



The Bosun's Call



Vol 16 No 3

Each for All—All for Each

April 2011

RAN's First Feminine Admiral

**FM CN AUSTRALIA
TO AIG 3600
AIG 3602**

SUBJ: NAVY SENIOR OFFICER PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL AND POSTING.

**1. I HAVE PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT COMMODORE ROBYN WALKER AM RAN IS TO BE PROMOTED TO REAR ADMIRAL IN DECEMBER 2011 AND APPOINTED AS COMMANDER JOINT HEALTH COMMAND.
2. I JOIN WITH THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE SCIENCE AND PERSONNEL, THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MATERIEL, THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE, CDF, SECRETARY AND MY ADMIRALS IN EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMODORE WALKER ON HER PROMOTION AND APPOINTMENT.**

Commodore Robyn Walker, RAN qualified as a medical practitioner in 1982 and spent the next nine years working in the public health system in Queensland, Australia. Prior to joining the Royal Australian Navy her final position was the Director of Hyperbaric Medicine at Townsville General Hospital. CDRE Walker joined the RAN as a direct entry medical graduate in 1991 with the intent to continue her career in diving medicine.

Early postings in the Royal Australian Navy included the Naval Air Station HMAS *Albatross* and the Submarine Escape Training Facility at HMAS *Stirling* before posting to the Submarine & Underwater Medicine Unit (SUMU) at HMAS *Penguin* in 1992. She spent five months deployed with the HMAS *Westralia* Task Group in 1993 as the Task Group Medical Officer before returning to SUMU in 1994.

In January 1996 LCDR Walker assumed the position of Officer in Charge of the Submarine and Underwater Medicine Unit and remained there until her promotion to

CMDR in July 2000. On promotion she was posted to Maritime Headquarters as the Deputy Fleet Medical Officer which included significant Sea Training Group responsibilities.

In July 2002 CMDR Walker was posted to Defence Health Service Branch in Canberra as Director of Preventive Health prior to her posting on promotion in January 2003 to CAPT as Chief Staff Officer Health (Jo7) at Headquarters Joint Operations Command in 2004.

On 04 July 2005 she took up, on promotion, her current position as Director General Strategic Health Policy and Plans in the Defence Health Services Division. CDRE Walker was posted to the position of Director General Garrison Health Support within Joint Health Command on 11 August 2008.

CDRE Walker is a qualified medical practitioner, has a Diploma in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is the author of a number of scientific publications relating to diving medicine and is co-author of a major international diving medicine textbook. She has recently completed a six-year term as President of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society. Robyn continues to dive recreationally.



WOW—CMDR to CDRE in five years.!

Events coming up

Sunday 27 March Fish 'n' Chips 1700—1900 CYC Grounds

General Meeting Thursday 7 April 1330 Kaleen Sports Club

25 April—ANZAC Day March Get together at Hellenic Club Civic afterwards



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia



Printed by CopyQik Civic

Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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President's Note

This newsletter will be printed commercially, the use of small home printers in printing last month's Bosun's Call in black and white was more than the cost that would have been incurred had the complete job been done commercially. It is possible to print the Bosun's Call within the Section by using a mono laser printer designed for small office work. I doubt that the BEST programme will provide funds to a part of the NAA that does not normally put in for a BEST grant.

Judith McNay has resolved the issues with the Mess Management in HMAS Harman and the arrangement for our Navy Centenary Buffet Lunch are in place. See page 7.

ANZAC Day is drawing near. Its conflict with the celebration of Easter might effect the participation of people who normally attend in Canberra. But it also leaves the door wide open to people who decide to come to Canberra for the Easter weekend.

Peter Burn has received wide support for his own personal effort to get the valour of personnel serving in the RAN recognised with retrospective awards of the Victoria Cross. The matter will go before the NAA National Council on 2 April.

News broke today that Defence is getting close to acquiring an Amphibious Assault Vessel from the Brits. The Bay Class AAV replaced the "Sir Lancelot" Class vessels on which the design of HMAS Tobruk was based. Times have changed. In the early days of the acquisition of Tobruk, the need for the ship was not supported by the Australian Army or the Defence Force Structure Committee.

Peter Cooke-Russell

Fresh faces, fresh ideas needed for the future, don't stand back and

**Committee meeting
 Kaleen Sports Club
 1200 Thursday 7 April 2011**

General Meeting Dates and Locations

7 Apr Kaleen Sports Club	1330	1 Sep Erindale	1330
5 May Erindale	1330	5 Oct MV Southern Cross	1930 Wed
2 Jun Kaleen Sports Club	1330	3 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
7 Jul Erindale	1330	1 Dec Lunch Venue to be advised	1200
4 Aug Kaleen Sports Club	1330		

NAA ACT Section Event/Social Diary 2011

27 Mar Fish 'n' Chip Canberra Yacht Club 5.00—7.00 pm approx BYO drinks or buy at the CYC

22 May Buffet Lunch at HMAS Harman to mark the RAN's Centenary

10 Jul 100th Anniversary of the Royal Proclamation creating the Royal Australian Navy

6 Aug HMAS Canberra Memorial Service

6 Oct Naval Commemoration Service

PENSION INDEXATION

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION CONTINUES TO CONFUSE

The Association [DFWA] muses over the Minister for Veterans' Affairs announcement in his press release dated 11 March 2011 that more than 330,000 veterans, partners and war widows/widowers will receive increased pensions and income support payments from 20 March 2011.

Mr Snowden's press release proudly announced that "This Government is committed to the support for our veterans and their families, and I welcome this increase and the assistance it will provide to those who need it most".

"Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September to the highest of three measures: the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) and the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI). The March pension indexation increase is driven by wages growth in the six months to November 2010. The indexation reforms introduced by this Government have delivered a fairer pension system".

Whilst the Association welcomes the increase and more importantly, the fairer indexation system that recipients of service pensions, war widow pensions and veteran disability pensions enjoy, it remains perplexed why military superannuants (including those on disability provisions) who contributed during their working life to their superannuation, do not also deserve a "fairer pension" system.

In response the Government routinely states that the cost to provide fairer indexation arrangements for 64,000 military superannuants will be excessive, providing 45 year inflated cost estimates that measure the cumulative cost in the billions. The Association again suggests that such an analysis is emotive and clouds the issue, as 45 year cost estimates of any area of Government expenditure would of course be measured in the billions, if not trillions! It offers no substantive argument against the fundamental case that military superannuants deserve no more than what hundreds of thousands of other Australians

enjoy - fair indexation to their hard earned superannuation pensions in order to maintain purchasing power (and therefore, their standard of living).

THE FAIR INDEXATION BILL

The Senate is now expected to debate on the Bill proposed by the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, to index military pensions in line with the Coalition's pre election commitment later this month. If passed, the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010* will enable DFRDB (and DFRB) superannuants aged 55 and over from 1 July 2011 to have their pensions indexed at the higher rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) or the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI)

The Association [DFWA] was gratified to hear the continuing support to the concept of fair indexation offered by the Leader of the Opposition Mr Tony Abbott during a recent meeting with the Executive Director of DFWA and in the presence of the media. At the meeting, which was also attended by the Senator Ronaldson, the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Senator Gary Humphries, Senator for the ACT, the Association's Executive Director Les Bienkiewicz thanked Mr Abbott for his support and advised that the Bill is a most welcome start to fixing the wrong that is being imposed on current and retired members of the ADF, defence widows and their families.

The Association again calls upon all elected Senators and Members of Parliament to show their support for the military and veteran community by supporting the objective of the legislation, and following up with further action to ensure all military superannuants receive fair indexation. In particular, we call on all independent members who have previously voiced their support for the provisions contained within the legislation, to show they care for our serving and former ADF members by taking positive action in the Parliament to ensure fair indexation is legislated for.

VALE

Richard (Dick) Perryman

6-11-29 to 10-3-11

"Lest we Forget"

WW1 VETERAN 'HATED' WAR

A 110-year old West Australian man, believed to be the world's last surviving World War 1 combat veteran, hated war and only marched in ANZAC Day parades when he was ordered to, his son says.

Claude Choules celebrated his 110th birthday with family and friends in Perth on 3 March.

He is the last known male survivor of more than 70 million military personnel who served in World War 1, after American veteran Frank Buckles died on 27 February 2011. The only other surviving World War 1 veteran is believed to be Britain's Florence Green, who served with the Royal Air Force in a non-combat role and is now aged 110.

Born in England in 1901, Mr Choules served with Britain's Royal Navy on board HMS *Impregnable* in 1916 at the age of 15. He joined the battleship HMS *Revenge* in 1917 and witnessed the surrender of the German Fleet in Scotland in 1918.

Mr Choules moved to Fremantle, where he was seconded to the Royal Australian Navy in 1928. He remained in the navy after World War 11, spending his final working years with the Naval Dockyard Police and joining Perth's crayfishing industry.

Mr Choules released his autobiography, *The Last of the Last*, in 2009. It depicts his childhood and move to Australia, as well as his times at war. His son, Adrian Choules, said, "He served in two wars but he hated war. He just saw it as a job. He never marched in an ANZAC Day parade he wasn't ordered to."

Claude was a member of the NAA from 1987 Resigning in 2001 because he thought that he did not have long to go.



Portrait of World War One Navy Veteran Mr Claude Choules sitting in the Gracewood Retirement Village lounge room in Salter Point, Western Australia

DENTAL HELP UNDER MEDICARE

Under the Medicare chronic disease dental scheme, Medicare benefits are available for most services provided by a dentist, dental specialist or dental prosthetist in private dental surgeries. Benefits are not available where services are provided to a person who has been admitted to a hospital.

To receive a Medicare benefit for dental services, **you will first need to meet certain eligibility criteria AND be referred by your GP** to a dentist. In some cases, your GP will be able to refer you directly to a dental prosthetist for denture work.

Which patients are eligible for dental services under Medicare?

To be eligible, **you must have a chronic medical condition and complex care needs** and your oral health must be impacting on, or likely to impact on, your general health.

A chronic medical condition is one that has been, or is likely to be, present for at least six months. It may include, but is not limited to, conditions such as asthma, cancer, cardiovascular illness, diabetes mellitus, arthritis, mental illness, musculoskeletal conditions and stroke.

Complex care needs means that you are receiving ongoing care from a multidisciplinary team, which includes your GP and at least two other health or care providers. In practice, this means that you will need to be managed by your GP under certain care plans. For most people, this involves the preparation of a "GP Management Plan" and "Team Care Arrangements". For residents of aged care facilities, it involves the GP contributing to a multidisciplinary care plan prepared for the resident by the facility.

You should talk to your GP about whether you are eligible for these plans. If you are eligible, your GP must complete the plans and bill you prior to you having your first dental service.

You may already have care plans in place. If so, you should talk to your GP about whether you are eligible for referral for dental services under these plans.

HMAS PSYCHE

THE FORGOTTEN CRUISER

HMS *Psyche* (pronounced *Sigh-kee*), a Pelorus third class protected cruiser named after the Greek mythological depiction of the soul, was laid down for the Royal Navy (RN) at the Devonport Dockyards on 15 November 1887 and was completed three years later. She served on the Australia Station from December 1903 and was one of just three RN cruisers still serving on the Station when the Australian Fleet Unit arrived in Sydney on 4 October 1913. She departed Australia shortly afterwards and was serving in New Zealand waters at the outbreak of World War 1 on 4 August 1914.

The early months of the war were busy for *Psyche* as the cruiser was involved in the capture of the German Protectorate of Samoa as well as other German assets in the Pacific. She also formed part of the escort force for troop convoys bound for the Middle East from New Zealand. She decommissioned on 22 January 1915 and was laid up in Sydney.

On 13 May 1915, the Prime Minister's Department requested that the Admiralty loan *Psyche* to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) as a training vessel. The Admiralty responded positively on 1 June and exactly a month later, on 1 July, HMAS *Psyche* commissioned into the RAN under the command of Commander (later Rear Admiral) Henry Feakes RAN.

Before *Psyche* could be commissioned, however, the Admiralty enquired with the Naval Board as to whether the cruiser might take a more active role in the war in Asia. Although the Middle and Far East were remote from the European theatres of war, Germany had been actively fomenting sedition in India and Burma as early as 1911, controlled primarily through the Ger-



man embassy in Washington, even planning to smuggle arms and propaganda in support of a general uprising.

While the Allies were aware that such activity was taking place, they remained unaware of its specifics. *Psyche* and HMAS *Fantome* (Lieutenant Commander Lewis Jones RN), at that time an unarmed surveying ship, were hastily prepared to form part of a patrol in the Bay of Bengal. Both ships were necessarily manned by sailors still under training, augmented by experienced petty officers. *Psyche* departed Sydney on 16 August for Asian waters where she would remain for the next two years.

Psyche arrived at Singapore on 4 September and departed two days later for Rangoon with orders to organise a patrol scheme for the Burmese coast. Upon his arrival at Rangoon on 10 September, Feakes found three vessels of the British East India Company's fleet had already been taken up and were fitting out for patrol duties, each commanded by an officer of the Royal Indian Marine. He established a coastal patrol the very next day with a military detachment aboard each vessel.

Following a brief visit to Mandalay, where Feakes discussed his patrol with the General Officer Commanding, Rangoon (Major-General Sir Herbert Raitt, KCIE, CB), *Psyche* returned to Rangoon and set about correcting various engine room defects. Upon HMS *Diana's* arrival on 20 September, Captain George Hutton RN assumed command of the Burma Coast Patrol and appointed Feakes as Senior Naval Officer, Burma, with the three armed patrol vessels and ten coastal patrol launches under his command. *Psyche* proceeded to sea for her first patrol and inspection on 22 September.

Patrol and inspection duties remained the norm for *Psyche* for the remainder of the year. Patrols were typically of 10 to 12 days duration, at the conclusion of which the ship would return to Rangoon for two to

The Pelorus class of ships were protected cruisers meaning they had good deck armour but lacked armour along their sides. Today they are considered to be the forerunner of the light cruisers.

Eleven of these ships were built but were out of date even before launching. Most were scrapped before 1914. Two were SOLD to Australia - HMS *Pioneer* and HMS *Psyche*.

Displacement: 2135 tons
 Length: 95.7 metres (314 ft)
 Beam: 11.2 metres (37 ft)
 Draught: 5.18 metres (17.0 ft)
 Speed: 20.5 knots (38.0 km/h) (design speed)
 Complement: 230
 Armament: 8 x QF 4-inch (101.6 mm) guns
 8 x 3-pounder guns
 2 x 14-inch torpedo tubes
 Armour: 50 millimetres (2.0 in) deck

Pioneer was one of the first launched (1899) and transferred to the RAN in 1912.

four days for coal. Training classes, drills, evolutions and gunnery exercises continued during the patrols, and variations in the weather, ranging from extreme heat in the north to heavy storms in the south, made conditions very difficult for the crew. A general malaise affected the ship during this period. From 14 October to 2 November, 12 crew members were admitted to hospital for various ailments while a further 14 were sick on board.

Psyche returned to Rangoon on 17 January 1916 where orders were received to demobilise the Burma Coast Patrol, which was completed a week later. By this time it had become apparent that any German plots in India and Burma had collapsed and that the centres of intrigue had shifted to the neutral territories of the Malay Peninsula. *Psyche* proceeded to Penang, where she arrived on 28 January, to await further orders. The following day eight ratings and an engineer midshipman were discharged to the sloop HMAS *Una* for passage back to Australia having been found unfit for service in the tropics. *Psyche* departed Penang at the end of the month for Port Blair where she was placed at short notice for service in the area as well as conducting periodical patrols off the east and west coasts of Sumatra.

On 12 February, while visiting Port Swettenham (Kelang), tensions aboard ship finally came to a head and seven stokers refused duty, an action that eventually led to their respective court martials. There were a number of issues that led to this incident: *Psyche* was an old ship with little to alleviate the difficult conditions experienced in the tropics; the long and monotonous hours spent on patrol; an intensive training program; the malaise which affected the crew almost from commissioning; but the one thing which eventually brought these tensions to the surface was food.

Complaints about the food on board were common virtually from the time *Psyche* left Australian waters. Tinned fish, green or rotten meat and rotten eggs were all too common in *Psyche's* mess with one stoker testifying that the food he himself obtained whilst in port was of a better quality than that served up by the mess.

At 10pm on 12 February, Stoker Albert Hummerston refused duty in protest at the standard of food on board and was consequently placed under sentry's charge. Over the course of the evening six more were refused duty and all were consequently placed under sentry's charge. All seven were found guilty of wilful disobedience of a lawful command and received sentences ranging from 12 to 24 months imprisonment as well as dismissal from the RAN. With the stokehold operating with a reduced complement, 15 native stokers were taken on in Singapore until a draft of ten RAN stokers joined the ship on 25 April.

Psyche returned to patrol duties in the Gulf of Siam on 7 March before returning to Singapore on 17 March. She departed Singapore once again two weeks later acting as escort for a convoy of Russian military transports headed for Europe. Relieved by HMS *Venus* on 4 April, *Psyche* returned to Port Blair for patrol duties in the Bay of Bengal. Whilst at Port Blair, the opportunity was taken to land one watch every day, weather permitting, for rifle drills or a route march, and sea bathing. It was the monsoon season, however, and strong winds and heavy rain were common.

Psyche continued on patrol duties until 2 July when she arrived at Hong Kong for her annual inspection and refit. During this period, six officers and more than 70 ratings

were landed to the naval hospital at Hong Kong for treatment of various ailments. Combined with some 40 more ratings and an officer sick on board, around half of *Psyche's* complement were incapacitated due to illness. The situation prompted the ship's surgeon, Clifford Henry, to report that the crew was in urgent need of a spell in a cold climate.

Meanwhile on 6 July, Lieutenant Herbert Teale RN commissioned HMS *Moorhen* for local river service, crewed by 36 ratings from *Psyche* with Surgeon Henry acting as the ship's medical officer. *Moorhen* decommissioned on 23 July and the crew re-joined *Psyche*, which recommenced patrol duties off the south coast of China, based at Hong Kong, on 14 August. These operations, once again, proved to be long and arduous, though Feakes was pleased to report a general improvement in the overall health of the ship's company, possibly due to the cooler conditions off the Chinese coast.

Operations in Chinese waters continued until 14 October 1916 when the ship was ordered to Singapore. Patrols in the Bay of Bengal and off the coast of Sumatra recommenced on 20 October, beginning with a patrol and flag-showing cruise taking in Penang, Port Blair, Rangoon, Calcutta, Madras and Colombo. These operations continued until late March 1917 when *Psyche* was detached for escort duties for military transports between Burma and India, which continued through April and May, before returning to patrol duties in June.

On 16 July 1917, *Psyche* returned to Singapore where she remained awaiting the arrival of her relief, the cruiser HMS *Suffolk*. *Suffolk* arrived on 11 August and *Psyche* departed Singapore on 31 August for Sydney via Dili, Thursday Island, Townsville and Brisbane. She arrived in Sydney, in dire need of a refit, on 28 September and decommissioned on 16 October.

Psyche's service in Asia had come to an end more than two years after she had departed Sydney, and the ship had not fired a shot in anger. The crew, however, had performed an arduous task, preventative in nature and typical of naval patrol work. On the surface, the lack of enemy encounters may lead some to question the value of the work done by *Psyche* in Asia. Indeed, the crew themselves questioned its value and wondered what contribution had they made to the war effort. However, considering the evidence of German supported seditious activity which emerged after the War, that lack of enemy action is proof of Allied operations in the area. The presence of *Psyche* and other Allied ships became well known in the Bay of Bengal and played a central role in preventing the very real possibility of a general uprising, which probably would have resulted in the redeployment of Allied forces away from the decisive struggle in Europe.

Psyche recommissioned again on 20 November 1917 under the command of Commander George Curtis RAN, for patrol duties primarily off the Queensland coast, prompted by the actions of German raiders in and around Australian waters in 1917. After a brief and largely uneventful commission of just five months, *Psyche* decommissioned for the last time on 26 March 1918.

Psyche remained moored in Sydney Harbour and was eventually sold as a timber lighter on 21 July 1922. She later sank in Salamander Bay, Port Stephens.

(With acknowledgements to the Seapower Centre)

BUFFET LUNCH

To celebrate the RAN's 100th anniversary, the ACT Section will be holding a buffet lunch at the Wardroom HMAS Harman on Sunday 22 May. (A booking slip is included in this issue of the newsletter.)

The lunch will be a two-course meal, with three mains and desert, with limited table wine and OJ. Please note, we must be **clear of the Wardroom by 1400** to escape any extra charge.

Cost is \$18 for members (and their partners) and \$20 for non-members (includes members of the Sydney VLS and partners of the WRANS Associations.) As we need to limit attendance to 50 persons, in order to keep the cost down, it will be a matter of 'first in best dressed.' So, make sure you book early!

Because of the limit on numbers, money **MUST** accompany the booking slip, otherwise the booking will not be accepted. There will be **no refund** for cancelations made after 14 May.

Any queries should be addressed to Judith (6282 2475).

BOSUN'S CALL MAILOUT

Due to the difficulties now involved in printing the Bosun's Call, and the cost of having it printed commercially (about \$2200/year for black and white copies alone), two options have been considered to decide how members may wish to receive it in future:

- a coloured version by email; or
- a black and white hard copy.

Hopefully, the above may be a temporary measure only, as it is intended to apply for a BEST grant through DVA to purchase a suitable printer.

Members will be approached to ascertain their wishes in this respect.

Please let the Secretary know of your choice

RAN CENTENARY BUFFET LUNCHEON (SUNDAY 22 MAY 2011)

WHERE

HMAS *HARMAN* WARDROOM MESS

TIME

1 130 FOR 1200

COST

MEMBERS \$18.00; NON-MEMBERS \$20;
FOR THREE-COURSE MAIN & DESSERT WITH LIMITED TABLE WINE & OJ.
ADDITIONAL ALCOHOL AT OWN EXPENSE.

DRESS

SMART CASUAL

NAME/S

.....

.....

CLOSING DATE

No later than Thursday 12 May

CHEQUES TO BE MADE OUT TO: NAA (ACT) AND FORWARDED TO:
"THE SECRETARY, NAA (ACT), PO Box 265, CURTIN ACT 2605"

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

At the recent ACT KOC meeting, the TPI Association requested that the involvement of the RAN in the Vietnam War be recorded as follows:

"The broad and varied role of the RAN is little known and with exception of the Logistical Support tasks performed by HMAS *Sydney*, a general lack of awareness prevails both in the public domain and the Department of Defence. For those who were either directly involved in particular events or who were engaged in a variety of supporting roles, operational names such as SEA DRAGON, ROLLING THUNDER, STABLEDOOR, or the colloquial acronym EMUs, all have a particularly proud meaning. Inevitably, and as the years begin to slip by with increasing rapidity, a valuable and important part in our heritage is gradually in danger of being lost.

While Vietnam Veterans' Day has been set aside in the calendar to remember and pay tribute to our fallen comrades, we must never lose sight of the fact that our losses were incurred across all the service arms."

(Hear, hear! – Secretary)

THE TALKING CENTIPEDE

A single man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME

Under the Australian Government's Commemoration programme, *Saluting Their Service*, Certificates of Appreciation are available to those who contributed to Australia's efforts in the following conflicts and events:

WW2, for service in the Australian armed forces or on the home front;
BCOF in Japan;
Korean War;
Malayan Emergency;
Indonesian Confrontation;
Vietnam War;
Gulf War;
Iraq War; and
Peace operations.

The certificate for service in the Iraq War is a new certificate now available under the programme.

Veterans and those who served in the wars, conflicts and peace operations for which certificates are available, as well as family members of deceased eligible persons, may apply for the range of certificates.

To receive any of the above, contact Senator Gary Humphries at 148 Bunda Street, Canberra ACT 2601. (Email: senator.humphries@aph.gov.au. Website: www.garyhumphries.com)

and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The man decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

Reunions

HMAS QUIBERON Reunion 2011

Penrith NSW 7—9 October 2011

Contact Dean Sando 02 4732 3083
Email quiberon2011@optusnet.com.au

RAN Communications Branch Association

Adelaide SA
23 – 26 April 2011

HMAS HOBART Biennial Reunion 2011

Where: Canberra ACT
When: 10 – 13 November 2011

Contact: Mike Taylor on 02 6288 3393 or mibt@netspeed.com.au

Website:
<http://www.hmashobartassn.com/reunion.html>

**Minutes of the General Meeting held onboard
MV Souther Cross
on Wednesday 2 March 2011**

1. MEETING OPENED

The President opened the meeting at 1936

Attendance: 23
Apologies: 2
Visitors: 3

2. NEW MEMBERS

Nil

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the 3 February 2011 meeting were presented.

John Coomb **Moved** that the minutes be accepted. **Sec-
onded:** Harry Beardsell **Carried**

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Tony Vickers **Moved** that the Incoming correspondence be accepted and the Outgoing be endorsed. **Seconded:** JJ Harrison **Carried**

6. REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - I attended the National Executive meeting at HMAS *Penguin* on 5 February

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Nil

TREASURER - February 2011 report tabled.

MEMBERSHIP - 141 Full Members, of whom 47 are financial, and 12 Restricted members.

WELFARE - Members were brought up-to-date with those on the Sick list.

SOCIAL - Members were informed that because day-light saving will not end until the first weekend in April, the Fish & Chips evening will go ahead on Sunday 27 March.

Also, plans for the Buffet lunch at *Harman* on 22 May were advised. A Booking Slip for the event will appear in the April issue of the Bosun's Call. As numbers may be limited, it would be advisable for members to book early. A 'reserve' list will be instituted if necessary.

Don Joce **Moved** that the reports be accepted. **Sec-
onded:** Jim Quick **Carried**

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. The two motions concerning the proposed WW1 & WW2 Memorials to be erected at the southern end of ANZAC Parade, Canberra were **Moved** by Mike Taylor, **Seconded:** Peter Burn. **Carried**

2. Peter Burn **Moved, Seconded:** Alex McGown that National Council give support to a possible review of awards for various naval personnel, for their actions during WW2. **Carried**

3. (Secretary's note: A submission has been forwarded for National Council action.)

4. The Secretary informed members of the forthcoming promotion of the first female naval officer to the rank of Rear Admiral, effective in December 2011.

The officer concerned is Commodore, who will become Commander Joint Health Command.

5. In response to a query, the President advised that there is no further news yet on the forthcoming issue of the 100th Naval medallion. He will endeavour to follow this up at the April National Council meeting.

6. Due to the difficulties now involved in printing the Bosun's Call, and the cost of having it printed commercially (about \$2200/year for b & w copies alone), two options were considered to decide how members may wish to receive it in future:

a coloured version by email; or
a black and white hard copy.

Hopefully, the above may be a temporary measure only, as it is intended to apply for a BEST grant through DVA to purchase a suitable printer.

Members will be approached to ascertain their wishes in this respect.

8. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 2025.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next General meeting will be held at the Kaleen Sports Club on Thursday 7 April, commencing at 1330.

To be confirmed

Peter McNay
Secretary
ACT Section NAA

2 March 2011

(Secretary's Note: Items 1 and 2 of General Business have been forwarded to the National Council set for 2 April 2011)

Five Minute Quiz

1. Measured by area, what is the smallest country in the world?
2. Where would you find "The Sea of Tranquility"?
3. The illness uraemia affects which organs?
4. What name is given to the point where two or more rivers converge?
5. What is the common name for calcium carbonate?
6. What common feature does the flags of Switzerland and the Vatican have?
7. What kind of creature is a bongo?
8. What do sumo wrestlers throw into the ring to purify it before each bout?
9. What is the common name for the chemical substance magnesium sulphate?
10. How long did the Hundred Years War last?

Answers on Page 11

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held onboard
MV Southern Cross
on Wednesday 3 March 2011**

1. MEETING OPENED

The President opened the meeting at 1805

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the 3 February 2011 meeting were presented.

Peter Launder **Moved** that the minutes be accepted.
Seconded: Alex McGown **Carried**

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

The costs involved in the proposed buffet lunch at *Harman* in May was discussed and agreed. This will be put to the members at the General meeting.

Due to the difficulties now involved in printing the *Bosun's Call*, and the cost of having it printed commercially (about \$2200/year for b & w copies alone), two options were considered to decide how members may wish to receive it in future:

- a coloured version by email; or
- a black and white hard copy.

Hopefully, the above may be a temporary measure only, as it is intended to apply for a BEST grant through DVA to purchase a suitable printer.

5. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1231.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 7 April at the Kaleen Sports Club, commencing at 1200.

To be confirmed

Peter McNay
Secretary ACT Section NAA

2 March 2011

ITEMS FOR SALE

NAA Ties	\$15.00
NAA Name Badges	\$15.00
NAA Key Ring	\$ 5.00
RAN Key Ring	\$ 5.00
See Secretary Peter 02 6282 2475	



A Happy Birthday to you all.

Terrence Bissell, John Cole,
James Henderson, Janette Horn,
Brian Marriott and Darien Thom.

**RAN 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**



The HMAS Sydney & VLSVA (Vic Inc.) has designed a special RAN 100th Anniversary embroidered Badge.

The designed has been approved by the Navy.

You can have this badge embroidered on a Polo shirt to mark this special occasion. As the badge is quite intricate, (over 30,000 stitches) the price is a little more than our normal Polo shirt.

eg.

1. **Polo:**
Anniversary badge left Breast. Right Breast, your name and years served underneath = **\$35.00**
1. **Polo:**
Anniversary badge left Breast, years served underneath. Right Breast, Ships crest (e.g. VENDETTA), your name underneath = **\$37.00**

The badges can also be embroidered on rugby tops, chambray shirt and reversible vests. Prices available on request.

Full details and order form can be found on the association's website: <http://hmassydney.com/poloshirts.html>

RFA Largs Bay

RFA Largs Bay (L3006) is one of the four amphibious assault vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary which replaced the Sir Lancelot ships, this ship design was based on the Dutch Rotterdam class ships

RFA Largs Bay was built by Swan Hunter. She was launched in Wallsend on July 18th 2003, and named on the 1st of August 2003.

She is capable of carrying more than 350 troops, 1200 linear meters of vehicles (e.g. 150 light trucks or 24 Challenger "2" Main Battle Tanks), twelve 40ft or twenty four 24ft containers, 2 Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP) and 1 Landing Craft Utility (LCU) and two Mexefloats (powered rafts).



FUNDING BOOST FOR THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

On 3 March, Prime Minister Julia Gillard reaffirmed the Government's ongoing commitment to the Australian War Memorial, announcing an additional \$8m per year to support its ongoing operations.

The increased financial support is the result of a comprehensive review ordered by the Prime Minister on funding arrangements for the Australian War Memorial. The review and funding increase reflect the Gillard Government's ongoing commitment to maintain this esteemed cultural institution. The new funding will increase the Memorial's operational budget by \$8 million per year - on top of the Memorial's regular annual funding which is currently \$38 million.

The Gillard Government is investing in the future of the Memorial so it can continue to deliver its core activities and, importantly, prepare for the Centenary of the Anzac landings and other important military anniversaries.



The new funding will ensure the Memorial can adequately respond to increased demands for these events as well as supporting general enquiries, multimedia and educational programs, research centre services and professional historical advice.

The announcement also includes a one off payment of \$1.7 million to begin the redevelopment of the Memorial's First World War galleries. It is fitting and appropriate that in the lead up to the Centenary a permanent and enduring exhibition is developed for the First World War – this funding will ensure this legacy.

The Prime Minister also announced that Minister Snowdon will take on a new role as Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Centenary of Anzac.

Minister Snowdon will advise the Prime Minister on the best possible program of commemorative events for the Centenary.





COUNTRY STYLE WINDOWS

QUEANBEYAN GOLD CUP

SUNDAY 24 April 2011

WIN FANTASTIC PRIZES IN FASHIONS ON THE FIELD



PLENTY OF KIDS ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING KIDS JUMPING CASTLE



ANZAC EVE

★ FREE ENTRY FOR ALL CURRENT AND RETURNED SERVICE MEMBERS ★


ADULTS - \$15.00

PENSIONERS - \$10.00

CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE

GATES OPEN AT 10.30AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT 6299 2398



The NAA ACT Section is very grateful for the support provided by the Canberra Southern Cross Club

Answers to Five Minute Quiz:

1. Vatican City; 2. On the moon; 3. The kidneys;
4. Confluence; 5. Chalk; 6. They are both square; 7. An
- antelope; 8. Salt; 9. Epsom salts; 10. 116 years (1337-1453)



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