

# BROADSIDE

April 2020

Volume 10 Edition 4

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1150*



From Chief of Navy VADM Mike Noonan AO RAN

Dear Navy People and Families,

The Senior Leadership of our Navy has been working extremely hard over the last couple of months to adapt and iterate our work practices in light of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 Pandemic. This has included a large amount of work to balance the requirement of achieving Government directed tasking (deemed essential tasks), while meeting the National Guidelines for physical distancing and hygiene, to the greatest extent possible.

There have been many challenges to overcome in finding this balance, and I have been very proud of the resilience that you have all demonstrated to meet these challenges, no doubt strengthened by the support of your Families.

You are at the forefront of conducting activities that contribute to the security of Australia, while also supporting the evolving Whole of Government efforts. This work is vital – it is valued, not just in Navy, but at the highest levels of Government and by all Australians.

Nonetheless, I am also cognisant of the additional strain that social distancing is placing on our community and how this is exacerbated in our unique context, when loved ones are required to deploy, or work away from home location.

As your Chief of Navy, I know there is no greater responsibility than to ask my Sailors and Officers to deploy away from Family and

## Events Calendar

(see [Diary of Events](#) for full details)



**NOTE: NOTE:** Due to COVID-19, it is advisable to check with the coordinators to confirm whether the event you were planning to attend is still going ahead. We will endeavour to keep the Diary updated as news comes to hand. At present the Shrine of Remembrance is closed, but ceremonies are still being conducted and they are live streamed on the Shrine's [Facebook page](#).

**30 Apr** – On this day in 1915 - HMA Submarine AE2 scuttled in Sea of Marmara.

**01 May** – HMAS Castlemaine Service

**03 May** – Battle of Coral Sea Service

**08 May** – Victory in Europe Service

**13 May** – Soundwaves Concert

**14 May** – N Class Destroyer Service

**23 May** – Battle of Crete and Greek service

**31 May** – Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service

**01 Jun** – 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of HMAS Kuttabul

**03 Jun** – 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the USS Evans / HMAS Melbourne collision, 74 lives lost

## Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>



Friends during extraordinary times. I thank you all for supporting our People (and their Families) who are either preparing to deploy, or who are already at sea / overseas amidst the Pandemic. I specifically wish to send a heartfelt thanks to the Families of our deployed People for your continued understanding of our important missions, and for the sacrifices you continue to make to enable us to complete these essential tasks.

I am also very conscious that some of you may be unable to reconcile the ongoing deployment of our ships, with the health and wellbeing of our People and their Families. This presents us with three significant and important challenges at present: supporting the national COVID-19 pandemic response; supporting our Navy People and Families; and continuing to conduct essential training to ensure the ongoing availability and capability of our platforms.

To best achieve this balance, we have implemented a number of measures, around three key themes:

- reduced a large number of non-essential activities;
- implemented work from home and social distancing measures; and
- implemented a range of precautions and health measures

### **Reduction in non-essential activities**

Defence has developed a Strategy that articulates what activities we will continue to undertake during this period, in support of the Whole of Government response to the Pandemic. Not surprisingly, these are focused on supporting Public Health and safeguarding our National Security. Based on those priorities, we have reduced the planned number deployed to approximately half of what we normally undertake. In addition, the reduction also includes:

- A significant reduction in sea days. This has been achieved through cancellation or postponement of non-essential national and multi-national training activities and exercises .
- Cancellation of Planning activities and conferences. Where these have been deemed essential, they are being conducted virtually,

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

- *Navy Anzac Day Bugler Profile*
- *Chief of Navy's Anzac Day Interview*
- *NUSHIP Sydney arrives at Fleet Base East, Sydney*
- *Video: Naval News Monthly Recap – March 2020*

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

*Due to the restrictions in place to slow the spread of coronavirus, the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme (YEYS) has suspended all voyages until October 2020.*

*Working in the cold: Australia and China in the Antarctic*

*In 2013, the Tasmanian government signed a memorandum of understanding with China's State Oceanic Administration to provide support services for Chinese Antarctic expeditions.*

*More than two dozen oil tankers are parked just off the California coast, holding the equivalent of 20 percent of the global daily oil consumption, with nowhere to go.*

*The Royal Navy's Caribbean task group has joined forces in Montserrat for the first time as it prepares for the impending hurricane season.*

*Images of space from the Space Surveillance Telescope in remote Western Australia have been captured, marking a significant milestone for the Defence space project.*

*In the lead-up to Anzac Day this year, the Australian Army has identified a previously unknown First World War Australian Officer as Captain Arthur Harold Appleby, providing his family with confirmation of his final resting place.*

*The U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Navy came together for operations in the South China Sea starting April 13. HMAS Parramatta began sailing with Ticonderoga-class guided missile-cruiser USS Bunker Hill then rendezvoused with amphibious assault ship USS America*

using teleconference capabilities.

- Revision to existing deployments. Where deployments have been deemed essential, we have implemented changes to port visit schedules and leave arrangements to protect our People. In many cases, our deployments now have limited or no overseas provisioning stops, using the at-sea network of support assets to reduce any risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Cancellation of non-essential port visits. While I cannot provide specifics, a large number of overseas port visits have already been cancelled and will continue to be revised to only those absolutely necessary to achieve the mission.
- Cancellation of ceremonial and commemorative events. While this has been necessary, we will still be looking for opportunities to individually remember our predecessors, and significant historical events.
- Reduction in Training and movement of Navy People. A number of measures have been put in place to reduce the movement of Navy People and their Families, to protect their well-being, and meet Government restrictions on movements. This includes: the deferral of all postings not deemed absolutely essential, the postponement of all courses excepting those generating operational preparedness or initial military and employment training, and the cessation of all non-essential movement between locations.

### **Work From Home where possible and Implement Social Distancing**

In addition to those measures above, we have also minimised the presence of staff in the workplace in order to meet the National Guidelines for physical distancing and hygiene, to the greatest extent possible. The implementation of this may be slightly different for each specific unit or training establishment, who each have their own unique context. It is certainly not business as usual!

If you are unsure about why you are conducting certain activities, please talk to your Supervisors and raise your concerns through your Chain of Command. I encourage each of you to discuss these measures with your Families, so that they too understand exactly

*and Arleigh-Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Barry.*

*A keel laying ceremony was held on April 17 at Taiwanese shipbuilder Lungteh Shipbuilding for the 3rd and 4th Min Jiang-class mine laying ships. The vessels will greatly enhance Taiwan's offensive mine fighting capacity and effectively counter the threat of the communist army.*

*Australia officially transferred former Adelaide-class frigates Melbourne (FFG 05) and Newcastle (FFG 06) to the Chilean Navy (Armada de Chile). They have been renamed Almirante Latorre (FFG 14) and Captain Prat (FFG 11) for the Chilean Navy service.*

*Has the cost of Australia's future submarines gone up? Part 1 & 2*

*The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) is increasing its fight against malicious cyber activity by protecting Australian families and businesses, as well as the health sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*Recent reports out of France say that more than 1,000 sailors aboard the country's aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, have tested positive for COVID-19.*

*An internal Office of the Secretary of Defense assessment calls for the US Navy to cut two aircraft carriers from its fleet, freeze the large surface combatant fleet of destroyers and cruisers around current levels and add dozens of unmanned or lightly manned ships to the inventory, according to documents obtained by Defense News.*

*USS America (LHA-6) is steaming towards waters in the South China Sea where a Chinese government survey ship and its China Coast Guard escorts are in an international maritime dispute with Malaysia.*

*New patrol ship HMS Forth arrives in one of the most starkly beautiful – and remote – places on the planet to fly the*

what you are doing, why you are doing it, and how you are being protected.

## Precautions and Measures

As you would expect, our units and platforms have already implemented a range of preventative health measures and response plans to limit the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19.

- To minimise the transmission of COVID-19, we are directly engaged with Federal, State and Territory public health authorities. Our standards of hygiene and procedures for reducing the risk of both contracting and spreading the virus are amongst the very best in the community.
- We are also assessing and, where symptoms are present, testing people who deploy in accordance with Department of Health guidelines.
- Our Ships' Companies include highly trained health professionals and are equipped with enhanced stores and isolation arrangements in strict accordance with public health requirements should a crew member shows symptoms.

While the trajectory of COVID-19 cannot be predicted with certainty, we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of our Men and Women at sea, cognisant that this is essential to remaining operationally deployed. Operations are continuing, with appropriate procedures in place, and modified on a case-by-case basis to reflect the changing situation.

## Where to from here?

Obviously, you are all curious too as to what is planned with respect to the remainder of the existing Fleet Schedules. In much the same way as we have reduced to minimum staffing across our workplaces, we are taking the same approach to our immediate activity schedule. Only essential activities (ie. those related to critical national defence and security objectives including essential pre-deployment readiness training/trials) will be conducted until further notice.

### *Union Flag.*

*Plan Galileo: Despite the turmoil and disruption of COVID-19, keeping the individual branches of the ADF ready to meet the requirements expected by government and the Australian public remains a top priority.*

*Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) are pushing hard and making progress toward keeping their fellow Sailors safe and returning their ship to sea.*

*The US Navy has identified the sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt who died Monday from COVID-19 complications. Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.*

*As if to mock the crippled world, Beijing has launched a provocative series of muscle-flexing exercises near Taiwan and the South China Sea, capitalising on the diminished US and allied presence in the region, adding further fuel to regional competition and fears about the rising power's ambitions for the Indo-Pacific.*

*Marines and sailors stationed in Okinawa, Japan, are 3D printing protective gear like face shields and face mask frames to help stem the tide of an outbreak of COVID-19.*

*First of Class Flight Trials on HMAS Adelaide are providing the ship's Aviation Support team with vital training and the Royal Australian Navy with increased operational capability.*

*A new Defence-led Rapid Response Group has been established to help increase domestic stocks of invasive ventilators, as part of Australia's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.*

*Nearly a dozen Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) vessels harassed a formation of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships in international waters in the northern*

2020 will continue to be one of the most challenging years our Nation has faced. Over the coming months, we will be required to continually adapt as Government direction changes. This will be a very fluid period, and I ask that you all remain prepared and ready to stand to and support as required. As members of Defence, and specifically Navy, we are leaders in our communities and as such, have a responsibility to lead by example and support our Nation.

I will not tolerate any of our Navy Family feeling unsupported. We are a Family: we must and we will continue to support one another. If you or your Family require support, reach out and ask for it. Apart from the Divisional System, which is the bedrock of our support structure, there are a range of support services available, and they are listed below.

I am continually impressed by the way our Navy People step up to the challenge when things get tough; and I am humbled and grateful to be your Chief of our Navy. You inspire me daily. Thank you for your service and thank you to our Families for your continued love and support. I am confident that we will get through this 'fight,' together.

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Support Service Contact Details:

- Defence All-hours Support Line - 1800 628 036
- Keeping Watch - (02) 6266 3588 or (02) 6266 3680
- RAN Relief Trust Fund - (02) 6266 3680 or (02) 6266 3588
- Employee Assistance Program - 1300 687 327
- Defence Family Helpline - 1800 624 608
- 1800 IMSICK - 1800 467 425
- National Welfare Coordination Centre - 1800 801 026
- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling - 1800 011 046
- Defence Reserves Support 1800 Defence - (1800 333 362)
- Defence Community Organisation - 1800 624 608

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team.

*Persian Gulf, the Navy announced today.*

*A COVID-19 outbreak on French aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle (R91) and its carrier strike group has ballooned from 50 positive cases last week to at least 668 today, with 31 service members hospitalized and one in intensive care.*

*Australia's political leaders have spoken strongly about assisting our Pacific 'family' through the Covid-19 crisis.*

*The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has successfully rolled out an online training package to support Defence personnel who may be deployed as part of Defence's response to COVID-19.*

*The story run by Channel 9 last night, Tuesday 14 April 2020, is misleading and incorrect. HMAS Watson has not been placed in lockdown for COVID-19, nor any other reason.*

*The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is done with its deployment but will remain at sea off the East Coast of the United States, in an effort to keep the crew healthy from the COVID-19 pandemic and ready to take on missions if needed.*

*US Navy should turn to unmanned systems to track and destroy submarines.*

*The Australian Defence Force (ADF) will deploy personnel to Tasmania as part of an Australian Medical Assistance Team-led Commonwealth response, following a request for assistance from the Tasmanian Government.*

*A sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt died after being admitted to an intensive care unit in Guam last week for coronavirus complications — the first such death of a sailor from the vessel.*

*China's first Type 075 landing helicopter dock (LHD) caught on fire yesterday (11 April 2020) according to several pictures and videos shared on Chinese social media.*



(The names below have been added to NVN's website Memorial Wall)

- † WR E. Brennan(nee Demaine), WR1553, 20 April 2020. Aged 100.
- † EMWE M. Houston, 20 April 2020. Aged 77.
- † ERA L.S. Dwyer, 31901, 20 April 2020. Aged 97.
- † CPOCOXN C. Darling, R94402, 20 April 2020. Aged 71.
- † AB G.R. Hollingworth, R52047, 19 April 2020. Aged 81.
- † CMDR M. Wright, O1306, 15 April 2020. Aged 81.
- † LEUT Ju-De Carter (nee Melville), 12 April 2020.
- † POSBA D.H. Britt, 11 April 2020. Aged 83.
- † ABRO(S) E.J. Buist, R96132, 10 April 2020.
- † TEL R.A. Garrett, R50822, 09 April 2020. Aged 84.
- † RADM K. Vonthethoff AO RAN, 07 April 2020. Aged 89.
- † WOWTR A.G. Goodieson BEM, R47198, 07 April 2020. Aged 86.
- † R.G. Hammer, R112063, 05 April 2020. Aged 65.
- † WRWOSTD A.L. Maiden, WR84591, 30 March 2020. Aged 82.
- † AB C.J. Andrews, 29 March 2020. Aged 96.
- † WORS D.E. McKee, R93067, 27 March 2020. Aged 76.
- † LSPHOT R.C. Briggs, R63651, 27 March 2020. Aged 73.
- † WOETC4 G. Peake, R64327, 26 March 2020. Aged 72.
- † ABCK G.R. Harper, R51499, 04 February 2020. Aged 83.

## Lest We Forget

### Note: VALE Notices

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know ([webmaster@navyvic.net](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net)). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

### ***Request from the HMAS Sydney Association (Vic. Inc.) Online Petition – Agent Orange Exposure***

The HMAS Sydney Association (Vic. Inc.), have set up an online petition which relates to the effects of Agent Orange on ALL Vietnam Veterans, be they Navy, Army or Air Force.

The petition started off as a "pen and paper version", but this has become totally impractical due to the COVID-19 virus and subsequent Mandatory Social Distancing laws.

Therefore, all readers, are requested to give their support by responding to the On-Line Petition.

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/agent-orange-exposure.html>

Please feel free to pass this information on to family and friends who may also be sympathetic to this cause.

*More than one out of ten sailors assigned to USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) have tested positive for COVID-19 as the Navy continues to isolate the infected sailors from the rest of the crew.*

*The \$90 billion National Shipbuilding Program has reached another milestone with the ceremonial keel laying of the second Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) in Adelaide.*

*Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly has officially resigned, capping perhaps the most tumultuous 24-hour public relations fiasco the sea service has ever encountered.*

*Less than 24 hours after flying to Guam and igniting a firestorm of public criticism, including from key members of Congress, Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly issued a public apology Monday evening.*

*The U.S. Navy will now require the use of cloth face coverings for all military, Navy civilian and contractors as well as family members while on DoD property, installations and facilities when maintaining proper social distancing between people isn't possible.*

*ANBV Naiguatá (GC-23), a littoral patrol boat of the Venezuelan Coast Guard, sank following a collision with a cruise ship off Venezuela's northern coast last week.*

*The US government has approved a US\$13.6 million FMS deal for Lockheed Martin to provide support to the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Danish Navy's fleets of MH-60R Romeo anti-submarine warfare helicopters.*

*The Navy commissioned USS Delaware (SSN 791), the 18th Virginia-class attack submarine, April 4.*

*Navy officials announced Thursday that Capt. Brett Crozier, commanding officer of the sidelined aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, has been relieved of duty in the wake of a leaked letter he penned*



Sailors at rest, HMAS Rushcutter, 1944.

### Sketching naval life: the war art of Rex Julius

As the world marks 75 years since the end of the Second World War, the National Archives of Australia are highlighting the work of Able Seaman Rex Julius, a little-known war artist commissioned by the Australian War Memorial and Australian Military History Section in 1944. War art gave the

public a fresh perspective on a war that raged on frontlines far from home. Sketches and paintings sent back to Australia were exhibited in galleries or published in magazines and newspapers. [Read more at National Archives of Australia.....](#)

### April's Navy Hero

This month's Navy Hero is Warrant Officer Maiden.

Agnes Lenore Maiden was born on the 14 June 1937 at Taree on the North Coast of NSW and was educated at Wingham, Port Macquarie and Wauchope before she joined the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service (WRANS) in 1956, specialising as a steward and then working as a trainer at Recruit School. She served in HMA Ships Cerberus, Coonawarra, Penguin, Harman and Albatross. In 1971 she received her Long Service & Good Conduct Medal and in 1977 she was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal. After 29 years of dedicated service she retired in 1984, but continued to support the Navy through the WRANS Association.

In 1972 'Lennie' was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer in the Royal Australian Navy.

As a Warrant Officer, Lennie was the first member of the WRANS to be addressed as "Miss"

Her full story is at: <http://navyvic.net/heroes/maiden.html>



Lennie receiving her Warrant from Captain L.J. McInerney, C.O. of HMAS Cerberus.

*pleading for U.S. intervention to stifle a COVID-19 outbreak on the 4,800-person ship.*

*The commanding officer of aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt is urging the Navy to step up its response to COVID-19 and secure individualized isolation for the ship's crew as COVID-19 cases aboard the ship continue to multiply, according to a new report.*

*A Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) destroyer Shimakaze (DDG-172) and a Chinese fishing boat collided in the high seas of the East China Sea in the evening hours of March 30.*

*The Navy community is mourning the passing of one of the Royal Australian Navy's most influential sailors, who died aged 82 in Brisbane. Agnes 'Lennie' Maiden was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer.*

*Australia's first digital shipbuilding course has commenced today as part of the Government's \$90 billion Naval Shipbuilding Plan.*

*Pandemics and climate change mean it's time to consider ANZUS hospital ships. If the recent bushfire crisis and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic have taught us anything, it's that Australia has an opportunity to evaluate its coordination on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).*

*HMAS Toowoomba has interdicted over 3,000 kilograms of illegal narcotics including hashish and heroin in the Gulf of Aden.*

*Naval Historical Society [President's Musings – April.....](#)*

*FlyBy – A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [April issue.....](#)*

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