Iranian navy and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps navy ships and small boats in the region, according to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. ADV Cape Woolamai has officially been welcomed to her homeport of HMAS Coonawarra, with a ceremony at Larrakeyah Defence Precinct on September 29.

The U.S. Navy's first Arleigh Burke-class Flight III guided-missile destroyer officially joined the fleet over the weekend. USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG-125) entered service in a commissioning ceremony in Tampa, Fla., on Saturday.

Exciting new careers await 13 Air Force and Navy student pilots from 271 ADF Pilots' Course, who graduated from 2 Flying Training School in September.

Driving digital transformation in the Defence sector to accelerate innovation and the delivery of new capabilities will be the focus for the inaugural Australian Digital Engineering Summit on November 17.

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