



The Bosun's Call

Vol 14 No 9

Each for All—All for Each

October 2009

RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF PENSION INDEXATION ARRANGEMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES (THE "MATTHEWS REPORT")

This response was developed by the Defence Force Welfare Association in conjunction with the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association, the Naval Association of Australia, the Royal Australian Air Force Association and the Royal Australian Regiment Association. It is endorsed by Defence Families Australia and the Defence Reserves Association.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purchasing power of military superannuation pensions has slowly but inexorably fallen over the last two decades. It continues to do so.

Rather than accept all or even any of the recommendations of six previous parliamentary reviews, the Government in June 2008 appointed Mr Trevor Matthews to conduct a seventh review. He submitted his report in December 2008. The Government released the report on 21 August 2009.

Mr Matthews made four recommendations. In essence, he supported the status quo. The Government supported the review's findings and recommendations.

DFWA strongly contends that the Government was poorly advised. DFWA objects to the Review's interpretation of its terms of reference, its methodology and superficial analysis, its selective use of facts, its misleading presentation of certain cost data, and the conclusions drawn.

Today's CPI is a measure of inflation, not purchasing power or cost of living, but the Review

uses these terms interchangeably. Saying that today's CPI protects pension purchasing power is comprehensively wrong. So is the contention that military superannuation pensions are generous.

The conclusions do not support the fundamental premise accepted by the Review, the Government and DFWA that indexation's purpose is to maintain pension purchasing power. Nor do conclusions follow from evidence available to, but not necessarily analysed or even recognised by, the Review. The Review's four recommendations are not, therefore, supported by all the facts or by analysis.

The Review fails to recognise that actions already taken by government to maintain the purchasing power of Age and other welfare pensions by fair indexation of those pensions can and should extend to maintaining the purchasing power of military superannuation pensioners.

The Review highlights the (questionable) unfunded cost of fair military indexation but is silent on the unfunded cost of fair indexation for extant

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Events coming up

25 October Fish 'n' Chips

Southern Cross Canberra Yacht Club

At 1700

5 November **THURSDAY** Monthly meeting Kaleen Sports Club

Commencing at 1330



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
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Social Sec	To be relieved by Peter McNay	
	Vacant	

Charitable Fund

Chairman Harry Beardsell

Contact Details

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NAA ACT Section
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General Meeting Dates and Locations

5 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
3 Dec Manuka Services Club	1830
4 Feb Annual GM Manuka Service Club	1930
3 Mar MV Southern Cross	1930 Wed
1 Apr Kaleen Sports Club	1330
6 May Manuka Services Club	1930
3 Jun Manuka Services Club	1930
1 Jul Manuka Services Club	1930
5 Aug Kaleen Sports Club	1930
2 Sep Manuka Services Club	1930
6 Oct MV Southern Cross	1930 Wed
4 Nov Kaleen Sports Club	1330
2 Dec Manuka Services Club	1830

President's Note

With the Naval Memorial Service completed, it marked the end of a very busy period. The service went well and the facilities provided by HMAS Harman were great. Lunch with the Ballina Sub-section Canberra Tour members was well attended and although due to the hotel management's seating arrangements, we were not able to mix with the Ballina group as well as I had hoped, we were still able to get together and swap a few yarns.

Jeremy Hansen MLA was able to come to our last meeting. It was a great opportunity to talk to him on ACT matters. Even though he is a Government Opposition member, he has been delegated to look after veterans' matters from the Opposition's point of view. The Government has not taken up that challenge to date. Jeremy managed to win the raffle that evening. We found ourselves at sea immediately after the meeting and it was a very pleasant way to round off a very relaxed and enjoyable gathering onboard the MV *Southern Cross*.

The social calendar is revving up with informal gatherings. The BBQ at Don and Bev's place is the Section's way of celebrating Christmas this year. They have a beautiful back garden which is well suited to outdoor functions. Bring a hat and chair.

The National Council meets on 31 October in Sydney at HMAS Penguin. Joe Slaats has volunteered to accompany me to the meeting to see what goes on at the Council meetings and meet the National Councillors and National Executive that gather there. A weekend in Penguin is quite a change from normal suburban life in a retired environment.

The agenda for the National Council meeting was discussed at our 7 October meeting. The ACT Section points of view will be put to the National Council as a result of the members discussion on 7 October.

The weather is improving and I hope to see quite a few of you at the "Fish 'n' Chips" get together by the Canberra Yacht Club on Sunday 25 October

Cheers
Peter Cooke-Russell

NAA ACT Section Event Diary

- 25 October **Fish and Chips Evening** Canberra Yacht Club foreshore Starts 1700
- 1-11 Nov **Poppy Selling**
- 22 Nov **BBQ.** At Don Joce's house 30 Marsden Street Dickson \$15 per head.
- 28 Nov **Jack Staff BBQ** at Ken Doolan's house 60 Whisker's Ck Road Carwoola BYO See page
- 29 Nov **Fish and Chips Evening** Canberra Yacht Club foreshore 1700
- 3 Dec Early and short meeting at Manuka Services Club followed by optional dinner at the Club

(Continued from page 1)

welfare pensions and for certain other Commonwealth superannuation pensions not the subject of this Review. Meanwhile, it ignores the key fact that successive governments *chose* to operate unfunded superannuation schemes for their ADF members, which is not the fault of ADF people or of those they leave behind.

The Review expects serving and former ADF members and their dependants to bear cost burdens resulting from the choices of successive governments, an unconscionable and indefensible situation. Mr Matthews condemns each military superannuant to further erosion of his or her superannuation pension's purchasing power, as is clearly and simply demonstrated by the attached graph.

DFWA contends that a hybrid indexation method including the CPI together with an outlays based living cost index such as the new PBLCI and with reference to a wages based index such as the MTAW (effectively tied to movements in the CPI or PBLCI or MTAW, whichever is the greatest) is fair, equitable and reasonable. This method would help protect the purchasing power of military su-

perannuation pensions as it does for today's welfare pensions. DFWA seeks no more and no less than this for military superannuants.

DFWA does not seek linkage to today's military salaries.

DFWA contends unequivocally that the Government has the strongest of grounds to review its endorsement of the Matthews Report, to request the Australian Government Actuary to generate long term liability and related figures upon which all parties can reasonably rely, and concurrently to introduce a fair indexation method that maintains the purchasing power of all military superannuation pensions without further delay.

Assumptions

"DFWA" where appearing includes the views of all organisations that contributed to, or endorsed, this response.

DFWA assumes that a reader of this response is familiar with, or has access to, Mr Matthews' 80 page report dated 24 December 2008. It 1S at www.finance.gov.au/superannuation/pension-indexation-review.html

Letter covering the complete response to the Matthews Review

*Defence Force Welfare Association
National Office
PO Box 4166,
KINGSTON, ACT, 2604
30 September 2009*

The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP
Minister for Finance and Deregulation
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to attach for your attention and action our combined response to the Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes ("The Matthews Report") and to the Government's acceptance of the report's recommendation to continue using the CPI as the basis for adjusting military superannuation pensions.

This response was developed by the Defence Force Welfare Association in conjunction with the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association, the Naval Association of Australia, the Royal Australian Air Force Association and the Royal Australian Regiment Association. It is endorsed by Defence Families Australia and the

Defence Reserves Association.

We welcome Mr Matthews' acceptance, and the Government's unqualified endorsement, of the longstanding fundamental premise that the purpose of indexation should be to maintain the purchasing power of military superannuation pensions.

But we are extremely disappointed by the Review's superficial analysis of the available evidence and by the report's lack of depth, which led to deeply flawed conclusions. The conclusions do not support the Review's fundamental premise. Today's CPI or even the new post-Matthews PBLCI do not of themselves protect pension purchasing power.

We are also disappointed by the Government's endorsement of a demonstrably flawed report.

As the attached response demonstrates, an indexation method including the CPI together with an outlays based living cost index such as the Pensioner Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) and reference to a wages based index such as the MTAW (effectively tied to movements in the CPI or PBLCI or MTAW, whichever is the greatest) is fair, equitable and reasonable. This method would help protect the purchasing power of military superannuation pensions as it does for today's welfare

(Continued on page 4)



Above. Chief of Navy, VADM Russ Crane addressing the gathering. Peter Cooke-Russel and Chaplain Barry Porter seated

Right. RAN Sydney Bandsman sounds the Last Post

Photos Peter McNay



Naval Memorial Service 1 October 2009

The annual service went off well. The NAA attendance was greatly boosted by the participation of the Ballina Sub-section. A good lunch was had afterwards at Olims Hotel.

(Continued from page 3)

pensions. We seek no more and no less than this for military superannuants.

Importantly, we do not seek a generous indexation method tied to today's military salaries even though certain other Commonwealth superannuation pensions are very generously tied to today's parliamentary and judicial salaries.

We recognise that pension purchasing power protection comes at a cost. But the Government pays this cost for welfare pensioners and exceeds it significantly for certain other Commonwealth superannuation pensioners. The Government cannot continue to discriminate against Australian Defence Force members, its former members, and their families, on grounds of cost.

We believe unequivocally that the Government has the strongest of grounds to:

- Review its endorsement of the Matthews Report,
- Request the Australian Government Actuary to generate long term liability and related figures upon which all parties can rely, and
- Concurrently and without further delay introduce a fair indexation method that maintains

the purchasing power of all military superannuation pensions.

Noting that the Government is still considering the Review of Military Superannuation Arrangements, we look forward to early discussions with you or with the Government's representative on the Government's plans to protect the purchasing power of Australia's military superannuation pensioners.

I commend the attached response to you for your attention and action.

David Jamison AM
National President DFWA

On behalf of the Contributing Ex-Service Organisations

CC:
The Hon G. I. Combet MP

Battle of Taranto

Long before the First World War, the Italian Royal Navy's First Squadron was based in Taranto. In this period, the British Royal Navy developed plans for countering the power of the Italian fleet. Mitigating the plausible effects of a potential Mediterranean adversary was an on-going exercise. Plans for capturing the port at Taranto were considered as early as the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935.

In 1940 Italian operations in North Africa around Libya required supply from the Italian mainland. British North African operations, based in Egypt suffered from much greater supply difficulties, with convoys having to cross the Mediterranean Sea from depots in Gibraltar. This put the Italian fleet in an excellent position to cut off supplies to British forces.

The Royal Navy had won in several actions, considerably upsetting the Mediterranean balance of power. Following the theory of a fleet in being, the Italians left their ships in harbor. The fleet at Taranto was powerful: six battleships (five of them battle-worthy), seven heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and eight destroyers, making the threat of a sortie against British forces a serious problem.

During the Munich Crisis of 1938, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, commander of the British navy's Mediterranean Fleet, was concerned about the survival of HMS *Glorious* in the face of Italian opposition in the Mediterranean; and he ordered his staff to re-examine the plans for attacking Taranto. He was advised by the captain of *Glorious*, Arthur L. St.G. Lyster, her Fairey TSR Swordfish were capable of a night attack; indeed, the Fleet Air Arm was then the only naval air arm capable of it. Pound took Lyster's advice, ordering training to begin; security was so tight, there were no written records. Just a month before war began, Pound knowingly advised his replacement, Admiral A. B. Cunningham, to consider the prospect. It would come to be known as Operation Judgement.

The fall of France and consequent loss of the French fleet in the Mediterranean (even before Operation Catapult) made redress essential. The older carrier, HMS *Eagle*, on Cunningham's strength, was ideal, possessing an air group comprised entirely of Swordfish (with the unofficial addition of three Sea Gladiators). Firm plans began to be drawn after the Italian Army halted at Sidi Barrani, which freed the Mediterranean Fleet.

Judgement, just a small part of the over-arching Operation MB8, was originally scheduled to launch on 21 October 1940 (Trafalgar Day) but a fire in a 60 UKgal (270 l) auxiliary fuel tank of one TSR, replacing the third crewman to make the mission



Taranto in the 1930's

possible, led to a serious fire which destroyed two aircraft. The older aircraft carrier HMS *Eagle* suffered a casualty in her fuelling system, so the new HMS *Illustrious* (her operating group in the hands of Rear Admiral Lyster, who as captain of *Glorious* had created the plan) took aboard *Eagle's* five TSRs and launched the attack alone. The task force consisted of *Illustrious*, two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and four destroyers. The twenty-four attack aircraft came from 813, 815, 819, and 824 Naval Air Squadrons; the small number of attackers raised concern that Judgement would only "put the wind up" the Italians without achieving significant results. *Illustrious* also had 806 Squadron embarked for air cover..

Half the TSRs were armed with torpedoes as strike aircraft, half with bombs and flares to act as a diversion. The torpedoes were fitted with Duplex magnetic/contact exploders (which were extremely sensitive to heavy seas, as attacks on *Bismarck* would later prove), and there were fears the torpedoes would bottom in the shallow harbor after launching. The loss rate was expected to be fifty percent.

Several reconnaissance flights by Martin Maryland bombers (of RAF No. 431 General Reconnaissance Flight), operating from Malta had confirmed the location of the Italian fleet. These flights produced photos on which *Illustrious'* intelligence officer fortuitously detected unexpected barrage balloons, and the plan was changed accordingly. To make sure the Italians had not sortied, the British also sent in a Short Sunderland patrol flying boat on the night of November 11, just as the task force was forming up about 170 miles (315 kilometers) away from the harbour, off the Greek island of Cephalonia. This alerted the Italian forces, but without radar they could do little but wait.

The very complexity of Operation MB8, with its various forces and convoys, succeeded in deceiving the Italians into thinking only normal convoying

was underway, thereby contributing to the success of Judgement.

Battle

The first wave of 12 Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers left the *Illustrious* just before 21:00, followed by a second wave of 9 aircraft about an hour and a half later. The first wave, which consisted of a mix of 6 bomb-armed and 6 torpedo-armed, split in two when 3 of the bombers and one torpedo carrier strayed from the main force while flying through thin cloud. The smaller group continued on to the target independently. The main group of planes approached the harbour at 22:58. A flare was dropped east of the harbour and the flare dropper and another aircraft made a dive bomb attack to set fire to oil tanks. The next three aircraft, led by Lt Cdr K. Williamson RN of 815 Squadron, attacked over San Pietro island, with Williamson's machine being shot down by flak just after releasing its torpedo, which blasted a 27-ft hole in battleship *Conte di Cavour*. The two remaining aircraft in this sub-flight continued, dodging the balloon barrage and receiving heavy anti-aircraft fire, to press home an unsuccessful attack on the battleship *Andrea Doria*. The next sub-flight of 3 attacked from a more northerly direction, attacking the battleship *Littorio*, hitting it with two torpedoes and launching one torpedo at the flagship *Vittorio Veneto* which failed to hit its target. The bombing force led by Capt O. Patch RM now attacked; they found the targets difficult to identify but attacked two cruisers from 1,500 ft, followed by another aircraft which laid its bombs across four destroyers.



Attack directions of the British planes

The second striking force of 9 aircraft was now approaching, 2 of the 4 bombing aircraft also carrying flares, the remaining 5 carrying torpedoes. One turned back with a problem with its auxiliary fuel tank, and one aircraft launched 20 minutes behind the others after requiring emergency repairs to damage from a minor taxiing accident. Flares were



Fairey Swordfish armed with a torpedo

dropped shortly before midnight. Two aircraft aimed their torpedoes at *Littorio*, one of which hit home. One aircraft, despite having been struck twice by anti-aircraft fire, aimed a torpedo at *Vittorio Veneto* but the torpedo missed its target. One aircraft hit the battleship *Caio Duilio* with a torpedo making a large hole and flooding both forward magazines. The aircraft flown by Lt G. W. L. A. Bayly RN was shot down while following the attack on *Littorio*, this being the only aircraft lost from the second wave. The final aircraft to arrive on the scene 15 minutes behind the others made a dive bomb attack on a cruiser despite heavy anti aircraft fire, and made a safe get away returning to *Illustrious* at 02:39 in the morning.

Of the two aircraft lost, two crew were taken prisoner. The other two crew were lost.

Aftermath

The Italian fleet had suffered heavily, and the next day Regia Marina transferred its undamaged ships from Taranto to Naples to protect them from similar attacks. Repairs to *Littorio* took about five months and to *Caio Duilio* six, but *Conte di Cavour* required extensive salvage work and its repairs were incomplete when Italy left the war in 1943. The Italian battleship fleet lost half its strength in one night. The "fleet-in-being" diminished in importance and the Royal Navy increased its control of the Mediterranean.

Despite this serious setback, the Regia Marina had adequate resources to fight the Battle of Cape Spartivento (27 November 1940). However, the British decisively defeated the Italian fleet a few months later in the Battle of Cape Matapan (March 1941).

Air-launched torpedo experts in all modern navies had previously thought that torpedo attacks against ships required deep water, at least 30 m (100 ft). Taranto had a water depth of only 12 m (40 ft). However the Royal Navy used modified torpedoes dropped from a very low height.

Japanese planning staff studied the Taranto attack intensively when planning their successful attack on US naval forces in Pearl Harbor in 1941.

World War II Sailor Receives Medal on his 87th Birthday



Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Naval Officer Southern Region Captain Sheldon Williams and Assistant Defence Attache from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Warrant Officer Class 1 Berry Bodelier, present the medal to Donald Reed



From the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Assistant Defence Attache Warrant Officer Class 1 Berry Bodelier, presents the medal to former Royal Australian Navy Sub Lieutenant Donald Reed



HMAS Abraham Crijnsen off Garden Island, Sydney during WWII

Former Royal Australian Navy Sub Lieutenant Donald Reed became the reluctant centre of attention on 10 September (his 87th birthday!) in Elsternwick VIC, when he was awarded a prestigious foreign service medal from World War II.

As a young officer, Don Reed was assigned to the Netherlands minesweeper *Abraham Crijnsen*. His job was to act as Royal Navy liaison officer, as the small vessel escorted shipping across waters patrolled by German U-Boats.

Sub Lieutenant Reed spent 10 months on board, unable to actually speak the language of those around him. When his time on board was coming to an end, his commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander K.G. Tiel RNN recommended Don for a Netherlands War Cross with Bar.

The award was never actually handed to Mr Reed, who eventually settled back into civilian life after the war. 65 years later, Don's case was brought to the attention of the Netherlands Government, which was quick to investigate.

Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Crane AM CSM RAN, said Mr Reed is one of countless Australians who helped protect this country and her allies, and build on Australia's strong naval heritage.

"I congratulate Mr. Reed on this public recognition of his service," Vice Admiral Crane said.

HMAS *Abraham Crijnsen*

The Van Amstel Class minesweeper *Abraham Crijnsen* was constructed in the Netherlands in 1936, for service in the NEI. At the time of the Japanese invasion, it was based at Surabaya in Java, and in early March 1942 was ordered to make its way to Australia. At the time Japanese air superiority was overwhelming, and the crew could see little prospect of the ship making the passage undetected. The minesweeper's meagre defences were certainly not sufficient to protect it from air attack.

The only possible solution seemed to lie in camouflage, and the ship was accordingly covered with jungle foliage. By lying up during most of the day, and regularly replenishing the protective foliage, the vessel blended into the islands among which she was travelling, and managed to escape notice. On 15 March, *Abraham Crijnsen* arrived at Geraldton in Western Australia.

After a refit and improvement of sonar equipment, the minesweeper began service with the Royal Australian Navy, becoming HMAS *Abraham Crijnsen*. It was employed as a convoy escort and submarine training vessel for the remainder of the war, and remained a familiar sight in Australian waters, although it officially returned to RNN service in 1943.

The veteran *Abraham Crijnsen* survived both war and peace, and is today preserved by the Dutch Naval Museum at Den Helder in the Netherlands

Counter Piracy First for HMAS *Toowoomba*

HMAS *Toowoomba* will be the first Royal Australian Navy ship to join the US-led Combined Task Force combating piracy off the Horn of Africa.

The Australian warship HMAS *Toowoomba* will patrol the waters of the Gulf of Aden, the Somalia Basin and the Horn of Africa - a new mission for the RAN operating in the Middle East.

Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General Mark Evans, said HMAS *Toowoomba's* involvement in the operation was an important contribution towards countering piracy.

"As an ANZAC class frigate, HMAS *Toowoomba* will provide a major deterrent presence. Other tasks will include escorting merchant shipping in the maritime corridors of the Gulf of Aden, as well as tracking and reporting on any piracy situations," Lieutenant-General Evans said.

"The ship's crew has trained for these taskings and I have no doubt they will excel in this important operation."

The RAN counter-piracy activities are conducted according to the International Law of the Sea and support and safeguard merchant vessels and other legitimate maritime traffic underway in the region

The Commanding Officer of HMAS *Toowoomba*, Commander Ivan Ingham, said he and his crew were eager to provide support and assistance in providing security to the merchant vessels in the region.

"HMAS *Toowoomba* is looking forward to contributing to the important task of thwarting piracy and assisting Seafarers to pass safely through this hazardous area," Commander Ingham said.

The ADF's involvement in counter-piracy will help protect Australian and international maritime trade and is a positive contribution to global maritime security supporting UNSC Resolutions 1846 and 1851, which call on states to take an active role in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Two RAN ships came to the aid of a merchant vessel under attack from pirates earlier this year as they passed through the Horn of Africa. These ships were not officially part of the international task force but were fulfilling their obligation under the International Law of the Sea.



HMAS Toowoomba

FIVE MINUTE QUIZ

1. What is the chemical symbol for calcium?
2. In which city would you find the Palatine Hill?
3. What do the 13 stripes on the American flag represent?
4. Which Asian city's name means "fragrant harbour"?
5. Who was the last tsar of Russia?
6. What is the prefix in the SI system of units denoting 10^9 or 1 billion?
7. What is a "gallimaufry"?
8. The Greek alphabet had how many letters?
9. What, according to an old proverb, is the thief of time?
10. "Ensanguine" means to be stained with what?

FREE SENIORS ROTARY CONCERT

Featuring COLIN SLATER AND FRIENDS and
THE SING AUSTRALIA CHOIR.

Sunday 1 November, 1400 to 1600
(seating by 1345) at the
Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue,
Yarralumla.

Afternoon tea is provided.
Free transport can be arranged if
required.

Book on 6282 3777

Amphibious Ship's Keel Laid

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, announced that the official keel laying of Australia's first Amphibious Ship (LHD 01) took place on 23 September at Navantia's ship-building yard in Ferrol, Spain.

"Under Project JP2048 Phase 4A/B, the Commonwealth is acquiring two new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) amphibious ships to provide sustainment support for our deployed forces," said Mr Combet.

BAE Systems Australia Defence is the prime contractor for this \$3.3 billion project. The Spanish shipbuilder Navantia is subcontracted to BAE as the design authority and is required to construct and fit out the hulls of two large Amphibious Ships for the Australian Defence Force.

"The project is on schedule with the ceremony for the keel laying of the hull for LHD 01 occurring exactly one year to the day from first steel being cut. I am also advised that the whole of ship design re-

views are nearing completion," said Mr Combet. "After completion of the hulls for the Amphibious Ships they will be transported to Australia. The superstructures will then be constructed, fitted out and integrated with the hulls at BAE Systems' Williamstown dockyard. The combat system is to be provided by Saab Systems Australia, which will also integrate the combat management system; and the communications system will be supplied by L-3 Communications."

The next milestone will be the launch of LHD 01 in Spain in March 2011 and then the arrival of it at Williamstown dockyard in 2012 with LHD 02 arriving in 2014.

"As outlined in the Government's White Paper, these ships will be able to carry a substantial quantity of equipment, stores and personnel. In terms of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, they will most likely be the best means available to provide assistance in our region," said Mr Combet.

Bravery Medals for RAN Submariners

A covert intelligence-gathering mission by HMAS *Farncomb* almost ended in disaster, when a giant wave washed five of its crew into the ocean in the middle of the night. The accident, which was kept quiet by the Navy for two years, took place during a deployment to Asia by *Farncomb* in March 2007.

However, tragedy was averted when three sailors risked their lives by diving into the swirling ocean to rescue their crewmates in a 90-minute life-and-death struggle against the elements.

Now, the navy has announced three of *Farncomb's* crew will receive bravery awards for their actions – the first such awards given to submariners in 27 years.

The rogue wave swept the five men off the top [casing] of the surfaced submarine as they tried to clear fishing lines from its propeller. In rough seas and worsening weather, they could not make it back to the boat, so the Captain asked for volunteers to rescue them. Sonar operator PO Greg Langshaw, engineer CPO Rohan Pugh and cook LS Steven Rowell put up their hands and, assisted by crewmates, they worked together to drag the five men back to the boat. The rough seas caused the boat to heave violently, breaking one of Langshaw's ribs and causing severe bruising to others as the men were hauled back on to the vessel.

CN, VADM Russ Crane, said, "All of *Farncomb's* personnel who were involved showed significant fortitude, teamwork and courage to ensure that all sailors were returned to the submarine without major injuries and (with) no loss of life."

The accident occurred during a five-month deployment through SE Asia and the western Pacific, during which

Farncomb gathered intelligence by sailing close to foreign coastlines, listening to communications. Defence will not say where *Farncomb* was, or what its activities were at the time of the accident.

The Navy was uncertain about how best to recognise the bravery of the crew. However, last August, Pugh, Langshaw and Rowell were told they would be offered bravery medals and on 17 August the Governor-General announced awards for the three men (which will be formally presented in March 2010), while several other crew members were awarded commendations from CN.

(Abridged "Weekend Australian" article)

Collins Class submarines in finer weather



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday 3
February 2010
Commencing on completion of the
monthly meeting

All positions in the Executive and the
Committee will be declared vacant.

Nominations are required to fill the
positions of the ACT Section

Annual Subscription

**Annual Membership
Subscriptions are due by
31 December 2009**

Full Members \$25

**Restricted members
\$5 + \$4.50 for WEM**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs and The Australian Centre for
Posttraumatic Mental Health Present:

THE DVA RESEARCH SEMINAR

Theme: Interventions for Mental Health
Date: Wednesday 18 November 2009
Time: 2:00pm
Venue: 18th Floor Training Room
Lovett Tower Woden

***Note: Seminar will be video linked to all DVA State
Office Locations**

Presentations

Implementation of PTSD best practice in VVCS

Anne-Laure Couineau

Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)

Delyth Lloyd

'You served your country. How are you travelling now?'

Andrea Phelps

Please RSVP to Fern Lees
phone 02 6289 6229
or
e-mail Fern.Lees@dva.gov.au

by 13 November 2009

Still More Irish Humour

Flynn staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Paddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary.

He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Flynn sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-aids and began putting a Band-aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Flynn woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Mary staring at him from across the room.

She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?"

Flynn said, "Why you say such a mean thing?"

"Well," Mary said, "It could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those band-aids stuck on the hall mirror!"

ACT Section Christmas BBQ



To be held in Don and Bev' Joce's garden at
**30 Marsden Street Dickson 2902 on
Sunday 22 November 2009**



**Commencing at 1200
Entry fee \$15 per head**



Ham, pork and Christmas pudding etc is included in menu

**Bring a chair and grog or other refreshments
Please make booking with Bev 02 6249 7230
with money to the above address**

Booking slip

Christmas BBQ—22 November 2009

Name.....

Number attending.....

Payment enclosed Namber.....X \$15 = \$.....

Please make cheques payable to the ACT Section NAA

November 2009



Brian Courtier, Fred Doyle, Tim Hayden,
Viv Littlewood, Andrew Masters, Alan Palmer,
John Perryman, Graeme Quinn, Patsy Robinson,
Maurie Tiffen, Ray Walters and Mike Wright

A Happy Birthday to you all.



Thanks to the Canberra Services Club Manuka, for its support

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE & REHABILITATION CENTRE WELCOMES DVA WHITE & GOLD CARD HOLDERS FOR CLINICAL EXERCISE SERVICES

Exercise Physiologists are university-trained exercise rehabilitation professionals who can design and deliver clinical exercise and rehabilitation services to assist people at risk of, major injury or illness.

Exercise physiology contributes to the management of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, arthritis, cancer and chronic musculoskeletal conditions.

Exercise physiologists assess patients' functional capacities, advise on practical steps to improve health and prescribe specific physical activities. They also provide full supervision to ensure the intensity; duration and type of exercise are appropriate and safe.

appropriate and safe.

Gold Card holders will receive exercise physiology services based on their clinical need, while White Card holders can access exercise physiology services related to their accepted disabilities.

For more information about exercise physiology services or to arrange an initial assessment visit www.pmrc.com.au or call PMRC on 6282 7854.

**Preventive Medicine and Rehabilitation Centre
Suite 4 Level 2
Clinical Services Building
173 Strickland Crescent
Deakin ACT 2600**

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VETERAN COMMUNITY

Following on from the World Mental Health Day on 10 October, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, encourages members of the veteran community to seek appropriate help for mental health issues.

Mr Griffin said the VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service - provided counselling and group programs to Australian veterans, peacekeepers, their families and eligible Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.

"Some veterans and their family members experience mental health problems as a result of their Service. I urge any veteran or veterans' family member who wants more information about improving their mental health to contact the VVCS on 1800 011 046," Mr Griffin said. "Even if you are dealing with my Department on compensation or other matters, don't wait to address your mental health issues. VVCS is a free, confidential and responsive service that can provide you with the support you need when you need it most."

Mr Griffin said World Mental Health Day provided an opportunity to reach out, not only to veterans, but also to widows, wives, partners, children and mates.

"Almost 50,000 veterans have a mental health disability, so I understand that the treatment of illnesses such as PTSD and related conditions is very close to the hearts of those in the ex-service community."

Mr Griffin said the Government was doing more now to assist veterans and transitioning ADF members with mental health-related problems, than ever before in the history of Australia's participation in conflicts and peace operations.

"In addition to the \$145 million spent on veteran's mental health annually, the Government has allocated \$92 million over four years to better meet the mental health needs of veterans and current and former serving members of the ADF, including \$9.5m to my Department to implement recommendations from Professor Dunt's *Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-service community*," Mr Griffin said.

Other initiatives include \$5.5 million for the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health to develop ADF and veteran-specific mental health initiatives, more free Operation *Life* suicide prevention workshops for people who are concerned about family, friends, mates or others in the veteran and ex-service community. The At Ease website (www.at-ease.dva.gov.au) also provides veteran-specific information on common mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance misuse, and links to mental health services and other resources.

"These programs demonstrate the Government's commitment to mental health awareness and treatment across the veteran community. However, there is always be more that can be done, and we will continue to do more."

World Mental Health Day raises public awareness about mental health issues. The Day promotes more open discussion of illnesses, and investments in prevention and treatment services. For more information, visit www.wfmh.org.

Answers to Five Minute Quiz:
11. Ca; 2. Rome; 3. The original 13 colonies; 4. Hong Kong's; 5. Nicholas II; 6. Giga (G); 7. Mishmash or confused jumble; 8. 24; 9. Procrastination; 10. Blood



Rivers Dining

At the Sports Club Kaleen
(sponsoring the printing of Bosun's Call)

...relax and enjoy yourself!!

Weekly Bistro Attractions

Monday Night Schnitzel

Plus a complimentary middy of beer, glass of wine or soft drink.

Tuesday Lunch Raffle

Purchase a meal from our Bistro between 12 pm and 1.30 pm and receive your complimentary ticket to go in the draw for a 1st prize of \$100 food hamper and three other prizes.

\$8.50 Friday Lunch

Great choice, great value!
Select from T-bone or Rump Steak,
Tempura Battered Fish or
Chicken Schnitzel with Chips & Salad

\$9.00 Sunday Family Roast

A meal the whole family will enjoy! Enjoy a selection of tender Roast Meats, Roast Potatoes, Roast Pumpkin & fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

Senior's Menu

are smaller portions

Fish of the Day (Battered or Grilled)	\$10.00
Roast of the Day	\$10.00
Chicken Schnitzel	\$10.00
Weiner Schnitzel	\$10.00
Parmigiana Topping	\$ 1.50

Lunches Daily \$7.00

Rivers Dining Bistro is open seven days a week:

Lunch 12 - 2 pm

Dinner 6 pm - 9 pm

16 Georgina Crescent Kaleen, ACT 2617

Ph 02 6241 1560 www.thesportsclubkaleen.com.au

Information for Members and invited guests

Reunions

October 2009	HMAS Quiberon Reunion—Hobart
November 2009	Ballina All Ships Reunion
April 2010	HMAS Leeuwin 19th Intake Maroochydore QLD Contact Neville Clarke 0410 150 646
July 2010	50th Anniversary JR Training Scheme
August 2010	RAN Band Townsville Contact Peter Martin 07 4723 2909
23 – 26 April 2011	RAN Communications Branch Association – Adelaide SA



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