

The Bosun's Call

Vol 14 No 6

Each for All—All for Each

July 2009

EAST TIMOR DCP SERVICE NOW CLASSIFIED AS WARLIKE

Service by Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) personnel in East Timor for the period 16 September 1999 until 17 August 2003 has now been classified as warlike.



Those involved with DCP tasks are now eligible for award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) Clasp East Timor and Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB).

Anyone who served in East Timor under DCP arrangements should apply to Defence Honours and Awards (DH&A) using the application form for the issue of medals, available from the DH&A website

www.defence.gov.au/medals or by calling the DH&A tollfree number 1800 111 321.

To assist with the subsequent DH&A assessment, eligible personnel should ensure their PMKeyS Ops Log reflects DCP East Timor. The contact officer for enquiries is Mr David Williams, supervisor current ops on 02 6266 1422.



(With acknowledgements to "SeaTalk" – Winter 2009)

ADELAIDE'S Last Resting Place

HMAS *Adelaide* will begin its final chapter underwater. The decommissioned frigate was handed over by the Commonwealth to the NSW Government on 3 July and will be sunk off Terrigal on the NSW Central Coast later in the year to create an artificial reef and dive wreck.



Proposed scuttling site

Events coming up

6 August Meeting at Canberra Services Club Manuka

Meeting starts at 1930

Galley is open from 1800

8 August HMAS Canberra Memorial Service

1100 Kings Park Lake Burley Griffin Please be there by 1045



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

Printed by The Sports Club Kaleen



Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

Office Bearers 2009

President	Peter Cooke-Russell	02 6258 6892
Vice President	Peter McNay	02 6282 2475
Secretary	Joe Slaats	02 6255 7872
Treasurer	Sylvia Sinfield	02 6288 2350

Committee Members

Welfare	JJ Harrison	02 6258 4512
	Pat McCabe	02 6291 9185
	David Manolas	
	Mike Hardwick	02 6253 6256
Membership	John Small	02 6258 1216
	Peter Cooke-Russell	
Social Sec	To be relieved by Peter McNay	
	Vacant	

Charitable Fund

Chairman Harry Beardsell

Contact Details

The Secretary
NAA ACT Section
PO Bo 783
GUNGAHLIN ACT 2912
jsl45689@bigpond.net.au
Tel 02 6255 7872

General Meeting Dates and Locations

6 Aug SC Club Woden	1930
3 Sep Kaleen Sports Club	1300
7 Oct <i>MV Southern Cross</i>	1930 Wed
5 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1300
3 Dec Venue TBA	1930
4 Feb Annual GM Venue tba	1930
4 Mar Venue TBA	1930

Committee meetings are held on the same day as the General Meeting but commence one hour before the General

President's Note

Our next meeting will be held in the Saunder's Memorial Room at the Canberra Services Club in Manuka on 6 August 2009 with the General Meeting starting at 1930. The Saunders Room used to be the Billiard Room and has been totally refurbished to cater for meetings. The restaurant is cosy and has an open fireplace. The menu is good and the galley opens at 1800 so it is a good place to have a meal before the meeting. The lounge area of the club is very cosy and also a good place to settle down and be sociable after a short meeting.

Our July meeting in the Kaleen Sports Club was reasonably well attended. The meeting was short and the opportunity for a good social period after the meeting was available but not used by quite a few members. The aim is to have a good social get together, not just to have a formal meeting.

The NAA was started by three stokers over a few beers in Young and Jackson's in 1920 and the primary aim was and still is, to be sociable and enjoy each others company. Formal meetings don't help this aim very much. Perhaps this is a problem of living in Canberra where the main industry is one of having meetings.

The annual HMAS Canberra Memorial Service will be held on Saturday 8 August at the HMAS Canberra Memorial in Kings Park near the Carillion. Please come along. The Chief of Navy and other senior officers of the Defence Force will be there so that is a good opportunity to say G'day to those who are running the Defence Force at present.

Further discussions with the Ballina Sub-section have ascertained that the Sub-section visitors to Canberra are glad to be able to come to the Naval Memorial Service on 1 October 2009. Arrangements for a social gathering (lunch) after the service with them are being looked at and more details should be known by August.

Regards

Peter Cooke-Russell

NAA ACT Section Event Diary

8 August	HMAS CANBERA Memorial Service Kings Park ACT. Commencing 1100
1 October	Naval Memorial Service Naval Memorial Anzac Parade Time to be advised.
25 October	Fish and Chips Evening Canberra Yacht Club foreshore Starts 1700
1-11 Nov	Poppy Selling
22 Nov	BBQ. At Don Joice's house 30 Marsden Street Dickson
27 Nov	Fish and Chips Evening Canberra Yacht Club foreshore 1700

Gold card Information

The Gold Card income and assets limits shown below **apply** if you receive a disability pension below 50% of the general rate and you also receive an amount of service pension. Should your assessed income or assets exceed these limits you will no longer be eligible for the Gold Card.

The Gold Card income and assets limits shown below **do not apply** if:

- your disability pension is above 50% of the general rate *and* you also receive an amount of service pension. Should your service pension cease due to excess income and assets, you will no longer be eligible for a Gold Card;
- you receive a disability pension at 100% of the general rate, Intermediate rate, EDA or TPI; or you are aged 70 years or over and you are a veteran who served in Australia's Defence Force and have qualifying service from any conflict or you are an Australian Mariner with qualifying service from World War 11.

GOLD CARD INCOME AND ASSETS CUT OFF LIMITS

The treatment benefits income and assets limits apply to you if you are an Australian veteran or mariner whose eligibility for the Gold Card is dependent solely on your service pension payment.

INCOME

Singles Limit

\$403.00 (per fortnight)

Couples Limit (combined)

\$697.00 (per fortnight)

Add \$85.85 per fortnight for each dependent child or student to the age of 22.

ASSETS

Homeowner	Non-Homeowner	
Singles Limit		
\$247,750	\$376,750	
Couples limit (combined)		\$372,500
\$501,500		

Add approximately \$16,500 for each dependent child or student to the age of 22.

DEEMING

Deeming assumes that any money you have invested in financial assets is earning a particular amount of income regardless of the actual amount earned. The deeming rates are:

Singles

Low Rate: 2% interest up to the threshold of \$42,000

High Rate: 3% interest for the remaining balance

Couples

Low Rate: 2% interest up to the threshold of \$70,000

High Rate: 3% interest for the remaining balance

ILLNESS SEPARATED COUPLES

Couples separated due to ill health are paid at the single rate of service pension, but have their income and assets assessed as a couple.

RENT ASSISTANCE

You may be eligible for rent assistance if you pay rent to a non-government body or landlord. Rent assistance is not payable if you reside in a government funded (approved) nursing home, or in government funded housing.

The amount of rent assistance you receive depends on the amount of rent you pay and your family circumstances. Rent assistance is paid at the rate of 75 cents in the dollar for every dollar you pay over the set rent limits.

When calculating the amount of rent assistance payable, any disability pension received is counted as income and may reduce the rate of rent assistance payable to you or your partner.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF RENT ASSISTANCE PAYABLE (per fortnight)

Singles Rate	\$111.20
Couples rate (combined, no children)	\$104.80

Rent Limits (per fortnight)

Singles limit (no children)	\$98.80
Couples limit (combined, no children)	\$161.00



**HMAS
WORT**

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General Information on Service Pension Rates and Limits

(Current as at 1 July 2009)

Maximum rates of Service Pension (excludes pharmaceutical allowance)

Singles Rate	\$569.80 (per fortnight)
Couples rate (each)	\$475.90 (per fortnight)

Pension income Limit (per fortnight)

	At which Service Pension reduces	Cut Off*
Singles Limit	\$142.00	\$1,581.50
Couples Limit (combined)	\$248.00	\$2,642.50

Pension Assets Limit

	At which Service Pension reduces	Cut Off*
Home Owner		
Singles Limit	\$178,000	\$562,000
Couples Limit (combined)	\$252,500	\$891,500
Non-Home Owner		
Singles Limit	\$307,000	\$691,000
Couples Limit (combined)	\$381,500	\$1,020,500

These pension income and assets limits may increase for each dependent child or student up to the age of 22, or if rent assistance is payable.

NOTE: * Income and assets limits do not apply to blinded service pensioners.

Reunions

10 – 12 July 2009	JR'S 16 th Intake Reunion – Gold Coast Qld
24 – 27 Sep 2009	HMAS Moresby – Canberra ACT
September 2009	HMAS Bataan Reunion
14-18 Oct 2009	HMAS Hobart Reunion Bundaberg QLD
October 2009	HMAS Quiberon Reunion—Hobart
November 2009	Ballina All Ships Reunion
July 2010	50th Anniversary JR Training Scheme
23 – 26 April 2011	RAN Communications Branch Association – Adelaide SA

HMAS Melbourne Reunion

The HMAS *Melbourne* Association is contemplating a reunion. Nowra NSW will most probably be the location, during a weekend in September or October.

It is looking for expressions of interest from anyone who served, or had an association with, any HMAS *Melbourne*.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested, please contact:

Dean Gedling
Vice President HMAS *Melbourne* Association
PO Box 401, Bradbury NSW 2560
Email: sicambre@optusnet.com.au



August 2009

David Campbell, Syd Comfort, Ken Cush, Norman Downe, Esther Goodieson, Peter Guy, Lance Hayman, Peter Launder, John Perrett, John Perryman, Geoff Pettit, Jim Quick, Toby Selby and Kakkib Warrawee'a

A Happy Birthday to you all.



Answers to Five Minute Quiz: Questions on Page 13

1. Ants and termites; 2. Liver; 3. Pol Pot; 4. Junk; 5. Lima/Mali; 6. Loud and reverberating; 7. Juniper berries; 8. René Descartes; 9. Kalimantan; 10. Potato masher

Action off Cape Spada 19 July 1940

The action took place off Cape Spada, the tongue of land which, with Agria Grabusa a little to the westward, forms the north-western extremity of Crete and is that island's furthestmost projection into the Aegean Sea. The lure of the enemy submarine had taken the British ships north of Crete. They were on a hunting sweep, Sydney and Havoc away to the north, controlling the approaches to the Gulf of Athens, and the other four destroyers within sight of the Cretan coast. The day broke fine on July 19, still and calm, with a pride of the morning haze that the rising sun touched to life as a silver sea and sky. The southern destroyers were westward of Cape Spada at this time, and to the north-westward of Agria Grabusa, steering a westerly course.

Dawn action stations were over, the sun having risen astern of the ships, and, as an observer in *Hyperion* put it:

'Soon the smell of frying bacon floated up the bridge voice pipes, and those on watch glanced at the clock, impatient for relief. "Two cruisers on the starboard bow, sir!" said the starboard bridge lookout, adding convincingly, but as an afterthought-"and they're Italian, too."

It was twenty minutes past seven, and at once the heart-lifting clanging of alarm bells brought half-clothed men tumbling up from below. They saw from heeling decks, as the destroyers turned away under full rudder, two Italian cruisers- ghost-like, yet clear and in full view-which had come out of the mist ahead, no more than 10 miles away.

Sydney, some 40 miles to the northward, received the destroyers' enemy report by wireless at 0733, and immediately turned south, and started working up to full speed.

To the two Italian cruisers the four destroyers must have looked easy game. The cruisers had not only the advantage of weight and range of gunfire, they also had a margin of some knots speed over the



Bartolomeo Colleoni at Venice



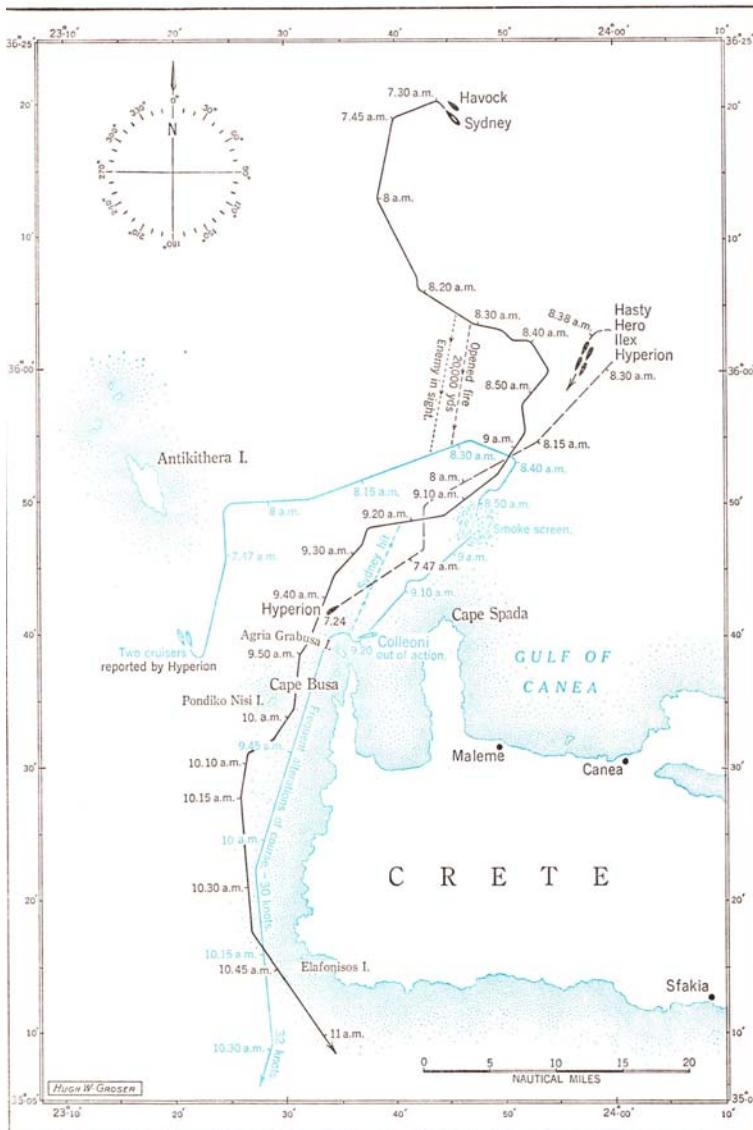
HMAS Sydney off Cape Spada

destroyers. *Sydney* and *Havoc*, whose presence was unknown to the Italians, were some miles away, and it was going to be what would, in the circumstances, be a considerable time before they could throw their weight in to even things up a bit. Commander Nicolson, in charge of the destroyer division in *Hyperion*, decided to play the Italians carefully in the right direction, so as to shorten both space and time as much as possible. He led off, therefore, to the northward under fire from the cruisers, which took up the chase with mounting confidence, themselves being out of range of the destroyers' guns. The destroyers, for their part, could only, while conforming to the general line of advance, watch and dodge the fall of the Italian shot, a form of amusement described by a destroyer participant as "an unpleasant pastime".

Meanwhile *Sydney* and *Havoc* were interested auditors of the goings on ahead of them, for *Hyperion* kept them advised by wireless of the progress of events. *Hyperion's* "smell of frying bacon" may have been wasted on the Aegean air, but *Sydney* had time to send hands to breakfast before action was sounded at 0815. She sighted the enemy on the starboard bow at 0826, and opened fire at 0829.

This was a pleasing sight to the *Hyperion* and her consorts. As one of them put it:

At 0829 bridge lookouts in the destroyers-who could still discern nothing to the northward except the island of Milo, gradually taking shape over the haze-saw, on the port bow, the orange flashes of the *Sydney's* opening salvo, the most welcome sight in the world. She came rushing to the southward, on the port beam of the Italians, guns flashing, battle ensigns streaming, and such a smother of foam at bow and stern that from the destroyers



Cape Spada Action—Track Chart of H.M.A.S. Sydney

one seemed almost to hear the high-tensioned scream of the machinery driving her across the water.

At 0835 Sydney's fire appeared to be effective on the leading Italian, and at 0841 the enemy turned away and retired south-westwards, and the action developed into a chase, with Sydney and her five attendant destroyers as the pursuers. The British force, was tearing through the water almost in line abreast, the retiring enemy making heavy smoke, so that Sydney had to shift fire as one or the other target became obscured. It soon became apparent that the rearmost Italian cruiser - the *Bartolomeo Colleoni* - was coming under very effective fire from the Sydney, which herself suffered her one hit at 0921, an enemy shell tearing a large hole in the foremost funnel. There was, only one slight casualty in the whole action, caused on this occasion by a splinter.

Again the destroyers paint the picture:

The haze of the morning had now lifted. The sun

shone clearly on the water suddenly becoming a brilliant blue, and the first of the day breeze whipped the sparkling tops of the little waves and, lifted their fresh spindrift over the destroyer forecastles. The white wakes, the bright bunting, the orange flash of cordite and its brown smoke blown back across the straining grey ships-all in the brilliant light of the early Aegean forenoon, would have made the scene a delight to any painter of sea battles.

It was now seen that the *Bartolomeo Colleoni* was damaged to the extent of reducing her speed, and with the closer range her punishment increased. At 0923 she was observed to be stopped and apparently out of action, between Cape Spada and the island of Agria Grabusa. Her consort - the *Giovanni Delle Bande Nere* - after a momentary hesitation, abandoned her to her fate and disappeared around Agria Grabusa, making to the southward at her best speed. Leaving *Hyperion*, *Ilex* and *Havoc* to finish off *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, the *Sydney* continued the chase with *Hasty* and *Hero*, but the *Giovanni Delle Bande Nere* had too much speed and drew gradually away in the smoke laden Mediterranean haze, and the chase was abandoned at 1037.

Meanwhile, the *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, torpedoed by *Ilex* and *Hyperion*, had rolled over and sunk at 0959, having previously been abandoned by those of her company not killed in the battle. Of her complement, 555 were rescued by the destroyers, the operation being hampered by Italian bombers, who bombed the rescuers.

Their work completed, the British ships set course for Alexandria, making port safely, after a number of severe bombing attacks, on the forenoon of July 20. *Sydney* received an ovation from the assembled fleet as she steamed up the harbour with the Australian jack at the fore. The following day His Majesty the King made Captain Collins a Commander of the Order of the Bath and, among other awards to personnel engaged in the action, Commander Nicolson, of *Hyperion*, received a bar to his DSO.

One of those rescued from the *Bartolomeo Colleoni* was her commanding officer, Captain Umberto Narvi. He was, however, badly wounded, and died in Alexandria aboard a British Hospital Ship. He was buried in the British military cemetery with full naval honours, commanding officers, officers, and ratings from British ships in harbour attending his funeral.

The cruiser *Giovanni delle Bande Nere*, although

damaged by gunfire, managed to outrun HMAS *Sydney* and was believed to have taken refuge at Tobruk. HMS *Eagle's* Swordfish were ordered to attack Tobruk and although the cruiser was not present they nevertheless found and sunk two destroyers.

So ended a notable cruiser duel, an action similar, in that respect, to the fight between the *Emden* and the *Sydney's* famous predecessor, off Cocos Island in 1914, and with a similar result.



Presented by the citizens of Sydney to Captain J.A. Collins CB RAN, the officers and ship's company in commemoration of their gallant fight against superior speed and weight of armament, which resulted in the sinking of the Italian cruiser *Bartomeo Colleone* in the Mediterranean Sea 19 July 1940

Death of Lieutenant Commander Max Shean DSO* RANVR

Max Shean was one of that small band of gallant young men who, volunteering for "special and hazardous service", manned X-craft and, by their coolly audacious attacks on shipping and installations in harbours and inshore areas, carried the sea war into the enemy's closely guarded waters. That so small a body of men was awarded no less than four Victoria Crosses, 11 Distinguished Service Orders (two of them to Shean), six Conspicuous Gallantry Medals and over 40 other fighting decorations and medals reflects the hazards faced and the successes achieved despite those hazards.

Interrupting his engineering studies at University to join the RANVR, his early training in Anti-Submarine Warfare focused his interest not only on the operation of the equipment but also on its functioning. This served his Corvette *Bluebell* well in the arduous battle protecting merchantmen against the U-boats in the Western Approaches in the often foul weather of the North Atlantic.

With his combination of engineering and seamanship skills Max, probably without realising it, was ideally suited to submarines. He added to this the courage to volunteer for an unspecified but obviously perilous service.

He commanded HMS X24 and, in April 1944, after being towed by HMS *Sceptre* (Lieutenant IS McIntosh DSO DSC RN (also an Australian)), attacked the floating dock in Bergen that was much used for the repair of German U-boats. In an otherwise model attack, unfortunately the dock remained unscathed. X24 had laid her charges under the

7800 ton *Barenfels* lying nearby. She also destroyed another ship of 1692 tons, blocking the coaling berth for the rest of the war. He received the DSO for this attack. (Historical note: HMS X24, again towed by *Sceptre*, this time under the command of Lieutenant Percy Westmacott DSO DSC* RN carried out a second attack in September 1944 and sank the floating dock. The submarine is now preserved in the Royal Navy Submarine Museum).

In June 1945, in command of HMS XE4, Max Shean took part in a coordinated operation to cut the Singapore-Saigon-Hong Kong telegraph cables. At the time the Allies were able to decrypt practically every message sent by radio by the Japanese. Messages sent by cable, however, could not be intercepted and so could not be decrypted. If the cables could be cut, then all traffic would have to be sent by radio and exploited. HMS *Spearhead* (Lieutenant Commander RE Youngman DSC RNR) released XE4 14 miles off Saigon, where she successfully grappled both the cables to Hong Kong and Singapore and cut them, bringing back a one-foot length of each. For this exploit Shean was awarded a bar to his DSO.



RN X Craft

VCS10 - Last updated: 30 Jun 09 VVCS Factsheet VCS10 VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

Veterans Line

Overview

This Factsheet provides an explanation of the after hours telephone counselling support and crisis assistance service and outlines who can use the service and how Veterans Line can respond to veterans and their families in a crisis situation.

What is Veterans Line?

Veterans Line is the after hours telephone counselling support and crisis assistance counselling service provided by the VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. The service is designed to assist veterans and their families in coping with crisis situations outside of the VVCS office hours.

Who can use Veterans Line?

- Australian veterans from all conflicts and peacekeeping operations
- Partners and widows
- Sons and daughters
- Eligible ADF personnel

Clients do not require a veteran entitlement card to use Veterans Line, and counselling is provided completely free of charge.

Who runs Veterans Line?

The VVCS has contracted Crisis Support Services to provide Veterans Line services on behalf of VVCS and we work closely with them to ensure that clients have access to a service that is timely, responsive and effective. Veterans Line counselling is provided by professional, trained and experienced counsellors.

Counselling staff receive formal training in crisis counselling as well as specialised training in veterans' issues.

How can Veterans Line assist you?

Veterans Line provides supportive, confidential counselling to veterans, peacekeepers, their families and eligible ADF personnel who need support or are in crisis. Veterans Line counsellors can assist clients who are angry, upset, anxious, depressed and having thoughts of self harm or have other difficulties such as:

- Relationship issues with friends and family members
- Grief and loss
- Anxiety and depression
- Psychological or emotional concerns
- Other stressful situations

Veterans Line counsellors provide on-the-spot advice and support to help veterans and their families adjust to issues and conflicts. Veterans Line can also organise follow up by VVCS the next business day.

Veterans Line can arrange for direct assistance for callers who are in crisis, or provide appropriate referrals to health professionals and community services throughout Australia.

Privacy and confidentiality

Veterans Line acknowledges the right of clients to their privacy. Many callers choose to remain anonymous when talking to Veterans Line and the service respects that choice. If callers choose to give their details to Veterans Line it may be shared with the VVCS in order to provide veterans with an integrated, effective service. Information is not shared with the Department of Veter-

ans' Affairs without a client's permission. There are some situations (for example where a life may be at risk) where it may be legally necessary for Veterans Line to disclose information to other agencies to initiate contact for the safety reasons. If there is concern about this issue please contact your local VVCS office for further details.

How do I use Veterans Line?

Toll free number (national) **1800 011 046**

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- *Information and Services for Veterans, Their Families and Other Users of VVCS: VCS 01*
- *Combat Experience in Vietnam and its Effects: VCS 02*
- *Impact on Work of Stress Related to War or Peacekeeping Activities: VCS 03*
- *Impact on Relationships of Stress Related to War or Peacekeeping Activities: VCS 04*
- *PTSD General Information: VCS 06*
- *Vietnam Veterans' Sons & Daughters: VCS 09*
- *Crisis Assistance Program: HSV 28*
- *Index – Health Services for Veterans: DVA 13*
- *Index – VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service: DVA 16*

VVCS contact phone numbers

Contact VVCS by calling: **1800 011 046***

During business hours – connects you to the nearest VVCS centre. There are 15 centres located across Australia.

After business hours – connects you to Veterans Line, the after-hours crisis counselling telephone service.

Adelaide	Telephone: (08) 7422 4500
Maroochydore	Telephone: (07) 5479 3992
Albury/Wodonga	Telephone: (02) 6056 1341
Melbourne	Telephone: (03) 8640 8700
Brisbane	Telephone: (07) 3303 9433
Newcastle	Telephone: (02) 4915 0420
Canberra	Telephone: (02) 6225 4620
Perth	Telephone: (08) 6461 7800
Darwin	Telephone: (08) 8927 9411
Southport	Telephone: (07) 5630 0204
Hobart	Telephone: (03) 6231 0488
Sydney	Telephone: (02) 9761 5000
Launceston	Telephone: (03) 6331 7500
Townsville	Telephone: (07) 4723 9155
Lismore	Telephone: (02) 6622 4479

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers.

Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: general.enquiries@dva.gov.au

You can get more help from any DVA office.

Note: *If you use a mobile phone, calls may be more costly. You are advised to use a normal phone (i.e. a landline phone) when ringing these numbers.

Defence White Paper (What it means to Navy)

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Crane, says the Defence White Paper will force Navy to confront major change in the coming decades.

"The White Paper contains exciting new capabilities for us but there are hard yards ahead," VADM Crane said. The biggest challenge will be implementing the reforms needed to ensure such capabilities are realised."

The White Paper forecasts an extra 700 Navy uniformed personnel and VADM Crane says the New Generation Navy (NGN) program is critical in ensuring Navy grows the right way.

"Navy is currently hollow," he said. "Far too many of our people are being stretched too thinly to cover for positions which can't be filled. We have to be more flexible and work smarter."

The New Generation Navy program is already laying the ground work for major change to the way Navy does business. The program has begun rolling out major structural and cultural reforms to improve the management of Navy's workforce.

Another NGN priority is improving training. The White Paper also foreshadows greater use of simulators; something which VAM Crane says is great news for all Navy people.

"We've under-funded training opportunities over the past ten years or so, he said. "Simulators will allow us to do a lot more of our training ashore and we will also be able to carry out better competency checks before our people go to sea."

Naturally, more assets will dramatically increase pressure on recruitment. While there has been much talk about how Navy will crew its 12 new submarines, VADM Crane remains confident the measures announced recently will improve retention and grow the submarine force.

"The 2008 Submarine Sustainability Review identified a range of problems and made 29 recommendations for urgent reforms to the way Navy manages its submariners and its submarines. I am implementing all of them," he said.

VADM Crane has also been quick to dismiss accusations by some Defence commentators that the balance in the Australian Fleet has been weighed too far. "What we will have available to us in 2030 to achieve our mission is a balanced force with the right mix of air, surface and sub-surface platforms capable of meeting our responsibilities to CDF and the Government we serve."

Another major concern addressed in the White Paper is the future of the Navy's aviation force. The loss of the Sea Sprite project and the ageing Sea

Hawk helicopter fleet has left Navy in a delicate state. VADM Crane says the White Paper's forecast of another 24 combat helicopters will go far in improving that situation.

"I am pleased to see the Government acknowledge that these aircraft will be acquired as a matter of urgency and I look forward to receiving them as soon as possible," he said.

The White Paper is about providing Navy with the ability to play its part in delivering the joint effects the ADF needs to meet Government requirements in a maritime environment. "But we need to do this by focusing on our people – not the assets," he said. "Navy has every right to be very pleased and excited by the White Paper's content, but we have a lot of work to do now to deliver."

The 2009 Defence White Paper has focused significantly on enhancing Australia's maritime capabilities for the 21st century. During the next 20 years, Navy's force structure will include new major destroyers and frigates, submarines, amphibious ships, offshore combatant vessels, naval combat helicopters and other advanced enabling capabilities. Key capability decisions relevant to this enhanced maritime force include:

- A fleet of 12 new submarines to replace the current six Collins Class submarines. The program will span three decades and will be Australia's largest single defence project.
- Enhancements to the weapons systems of the three new Air Warfare Destroyers, with consideration of acquiring a fourth vessel in the future.
- A fleet of eight new larger frigates, with an emphasis on Anti-Submarine Warfare to replace the current ANZAC Class frigates.
- Continuation of acquisition of two new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships that will invigorate the Australian Defence Force's amphibious capability.
- A new strategic sealift ship based on a proven design to strengthen the Navy's amphibious and transport capability.
- A fleet of at least 24 new naval combat helicopters, equipped with dipping sonars to detect submarines at greater ranges.
- Six new MRH-90 helicopters that will replace the general utility service previously provided by the Sea King fleet.

- 20 New offshore combatant vessels equipped with modular mission systems that will incorporate the capabilities presently provided by the separate patrol boat, hydrographic and mine-hunter fleets.
- Six new ocean-going heavy landing craft with greater range and speed than the ageing Balikpapan Class Landing Craft Heavy.

Replacement of the Navy's oldest supply ship, HMAS *Success*, with a new replenishment and logistic support ship which will enter service at the end of the next decade.

The Government will also provide additional funding for 700 positions within Navy's workforce struc-

ture. This initiative will address the significant workforce challenges presently being experienced by Navy and will meet future requirements associated with the significant capability upgrades foreshadowed by the 2009 Defence White Paper.

By providing targeted incentives for submariners that include training, adjusting crew numbers and formations, conditions of service, seetime and other initiatives, defence will ensure that the current shortfalls are addressed, and that a robust submarine workforce is built for the future.

Combined with a range of recruitment and retention initiatives and strategies, this new approach will provide the basis for a larger and more sustainable submarine force.

An Amazing WWII Story

Look carefully at the B-17 and note how shot up it is - one engine dead, tail, horizontal stabilizer and nose shot up. It was ready to fall out of the sky.

Then realize that there is a German ME-109 fighter flying next to it. Now read the story below. I think you'll be surprised.



Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to

control his damaged and blood-stained plane.

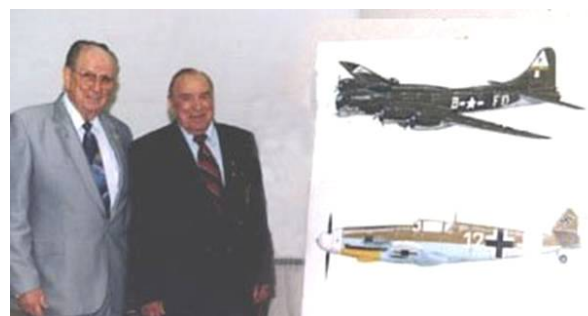
Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe.

When Franz landed he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day. Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, BC after the war.

When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years!



Charlie on the left and Franz



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Information for Members and invited guests

FIVE MINUTE QUIZ

Answers Page 4

1. What is the primary diet of the pangolin?
2. Which of the body's organs produces bile?
3. Saloth Sar was the Asian revolutionary leader better known as whom?
4. Which sailing vessel name is also a term for rubbish?
5. Which Peruvian city's name is an anagram of an African nation?
6. What does "plangent" mean?
7. Traditionally, what is added to gin to give it its distinctive taste?
8. Who uttered the famous Latin phrase "cogito ergo sum"?
9. What name is given to the southern portion of the island of Borneo?
10. What nickname did World War 11 Allied soldiers give to the German hand grenade?



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



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The Bosun's Call Vol 14 No 6