



# The Bosun's Call



Vol 16 No 4

Each for All—All for Each

May 2011

## Navigator Par Excellence Remembered

Commander of Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore, AM, CSC, RAN and Mrs Judy Taylor stand in front of a commemorative photo and plaque of Vice Admiral Rod Taylor during the opening ceremony of the new Bridge Training Facility in the "Taylor Building" at HMAS WATSON on 24 March 2011. (Photo at right)

Junior officers in the Royal Australian Navy will learn to pilot the next generation of warships in the upgraded \$10m training facility at HMAS Watson, which was opened by the Commander Australian Fleet Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore, AM, CSC, RAN on 25 March 2011. The new high-tech simulator, one of the most advanced in the world, uses computerised virtual reality software to simulate a working warship's bridge, complete with a 240-degree view of a computer generated 2D scene through the bridge windows. The simulators replicate the full range of maritime operations likely to be experienced while on the bridge of a warship and can be reconfigured to match most classes of ship in the RAN's current fleet. New functionality includes boat operations, interdiction and docking and beaching evolutions pertinent to the new Landing Helicopter Dock ships, the first of which is due to enter service in 2014. The latest group of Junior Warfare Application Course officers completed their training on the new bridge simulator on 24 March 2011.

The Taylor family was well represented at the Ceremony. Judy and Rod's son Shaun, Rod's sister Elizabeth with her husband RADM Kevin Scarce, Governor of SA and their son LCDR Kingsley Scarce, a PWO were also there to mark the occasion



Photos and majority of text from the Navy Website



Commander Peter Cooke-Russell (Retired) (foreground) and Lieutenant Josh Watkin are shown the finer details of the new Bridge Simulator in the "Taylor Building" at HMAS Watson. (Photo above)

Three ACT Section Members Steve Gilmore, Judy Taylor and PCR photoed at the naming ceremony.

### Events coming up

**25 April—ANZAC Day March Get together at Hellenic Club Civic afterwards**  
**Sunday 22 May Buffet Lunch Wardroom HMAS Harman**  
**1130 for 1200**



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the  
**Naval Association of Australia**



Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

## Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

### Office Bearers 2010

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

### Committee Members

Welfare	Alex. McGown	02 6258 6167
Membership	Peter Launder	02 6260 3843
	John Small	02 6258 1216
	JJ Harrison	02 6258 4512

Hon/Social Secs Judith McNay and Bev Joce

### Charitable Fund

Chairman Harry Beardsell

### Contact Details

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PO Bo 265  
CURTIN ACT 2605  
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Fresh faces, fresh ideas needed for  
the future, don't stand back and  
leave everything to somebody else

## President's Note

*The last month has been rather busy coming to a climax with ANZAC Day. Whilst ANZAC Day coincides with Easter, please make it a good turn out for the NAA .*

*The comment below on the Naval Memorial Service has been generated by the absence of the Naval Memorial Service in Canberra from the Navy's plans for the Centenary celebrations. Navy commenced the Canberra Memorial Services in 1986 and they were organised by HMAS Harman. In 1998 the ACT Section of the NAA volunteered to help Harman run the Service. Diminishing resources available to Harman placed more of the workload on the NAA and it would seem that the Navy has formed the opinion that the Service is an NAA event supported by Harman. This is not so.*

*At the time of volunteering to help with the service, the ACT Section did not have an active part in the organisation of any service in the ACT. With the demise of the ACT Chapter of the Naval Historical Society, the ACT Section took over responsibility for the HMAS Canberra Memorial Service which occurs annually in August with the tremendous support from Harman, TS Canberra, Chief of Navy and ADFA. The HMAS Canberra Memorial service is much more relevant to the ACT Section than the Naval Service which is essentially a national Naval service. Throughout its twenty five year career it has been very poorly attended by serving Navy members working in the ACT.*

*A letter has been written to Navy along the above lines seeking its future intentions.*

*Peter Cooke-Russell*

**Committee meeting  
Kaleen Sports Club  
1200 Thursday 2 June 2011**

## General Meeting Dates and Locations

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

## NAAACT Section Event/Social Diary 2011

25 Apr	ANZAC Day. Post March get together with HMAS Sydney and Escorts VLSV Assoc at the Hellenic Club Moore Street Civic. (Old RSL Club Location) - Cost of \$10 to non HMAS Sydney Assoc Members
22 May	Buffet Lunch at HMAS Harman to mark the RAN's Centenary
16 Jun	Lunch at Vikings Club Tuggeronong Town Centre
6 Aug	HMAS Canberra Memorial Service
18 Aug	Lunch at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club 1200
8 Oct	Naval Memorial Service Anzac Parade. (Service in doubt as Navy has indicated that it does not want a service this year.)

## PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES RISE

Veterans' pensions were increased from 20 March. Pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, so the pension paid on payday 24 March 2011 was partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate. The first full payment at the new rate of pension was on 7 April 2011.

The maximum rate of single service pension, including pension supplement, rose by \$13.20 to \$729.30 per fortnight and the maximum rate for couples increased by \$9.90 to \$549.70 per fortnight (each).

The Special (T&PI) rate of disability pension has increased by \$20.80 to \$1,113.70 per fortnight. Extreme Disability Adjustment has increased to \$614.80 per fortnight and the 100% General Rate of disability pension has increased to \$395.70 per

fortnight.

The pension paid to war widows has increased by \$13.60 to \$738.70 per fortnight, while the ceiling rate of the income support supplement, which is paid to some 76,000 war widows, has risen to \$220.80 per fortnight.

Payments have also increased for benefits under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA). The MRCA widowed partner's death benefit is \$369.35 per week, paid fortnightly.

The quarterly instalment of seniors supplement (\$199.29 if single and \$150.43 if a member of a couple) was paid on 24 March 2011.

More information on the new pension rates is available from DVA on 133 254 or at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au).

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate	New rate	Increase
Single person	\$716.10	\$729.30	\$13.20
Couples (each)	\$539.80	\$549.70	\$9.90
Single person – transitional	\$643.80	\$650.90	\$7.10
Couples (each) – transitional	\$520.00	\$525.70	\$5.70
WAR WIDOWS			
War widow's pension	\$725.10	\$738.70	\$13.60
Income support supplement	\$216.60	\$220.80	\$4.20
DISABILITY PENSION			
TPI (Special Rate)	\$1,092.90	\$1,113.70	\$20.80
Intermediate rate	\$741.60	\$755.80	\$14.20
EDA	\$603.30	\$614.80	\$11.50
100 per cent	\$388.30	\$395.70	\$7.40
10 per cent	\$38.83	\$39.57	\$0.74
MRCA			
Wholly dependent partners death benefit	\$725.10	\$738.70	\$13.60
Special rate disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,092.90	\$1,113.70	\$20.80

### Victoria Cross Inquiry

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, today announced that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will inquire into unresolved recognition for past acts of naval and military gallantry and valour.

The Inquiry will be headed by the Chair of the Tribunal, Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce AO. He will be assisted by Tribunal members:

Prof David Horner AM, Professor of Australian Defence History in the Strategic and Defence Studies

Centre at the Australian National University;  
VADM Don Chalmers AO (Retd), former CN  
Brig Gary Bornholt AM, CSC (Retd), f  
Air Cdre Mark Lax OAM, CSM (Retd),

A call for submissions will be released shortly in the national press. Submissions to the Inquiry will close on 30 June 2011. The full terms of reference for the inquiry and guidance on how to make a submission can be obtained at: [www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au)

The Tribunal can be contacted at:  
[DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au)

## MY WISHES WHEN I CAN NO LONGER SPEAK

The nature of our lives and deaths has changed progressively throughout the last century. Due to a combination of medical progress, science and socioeconomic factors, those who live in western countries can now expect to live longer (on average) than at any time in human history. In the past, serious illness, infections or injuries usually led to a fairly rapid death. Unless death is sudden, most of us can now expect to face an extended period of progressive disease burden, increasing dependence, pain and unpleasant symptoms as the end of life approaches, coupled with alarming predictions of impaired brain function.

Many people fear a loss of autonomy and dignity, as well as being unable to make their preferences known when crucial health and other personal decisions are required after they have lost decision-making capacity. There is community support for self-determination, particularly in end-of-life matters, and for appointing trusted substitute decision-makers to convey preferences when decision-making capacity is impaired.

Advance care planning refers to the process of preparing for possible scenarios and usually includes assessment of, and discussion about, a person's understanding of their medical history and condition, values, preferences, and personal and family resources. Advance Care Directives (ACDs) are widely viewed as the cornerstone of advance care planning. They encompass both instructions about what kind of care should be provided (living wills) and who should make the decisions if the patient cannot do so (substitute decision-makers).

ACDs provide a means for people to plan ahead for these situations. They are not simply advance medical directions written by a patient, and are not limited to end-of-life decision-making. They are life-management documents which people complete in home, community, hospital and aged care settings. When completing ACDs, people are not usually seeking to control medical treatment decisions; they are hoping to live well and die with dignity in accord with their personal values.

It is important to note that:

- ACDs are relevant to adults at all stages of life – they can be completed by competent adults whether they are healthy and active, recently diagnosed, chronically ill, or at the end of their life;
- ACDs can relate to any future time of reduced capacity, not just at the end of life – they can
- be activated during temporary periods of impaired or lost decision-making capacity

such as an episode of mental illness or transient unconsciousness; and

- ACDs cover health and personal care, not just medical treatment – they recognise that health has emotional and spiritual as well as physical dimensions, and can also address residential and other personal matters.

When considering an ACD you should think clearly about what you want your medical treatment to achieve if you become ill. For example:

- If treatment could prolong your life, what level of quality of life would be acceptable to you?
- How important is it to you to be able to communicate with family and friends?
- How will you know what technology is available for use in certain conditions?

It is not necessary for a competent adult completing an ACD to be medically informed, seek medical advice or follow medical advice in order for their ACD to be considered valid. A competent adult can choose to write directions, even medical directions, without expert advice. However, it is a good idea to check with a health professional that the terms used in an ACD convey preferences and goals of future care accurately. This becomes even more important if the medical directions are complex.

Another strategy for advance care planning is for you to focus on who will make the decisions rather than on what those decisions should be. The naming of a friend or family member to serve as a substitute decision-maker (also referred to as assigning a durable power of attorney for health care) gives physicians and others someone to talk to who can apply the patient's preferences to the existing clinical situation. It would be helpful also to ensure that all relevant family members are aware of who the substituted decision-maker is.

*(With acknowledgements to 'Vet Affairs' March 2011)*

### Plan Now

This situation is not limited  
to problems  
caused by old age

## THE RAN'S CHINESE COASTAL STEAMERS

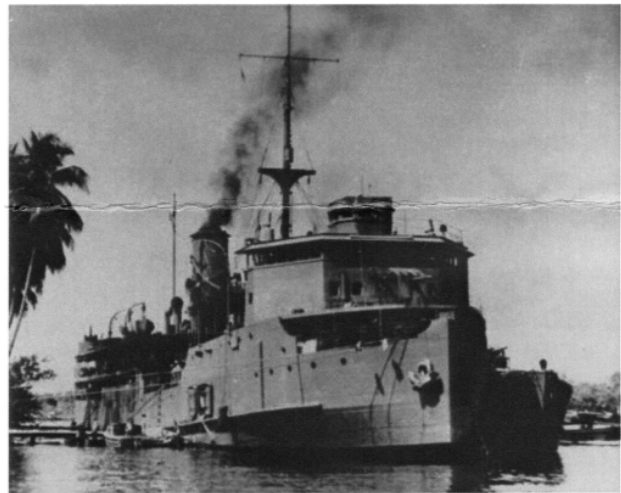
With the onset of World War II in September 1939, the RAN began requisitioning merchant vessels to supplement the fleet and release warships for operational duties around the world. These vessels served as coastal patrol vessels, stores issuing ships, amphibious landing ships, in fact, they were employed in any activity where there was the greatest need. Hundreds of ships and small craft were requisitioned into war service throughout the Commonwealth with many of them retaining their original, often colourful, names. Amongst them were HMA Ships *Ping Wo*, *Poyang*, *Whang Pu* and *Yunnan*.

These four ships were coastal steamers owned by Chinese subsidiaries of British shipping companies and were all of a similar size, between 2600 and 3300 tons.

*Ping Wo* and *Whang Pu* had both been requisitioned by the RN in 1942 and were in various stages of refit in Singapore when it became apparent that the island would soon fall to the Japanese. On 2 February 1942 they joined a large number of Allied warships and merchant vessels which were evacuating the port up until the final surrender of the island on 15 February.

The two ships made their way to the Australian west coast with *Ping Wo* enduring the more eventful passage as she participated in the longest tow in Australian naval history. HMAS *Vendetta* was undergoing a refit in Singapore in 1942 and could not be made seaworthy in time to escape the Japanese advance. With only a skeleton crew onboard, the decision was made to tow *Vendetta* from Singapore to Melbourne, a journey of some 8000km that took 72 days. *Ping Wo* was one of five ships involved and handled the tow from Batavia to King George Sound from 17 February to 24 March. With doubts about the seaworthiness of *Ping Wo* in the rough waters of the Great Australian Bight, the tow was handed over to the smaller but more sturdy SS *Islander*. *Ping Wo* remained in company with *Vendetta* and *Islander* for a time as she continued on to Melbourne and, indeed, nearly fell victim to the waters of the Bight. *Vendetta's* Commanding Officer, Lieutenant WG Whitting noted at one point '*Ping Wo* has completely disappeared. We last saw her running before the gale like a surf board.' But *Ping Wo* did make it across the Bight, and commissioned as HMAS *Ping Wo* on 22 May 1942.

*Whang Pu*, meanwhile, arrived safely in Fremantle on 1 March. She had been fitting out as a subma-



HMAS *Ping Wo*

rine depot ship for the RN before the fall of Singapore, and spent the next year and a half at Fremantle as an accommodation ship for Dutch submarine and minesweeper crews as the Australian and British naval authorities considered how best to use her.

*Poyang* and *Yunnan* did not have to escape the oncoming Japanese in Singapore as they were already in Australian waters. *Poyang* had arrived in Broome from southern China on 19 December 1941 while *Yunnan* had arrived in Fremantle from Singapore on 3 December. Both were requisitioned by the RAN in February 1942 and fitted out as Armoured Stores Issuing Ships in Melbourne before heading to Sydney at the end of April. The two ships operated primarily off the Australian east coast for the remainder of 1942 and most of 1943 making occasional voyages to New Caledonia and New Guinea.

My mid-1942, all four ships were being used by the RAN in some capacity, but *Ping Wo* was the only one that had been commissioned into the RAN. After fitting out in Melbourne, *Ping Wo* departed for Sydney in June. In September she continued on to Port Stephens to operate as a support vessel to the Combined Operations Training Centre, HMAS *Assault*. She was used primarily to transport water and other stores to the Landing Ships Infantry but was also used as a training ship. Some 20,000 Americans and 2000 Australians received training in amphibious warfare at *Assault* over two years. When the Centre was closed down in October 1943, *Ping Wo* was converted to a repair ship and re-deployed to New Guinea.

*Ping Wo* remained in New Guinea throughout 1944, based mainly at Milne Bay, conducting the unglamorous but essential work of a repair vessel and fulfilling other duties as required. In January 1945 she returned to Melbourne to refit as a works ship to carry out naval construction work at ports where civilian labour was not available. She was underway again that July bound for Morotai in the Moluccas with a directive in force that neither the crew nor the ship's equipment was to be disintegrated in any way with the prior approval of the Naval Board. Such was the parlous state of naval bases in the Pacific that officers at Torokina and Rabaul made enquiries as to the availability of *Ping Wo* to assist in construction efforts there before the ship had even left Australian waters. As it happened, *Ping Wo* experienced engine difficulties and was delayed at Townsville, preventing her from reaching any of those destinations. She instead made for Madang in October where she once again acted as a stores issuing ship until February 1946, assisting in the repatriation of Allied servicemen and former prisoners of war. She then sailed for Hong Kong where she arrived on 8 June 1946, decommissioned on 24 June and was subsequently returned to her owners.

By the end of 1943, two more of the Chinese ships had commissioned into the RAN; *Whang Pu* on 1 October and *Poyang* on 6 December. *Whang Pu* had been causing some consternation since her arrival in Fremantle as neither Australian nor British naval authorities could decide what to do with her. When she finally did commission, the original intent was that she become a repair ship for the Fairmile motor launches based at Fremantle. This plan was abandoned and she instead made her way to Melbourne for fitting out as a mobile repair ship. As with *Ping Wo* before her, *Whang Pu* found crossing the Bight most difficult, encountering gale force winds which forced her crew to work round-the-clock to keep her afloat. In April 1944, following her refit, she made her way to New Guinea.

In July 1944, *Whang Pu* assisted in the construction of the base at Madang transporting equipment and stores as well as providing construction parties, and assisting in the clearing and levelling of that part of the base allocated for the RAN. This proved to be a very busy period for *Whang Pu* as, not only did she provide construction parties, but continued operations as a repair ship and a stores issuing ship. The crew's efforts in difficult conditions were commendable, particularly as they were struck by a number of ailments common to the tropics, including several cases of malaria. Their efforts were praised by the Naval Board who noted the less-than-ideal conditions that they were working in.

*Whang Pu* continued to assist construction efforts at Madang until January 1945 when she began

conversion to a Stores Issuing Ship, a role she had by then been performing for some time. She was underway again in June and was based at Morotai for the remainder of the year. In spite of officially being a Stores Issuing Ship, *Whang Pu* continued to offer repair assistance to Allied ships in harbour. She departed Morotai for Hong Kong in February 1946 where she decommissioned on 22 April and was handed over to the British Ministry of War Transport before being returned to her owners.

*Poyang*, meanwhile, after commissioning in Sydney, departed for New Guinea on New Year's Day 1944. She operated off the north coast of New Guinea primarily supplying ammunition to Allied ships. She spent much time in convoy during the year and, as part of the Service Force Seventh Fleet – Leyte Gulf Unit, provided ammunition and other supplies to ships involved in the Leyte Gulf landings of October 1944, in spite of engine defects which had plagued the ship since construction. Additionally, coal shortages in New Guinea made it difficult for *Poyang* to maintain operations prompting the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Commander Gatacre DSC to question why the ship was sent to New Guinea in the first place.

Following a brief period back in Australian waters in December 1944 and January 1945, *Poyang* returned north and spent the remainder of the war in the New Guinea and Morotai areas, and was in Morotai at the end of hostilities on 15 August. She was one of twelve RAN ships which made up the naval force at Ambon when the 33<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade was landed to occupy the island. She remained in northern waters until 7 January 1946 when she returned to Sydney and decommissioned on 6 March. She was handed over to the Ministry of War Transport in August before being returned to her owners.

*Yunnan* was the last of the quartet to commission. Having been requisitioned and spending most of

(Continued on page 8)



Crew members from HMAS Whang Pu circa 1944

**BUFFET LUNCH**

Don't forget the buffet lunch on Sunday 22 May, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAN. There will be a selection of three mains, plus dessert with limited table wine & OJ. Additional alcohol will be at own expense. Members \$18.00 (including spouses); non-members \$20. It is important that acceptances be received by no later than 12 May.

Both the CO and XO of HMAS Harman, along with their wives have been invited. A booking slip is enclosed.

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.

**ANZAC DAY**

Vehicles for those who find it difficult to march the distance are provided. These will be located at the top of ANZAC Parade on the right hand side. Some idea of the numbers of your marchers who might require transport would be appreciated.

Large contingents are asked to form up six abreast and bands are being asked to play at 110 paces per minute.

After the march when you reach the seating area it is important you follow the directions of the ushers and remember the seating is for marchers only, not NOK. NOK can obtain seating tickets by contacting the Australian War Memorial in advance.

**Once the march has been formed please ensure your mobile phone is SWITCHED OFF.**

The Dawn Service commences at 0530 at the Australian War Memorial

**Form-up for the ANZAC Day March 0945 - 1015**

March commences 1030

**NAA's location is position No 22 in the March.**

**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"

## THE RAN'S CHINESE COASTAL STEAMERS

*(Continued from page 6)*

1942 and 1943 in Australian waters, she proceeded to New Guinea in August 1943 to act as a stores issuing ship and returned to Sydney in June 1944 to undergo a refit before commissioning. Upon her return to New Guinea at the end of October, she joined *Poyang* in the service Force seventh Fleet. *Yunnan* also suffered from the coal shortages which had affected *Poyang* during this period.

*Yunnan* sailed for Leyte Gulf in December where she remained from 26 December 1944 through to early May 1945 supporting Allied ships involved in the Lingayen Gulf landings of January 1945. For the next three months she operated in waters around New Guinea, the Admiralty Islands, Morotai and the Sulu Archipelago. She returned to the Philippines after the cessation of hostilities before sailing for Sydney in October where she decommissioned on 31 January 1946. She was handed over to the Ministry of War Transport on 9 May 1946 before being returned to her owners.

The four Chinese coastal steamers are often viewed as something of a novelty; just four strange names consigned to the history books of the RAN. However, their contribution to Allied operations in New Guinea and the Philippines, and their assistance in the successful landings at Leyte and Lingayen should not be so readily dismissed. The respective crews worked long hours under adverse conditions with remarkable camaraderie. Their service was, and remains, a credit to the RAN.

(With acknowledgements to Seapower Centre)



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

## NEW HEALTH PROGRAMME FOR CHRONIC ILLNESS

A new DVA programme will be rolled out across Australia from May 2011.

The Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program will improve community-based healthcare for eligible Gold Card holders who are living with chronic and complex illnesses. The focus of the programme is on prevention and improved management of chronic conditions to improve quality of life and reduce hospital stays.

The CVC Program is for those with chronic disease who are most at risk of hospitalisation. An estimated 17,000 or 1 in 10 of eligible Gold Card holders will participate by 2014.

The CVC Program will be available to eligible veterans, war widows, widowers and dependants with a Gold Card who live in the community, have one or more chronic illnesses and have complex care needs. The programme will specifically target conditions such as congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes where improved community-based healthcare has shown to be beneficial.

The CVC Program is unique in that it will provide doctors and nurses with additional time to manage and coordinate veterans' care, including the development of the veteran's care needs.

A nurse will implement and monitor the care plan. This could include organising access to other services, medication reviews, assisting in preparations for specialists' appointments and, most importantly, helping the veteran understand and better manage their condition and general health and wellbeing.

In addition, an enhanced social assistance service will be available through DVA's existing Veterans' Care Program for CVC participants most at risk of the effects of social isolation. Veterans' Home Care

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Reunions

### HMAS QUIBERON Reunion 2011

Penrith NSW 7—9 October 2011

Contact Dean Sando 02 4732 3083  
Email [quiberon2011@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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 [mbt@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mbt@netspeed.com.au)

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

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDED RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

While the Australian government is responsible for providing about 80% of ongoing funding for residential aged care, residents who can afford to make a contribution toward the cost of their care are asked to do so. The fees and charges in residential aged care are designed so that residents, including veterans and war widows, make a fair and reasonable contribution toward the cost of their care if they can.

As a resident in aged care, you may be required to pay an accommodation payment. The aged care facility must use the accommodation payment to improve building and accommodation standards. There are two types of accommodation payments:

- accommodation bond – if you are a low-level care resident or receive care through an extra service (additional 'hotel' type service or life-styles services) and;
- accommodation charge – if you are a high-level care resident.

You can only be asked to pay an accommodation payment if your assets exceed an amount set by the Australian government. Your assets include all property. Your former home may be exempt if certain conditions apply (for example, if your partner continues living there). If you are a member of a couple, half of your combined assets will be included in your assessment.

All residents pay a basic daily care fee and, generally, this is equivalent to 84% of a full single age pension. If you have assessable income above asset threshold, you may be asked to pay a percentage of that excess income as an additional income-tested fee.

In recognition of the special contribution made by veterans and their dependants on behalf of the nation, the following benefits have been preserved:

- DVA disability pension as compensation for service-related injuries is exempt from income testing of daily fees for service pensioners and self-funded retirees with qualifying service; and
- Repatriation health care benefits are maintained for Gold and White health card holders in residential aged care.

As a former Prisoner of War (POW) or Victoria Cross (VC) recipient in residential aged care, DVA will pay your basic daily fee and you will be exempt from income-tested fees. However, you may be asked to pay an assets-tested accommodation bond or ongoing accommodation charge, depending on your assets.

#### Fees for Community (Packaged) Care for former

#### POWs

If you are former POW or VC recipient receiving an Australian government funded Community Aged Care Package (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) or Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHED) package, DVA will pay your basic daily fee. DVA will also pay your income-tested fees, if you have additional income to incur an income-tested fee. You should not be asked to make any payments to the service provider.

#### What to do if you're unhappy with aged care arrangements

If you have any concerns about the fees and charges you are asked to pay, or other concerns in relation to the aged care arrangements, raise the issue with the aged care home directly. If you are still dissatisfied, call the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme during business hours on 1800 550 552 or make a complaint via the Department of Health and Ageing website [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) where you can download the scheme's online complaints form.

If you require more detailed information, see DVA factsheets IS8<sub>2</sub> 'Fees and Charges in Residential Aged Care'; HSV<sub>10</sub> 'Residential and Community Aged Care for former Prisoners of War and Victoria Cross recipients'; and HSV<sub>05</sub> 'Moving into Residential Care'. DVA can be contacted on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 (for regional callers).

The Aged Care Information Line is 1800 500 853 if you wish to contact the Department of Health and Ageing in relation to its responsibilities for regulating aged care fees and charges.

#### Five Minute Quizz

1. Puerto Rico is an unincorporated organised territory of which country?
2. Which Latin word is at the root of the word lunatic?
3. Gout is caused by elevated levels of which acid in the blood?
4. What is the practice or art of training, cutting and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes?
5. From left to right, what are the colours of the three stripes of the French flag?
6. Who did Adolf Hitler will to succeed him as head of state?
7. To the closest minute, how long does it take light to travel from the Sun to Earth?
8. Methuselah was stated to have lived for how long?
9. What is somnambulism?
10. The decimal numeral system has 10 as its base. What is the base of the nonary system?

Answers on Page 11

**HMAS WATSON  
24 March 2011**



Mrs Judy Taylor stands in front of the new Bridge Training Faculty, the "Taylor Building" at HMAS WATSON.

**NEW HEALTH PROGRAMME FOR  
CHRONIC ILLNESS**

*(Continued from page 8)*

is designed to assist those veterans and war widows or widowers who wish to continue living at home, but who need a limited amount of practical help. This social assistance service will encourage participation in activities which will lead to veterans feeling less socially isolated.

To participate in the CVC Program, eligible veterans will not have to do anything, DVA will actively identify and contact veterans, war widows and the doctors of those who are most likely to benefit from the programme. If a veteran or war widow is eligible to participate, their health and wellbeing needs will be assessed by their doctor in the medical practice and they may be admitted to the programme.

Participation in the programme is not mandatory and has no impact on a veteran's entitlements to any other DVA payments or services. The programme will not prevent veterans or war widows being admitted to hospital when necessary.

For more information about the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program, contact DVA on 133 254, 1800 555 254 (for regional callers) or visit [www.dva.gov.au/cvc.htm](http://www.dva.gov.au/cvc.htm).

*('Vet Affairs' March 2011)*

**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:

So far 35 members have opted for the email transmission. The remainder will receive hard copy.

Members wishing to change their mode of transmission;

**Please let the Secretary know  
of your choice**

**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.**

Stephen Bailey, Peter Burn, Ken Cartwright, Graham Cleverly, Peter Fleming, Steward Gordon, JJ Harrison, Robin Herron, Don Joce, Dennis Lyons, Alan Masters, Alex McGown, Ron McKenzie, Graham Moore, Margaret Moriarty, David Read, Nigel Stoker, Louis Wallington, Richard Waring and Lindsay Webb

*Answers to Five Minute Quiz:  
11. USA: 2. Luna (meaning moon); 3. Uric; 4. Topiary;  
5. Blue, white, red; 6. Karl Doenitz; 7. 8 minutes; 8. 969  
years; 9. Sleepwalking; 10. Nine*