



BROADSIDE

December 2019

Volume 9 Edition 12

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1129



Merry Christmas & a happy, safe and healthy New Year from the NVN Team

As 2019 draws to a close and a new year is upon us, we have much to be thankful for. Family and friends, along with our bond with one or more associations or groups that support the Navy fraternity. It is not surprising to know that there are many competing objectives, notwithstanding the general consensus to look after our Shipmates and family. Influencing these competing objectives is chiefly the resistance to change. Change being the cause of considerable fear and a catalyst for fragmentation of the wider Veteran community.

Year's end provides an opportunity to contemplate the impact of decisions and activities experienced by Veterans and their family. Hopefully each of you is able to reflect on those activities and draw benefit and enthusiasm from them. This is important, as our experience is the basis of the astuteness we apply in future. Hopefully there will be a convergence of interests that achieves an improved future for Veterans and their families. This is something that eludes many, but that should not stop us from putting our best foot forward.

Each of our organisational commitments is, to some extent, orchestrated by the role of others: the President, Secretary, Treasurer or other. Our participation is often limited to socialising with like-minded folk. The useful outcome of many ex-Navy organisations is somewhat suppressed by this approach. We should reflect upon the collective input of the Navy fraternity, do

Events Calendar

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



25 Dec – Merry Christmas

01 Jan 2020 – Happy New Year

05-09 Jan – 75th anniversary of the Battle of Lingayen Gulf

22 Jan – On this day in 1943 HMAS PATRICIA CAM sunk by Japanese aircraft.

26 Jan – Australia day parade

26 Jan – Festival of Sails RYC Geelong

09 Feb – 16th anniversary service ex-POW's Ballarat

10 Feb – HMAS Voyager service

15 Feb – Prisoners of War service, Shrine

19 Feb – Darwin Defenders service, Shrine

28 Feb – Creswell Oration

Latest Videos and News Headlines

NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website: <http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>



VIDEOS.....

- *NNS Launches John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)*
- *Christmas Message from Vice Admiral Michael Noonan - Chief of Navy*
- *Royal Australia Navy's primary mine warfare and clearance training*
- *Marine Technician Challenge 2019*
- *Electronic Technician Challenge 2019*
- *ADF visits Tonga to enhance capability, education and training*

we have a meaningful profile across the wider Defence community, particularly within Navy. Our relevance within that majestic array of Veterans and their families is relatively unknown, in most cases measured as a percentage of some broader faction. The absence of younger Veterans within most Navy related organisations is an enigmatic; however, we know their sense of belonging is as strong as any generation before them.

The question needs to be asked; 'did we get it right'. Over the past century, values have not changed; however, the capacity to create a meaningful outcome supportive of our Navy colleagues does appear to have changed. Maybe we need to think about what characteristics will attract younger generations to connect with older generations. What's in it for me is relevant to many; it would be helpful if this could be spent out in a way that clearly warrants greater involvement by all generations.

Recognition of individuals is an important part of sustaining the legacy of past service and sacrifice. Creating mementos such as displaying a spent cartridge from a 50 calibre gun, off HMAS Perth (1) and presenting that to a sailor who potentially fired the shell in the heat of battle in 1942 is one example. The photograph shows such a memento, presented to Frank McGowan on his 100th birthday. A wonderful way of demonstrating today's gratitude for past service.



Another notable Navy identify is Lieutenant William Evan Crawford Allan who passed away on 17 October 2005 at the venerable age of 106. He was the last surviving World War I veteran, and the last remaining Australian veteran to see active war service in the Great War. He was farewelled with a State Funeral at St Mark's Chapel, HMAS Cerberus, on 25 October 2005. His ashes were scattered in Port Phillip Bay from the flight deck of

NEWS.....

The past twelve months have been significant for Navy's Fleet. Ships, submarines, aircraft and personnel have deployed around the world to exercise high-end warfighting capabilities, support maritime security, contribute to multinational operations and engage with Australia's regional partners.

On The Record: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan
*Incorrect media reporting
Aside from entirely misinformed comments regarding the Future Submarine Program, I am particularly disappointed with the statement that our sailors are reluctant to sail in the Collins class submarine.*

The vessels and teams of Navy's Mine Warfare, Clearance Diving, Hydrographic, Meteorological, Oceanographic and Patrol Force might be among the smallest in the Fleet, but their achievements in 2019 rival those of the largest major surface ships.

Navy's Surface Force has capped off a massive year with most of its combatants deploying overseas. Surface Force is responsible for Navy's major warships - 14 frigates, destroyers, amphibious ships and support vessels - and oversees their readiness for sea and for combat.

AUSTRALIANS will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Operation TAMAR, with a National Commemorative Service in February 2020.

As if to say "we don't care if the world is watching", the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has officially welcomed its second, and first locally built, aircraft carrier, CV-17 Shandong, to the fleet as the Indo-Pacific balance of power continues to shift.

As the US heads towards a fleet of 355 ships, its major power contender, the People's Liberation Army Navy, is keeping up with the US and, in some cases, challenging America's long held industrial

HMAS *Sydney* on 24 July 2006. Learn more about William at <https://www.navy.gov.au/biography/lieutenant-william-evan-crawford-allan>. The NVN Management Team intends to regularly include a pointer to a notable Navy identify in Broadside as a reminder of individuals who have made a great contribution to our Navy over the past century.

We hope you will agree that NVN has provided considerable information over the past year to all those who take the time to read the editorials and follow up on the many events listed on the website. Our purpose has not changed, we envisage the demand for information relating to Navy events to continue and our desire is that every reader will share some, if not all of the information provided with other Veterans and descendants. A consequence of sharing this wealth of information is that you will be encouraged to actually participate in these events as and when they are deemed to be relevant.

During the year we rebadged the editorial as 'Broadside', that being reminiscent of a blast every month – probably avoiding 'last dog watchmen's – hands to dinner', thirty degrees port wheel on Sir! Rebadging was concurrent with the demise of Rogues Yarn, much of the important information relating to upcoming events being part of 'Broadside'. Extension of the monthly 'Broadside' is the ability for Ship/Branch Associations to have their own web page on the NVN Website. This facility has the potential to store your historic documents of specific or broader interest to the Navy fraternity. Give it some thought as you may find it quite useful. If you have ideas on how to improve this arrangement, please feel free to send a note to the webmaster who will share it with the NVN Team.

Finally, the NVN Team wish all of our readers: Veterans, family members and friends the very best for Christmas and may the new year bring you much happiness. Keep in mind, this is not a dress rehearsal, every day counts. See you at the HMAS Cerberus Open Day as Navy celebrates its centennial at 'Flinders Naval Base', Crib Point.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.

3

supremacy with an unprecedented program of naval modernisation and expansion.

The US Naval War College's James Holmes, a strategist of serious stature, has suggested that the US Navy should establish a 'massive' base in Australia. This isn't Holmes's first stab at this. His initial proposal, back in 2011, apparently received the 'gimlet-eye' treatment from the would-be hosts.

Australia's newest warship, HMAS Brisbane, arrived home to family and friends in Sydney today following her first overseas deployment. Brisbane's arrival draws to a close the return of ten Royal Australian Navy warships from deployments across South East Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. (NOTE: Channel 7 video of its arrival is on our Facebook page)
<https://www.facebook.com/navyvictoria/>

French shipbuilder Naval Group has signed nine different memoranda of understanding (MoU) with Australian companies to manufacture its countermeasure solutions for the Royal Australian Navy in Australia.

It has been a busy year for the Navy operated Sail Training Ship (STS) Young Endeavour. A whopping 377 young Australians aged 16-23 stepped aboard for one of 15 eleven-day voyages, that saw the brigantine sail from Hobart in Tasmania and as far north as Cairns in Queensland.

Army personnel in Hawaii used World War II diving equipment for an underwater interment of the ashes of a USS Arizona crew member.

At the meeting of the Veterans Ministerial Council on 29 November 2019, State and Territory Ministers provided initial feedback on the draft of the Commonwealth's new Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan to improve veteran mental health and wellbeing and reduce suicide.

- † CMDR P.R. Hicks OAM RFD RAN, 11 December 2019.
- † CMDR K.L.G. Gray RAN, O1915, 10 December 2019. Aged 92.
- † LS L. E. Yuke, R57715, 05 December 2019. Aged 77.
- † WRAN J.R. Dewsbury, W2730, 04 December 2019. Aged 94.
- † CEE K. Gleeson, 03 December 2019. Aged 92.
- † WO C. Penglase, 02 December 2019.
- † WOMTP S. Bruhn, 30 November 2019. Aged 71.
- † SBLT G.N. Handbury AO RAN, PM5706, 26 November 2019. Aged 94.
- † A.A. Scott, 25 November 2019. Aged 74.
- † LCDR P.A. Hawke RAN, 25 November 2019. Aged 87.
- † SGTNP G.M. Arthur, R53070, 24 November 2019. Aged 80.
- † CPOSBA L.G. Skinner, 23 November 2019. Aged 91.
- † LRO R.J. France, R65114, 20 November 2019.
- † POET M.J. Hindmarsh, M8492278, a.k.a. POETC M. Napier, S132137, 28 October 2019. Aged 55.
- † CAPT M.A. O'Brien RAN, 10 October 2019. Aged 64.

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). 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.

Australian Operational Service Medal - Special Operations

The Australian Operational Service Medal (AOSM) – Special Operations recognises the service of Australian Defence Force members on special operations as declared by the Chief of the Defence Force from 1 November 2019.



Russia's only aircraft carrier suffered a massive fire Thursday that killed one crew member, injured another 11 people and significantly damaged the ill-fated ship that has been haunted by incidents throughout its service.

As a milestone year for the Royal Australian Navy's evolution towards concurrent task group operations draws to a close, the 'con' of Navy's Maritime Operations organisation has transitioned from Commodore Matt Buckley to Commodore Darren Grogan.

The Government acknowledges the release of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's independent investigation into the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme.

HMS Prince of Wales has been commissioned into the Fleet today as the largest warship ever built for the nation.

Details of the Navy Week Defence Seminar has been put on-line and it includes video of presentations and the panel discussion.

VETERANS who currently have to pay for their medical treatment upfront and wait to be reimbursed will only need to present their Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) health card to pay for their treatment under changes to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) passed through Parliament yesterday.

With half of the world's combat submarines expected to be operating in the Indo-Pacific in coming decades it would seem anti-submarine capability would be at the forefront of requirements – however, the US Navy's 2021 budget request seeks no new money for advanced anti-submarine aircraft to meet the rising Chinese and Russian submarine threats.

Australia's fleet of 12 new submarines will cost about \$225 billion to build and maintain, according to the program's head.

Eligible Service

The AOSM – Special Operations recognises the service of Australian Defence Force members on special operations as declared by the Chief of the Defence Force from 1 November 2019.

Medal

The medal is a cupro-nickel medal finished in antique silver. The obverse bears an old-world stylised world globe signifying global operations, interlinked with a Federation Star. The globe is surrounded by the words 'AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL'.

The reverse bears a central horizontal stylised scroll with the words 'Defending Australia and its national interests', overlaying a wreath of mimosa, above which sits an hour glass motif signifying the ongoing vigilance and timely response of Defence.

Ribbon

The ribbon is black with a central thin red stripe. The black represents the non-conventional conduct of special operations, while the single red stripe represents danger, strength and the great sacrifices made by recipients in defence of Australia.

Badge

See [Operational Service Badge \(OSB\)](#)

Source Documents

[Determination under the Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012 \(Special Operations\) dated 16 October 2019 \[PDF\]](#)

[Australian Operational Service Medal \(Special Operations\) Declaration 2019 – CDF dated 7 September 2019 \[PDF\]](#)

Applications

Applications are not accepted for the AOSM – Special Operations.

When a special operation is declared as eligible for the AOSM – Special Operations by the Chief of the Defence Force, a nominal roll containing the names of eligible ADF members will be provided to the Directorate of Honours and Awards. This list will then be utilised to issue the award directly to members without the need for an application to be submitted.

DVA will continue providing support to veterans and their families during the holiday season. However, please be aware that some services will be impacted from Christmas Day to New Year's Day inclusive.

SUPPORT for veterans and their families who may be struggling with mental health conditions or at risk of suicide, will be enhanced through the Community and Peer Program which is currently being rolled out across Australia.

An important step forward was taken in Fremantle this week, as the navies of Australia, India and Indonesia came together for the first time to discuss mutual maritime security objectives.

Today the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released three independent reports into the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel:

- 1. The National suicide monitoring of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel: 2019 update*
- 2. Use of homelessness services by contemporary ex-serving ADF members: 2011–17*
- 3. Medications dispensed to contemporary ex-serving Australian Defence Force members 2017–18.*

More than 300,000 additional Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans, including Reservists and Peacekeepers, will be able to access low cost home insurance through the Defence Service Homes Insurance.

Naval Historical Society [December newsletter](#)

Navy League (Vic/Tas) [December Newsletter](#)

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

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