



BROADSIDE

September 2020

Volume 10 Edition 9

Editorial

We all know how much the ADF supports the community in time of need. Sometimes the media are a little slow to acknowledge all the efforts by the many personnel involved.

Any reference to ADF and not just RAN is because we are now a Tri Service organisation.

ADF support to the bushfires in 2019/2020 was well documented

Quote

HMAS *Choules* has returned to Mallacoota, Victoria, to provide additional support to the fire-ravaged coastal town as part of Defence's contribution to Operation Bushfire Assist.

After successfully disembarking the evacuated passengers at Western Port, the crew of the Royal Australian Navy amphibious ship conducted a quick turnaround to return to Mallacoota.

The ship arrived at Western Port at 4:30pm on Saturday and, once the guests were safely disembarked, attention turned to the job of reconstituting and on-loading supplies and equipment to deliver to Mallacoota for the recovery efforts.



Command Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Arthur Mitcherson, said the job of reconstitution was a significant task that the crew addressed with the same professionalism

they have demonstrated since being recalled on New Year's Eve.

Events Calendar

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

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NOTE: Due to COVID-19, it is advisable to check with the coordinators to confirm whether the event you were planning to attend is still going ahead.

We will endeavour to keep the Diary updated as news comes to hand.

At present the Shrine of Remembrance is closed, but ceremonies are still being conducted and they are live streamed on the Shrine's [Facebook page](#).

04 Oct – Daylight saving commences

18 Oct – On this day in 1944 HMAS Geelong sunk following a collision with US Tanker, York.

09 Nov – 106th anniversary of HMAS Sydney sinking the SMS Emden

11 Nov – Remembrance Day

19 Nov – On this day in 1941, HMAS Sydney II lost with all hands (645).

19 Nov – HMAS Sydney II Commemorative Service Shrine

22 Nov – HMAS Goorangai service – Queenscliff, Vic

27 Nov – On this day in 1941 - HMAS PARRAMATTA sunk by U559.

01 Dec – On this day in 1942 - HMAS ARMIDALE sunk by Japanese forces – Teddy Sheean posthumously awarded VC.

01 Dec – HMAS Armidale service

Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

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

"The crew all chipped in to help our human and animal guests to safely disembark, assisting many as they came down the gangway and re-gained their land legs," WO Mitcherson said.

Unquote

Then there is the support to Covid-19

Quote

A four-person Navy team from HMAS *Cerberus* deployed on Operation COVID-19 Assist has potentially saved the life of a Melbourne resident.

In transit to a shift assisting Victoria Police at a control point in Lang Lang, Petty Officer Shannon Schonewille, Leading Seaman Alexander Patterson, Seaman Jaxan Stead and Seaman Duncan Watson witnessed an emergency incident.

"We witnessed a serious car crash on the Monash Freeway," Leading Seaman Patterson said.

"The car over-corrected, spun out of control and smashed into a concrete barrier at about 100 kilometres per hour."



Without hesitating the Navy team pulled over to help.

Unquote:

So I thought I would introduce you to the support by the ex-service family

Quote

After 23 years full-time Navy service as Signaller, I ventured out into the big wide world and started working in the 'real world'. After 10 years climbing the corporate ladder in the Information Technology sector, I felt it was time to put the uniform back on and have now racked up around 10 years Active Reserve time as a CPOCIS.

Besides the comradery and mateship one experiences throughout their military career, a void existed and that was a 'sense of purpose' that one gets from serving their country. I found a way to fill that

VIDEOS.....

- 'B' Block Completely Refurbished
- Navy Indigenous Development Program 13 Graduation Ceremony
- USS Carl Vinson Preparing for First F-35C, 'Advanced Carrier Air Wing' Deployment
- HMAS Sirius archives career milestone
- Navy sharpens warfare skills in Exercise PACIFIC VANGUARD 2020
- Palau receives Guardian-class Patrol Boat
- HMAS Sydney V completes URE on a rainy Sunday morning
- World War Two veteran Edna never claimed her service medal - until now
- GE383 SHIPP Division Graduation Parade video
- RIMPAC 2020 ex-USS Durham SINKEX

NEWS.....

A candid photograph posted on Chinese social media sheds light on a Chinese project to develop an unmanned ship similar to the U.S. Navy's Sea Hunter.

The global coronavirus pandemic has increased the use of virtual technology and resulted in the adoption of new and inventive ways of doing things, including the recognition of important career achievements.

The Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy demonstrated their interoperability during a recent passage exercise in the Northeast Indian Ocean.

As part of the \$500mil HMAS Cerberus Base Redevelopment Project, Building 188 or 'B' Block was completely refurbished. It has maintained its heritage facade on the eastern side whilst having a new contemporary facade on the western side of the building.

A Next Generation Navy (NGN) initiative to appropriately recognise the service and sacrifice of all Navy personnel and

void by volunteering with an ex-veterans organisation, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) formerly known as Team Rubicon Australia. DRA is a not-for-profit organisation that gives members of the veteran community their sense-of-purpose back. As the name suggests, DRA provides relief assistance to our communities in their time of need when a natural disaster has occurred. DRA uses the collective skillsets of veterans to provide assistance to communities in the event of disasters such as bushfires, floods, tsunamis, and in more recent times, the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As a CASA licenced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV aka drone)



pilot, my role with DRA is to conduct aerial damage assessments for property owners who have possibly lost their homes, machinery, fence lines and in some cases animals as well. The aerial imagery obtained as part of the assessment is then produced into useable data that the property owner can use when seeking their insurance claims / Government grants, after all a

picture tells a story. As a member of the DRA Aerial Damage Assessment Team (ADAT), I have volunteered and deployed to assist with post bushfire recovery operations in Western New South Wales in December 2019 and again in the beautiful Buchan Valley in East Gippsland in February this year.

In addition to DRA conducting operations in disaster areas, DRA also conducts what are known as Service Projects, these may range from cleaning up Veterans Meeting Rooms, to our chainsaw teams clearing a farmers property for them or partnering up with other organisations to provide assistance. Once such Service Project I became involved with was when the Aerial Damage Assessment Team deployed on Service Project Karriwara, assisting archaeologists from the University of Queensland and the Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation in mapping and surveying ancient cultural sites across over 4,000 hectares of the Channel Country in south west Queensland.

YouTube Clip (https://youtu.be/Wvj5oJsp_VA)

their families has seen the recent approval of formal retirement and discharge ceremonies.

Warships from Australia and the Philippines have exercised for the third time in as many months during a Regional Presence Deployment.

USS Bonhomme Richard hasn't moved from the pier-side spot where it caught fire on July 12 and burned for almost five days. The ship might not be moving anytime soon. The ship is still hot enough to need cool air pumped inside.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Cyber Gap Program is now underway, offering financial support, mentoring and Defence work experience opportunities for cyber students across Australia.

For Midshipman Madeline Moroney, her ADF journey has taken her back to where she started just over a year ago. She is working as a team leader at the police control point in Gisborne South in her hometown region of Goulburn Valley in Victoria.

VETERANS and their families in Melbourne will have easier access to Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (Open Arms) with the office relocating to 303 Collins Street.

JUNIOR Maritime Warfare Officers have been able to continue their Navy training thanks to the Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour, with 57 officers completing their first at-sea training.

Australia is stepping up in the Pacific and continuing to deepen our engagement with our regional partners during COVID-19 with the handover of a new Guardian-class Patrol Boat to the Republic of Palau.

Six Australian warships departed Sydney Harbour in formation yesterday to complete a range of training, sea qualification and surveying tasks.

The Royal Australian Navy joined an eight-ship fleet with more than 1,500 personnel aboard from Japan, the



Whether it be assisting a local who has lost everything in a bushfire, or being involved in a service project refurbishing a Veterans Retreat; volunteering with DRA has certainly provided me that missing 'sense of purpose' once again. If you would like to get involved, register your interest on their web site:

www.disasterreliefaus.org

Unquote

There are many organisations where ex-service personnel volunteer their time. Volunteering is certainly a rewarding experience, knowing you have helped someone in need – no matter how small the task.

Thank you for your service.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.



If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (webmaster@navyvic.net). We will list their names in perpetuity on our special [Memorial Wall](#) on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † AB J. Hanson, PM4980, 19 September 2020. Aged 96.
- † LCDR M. Hills, 17 September 2020. Aged 93.
- † CPOCK W.C. Diston, R36688, 15 September 2020. Aged 89.
- † CPOWTR L.A. Horsfield, R55628, 14 Sep 2020. Aged 88.
- † CPOWTR R.W. Sly, R38600, 12 Sep 2020. Aged 90.
- † WRSBA T.C. Stewart(nee Kellett), WR1470, 11 September 2020. Aged 95.
- † ERA4 W. Baird, PM7962, 03 September 2020. Aged 96.
- † CPOMECH K.G. Johnson, R55631, 03 September 2020. Aged 78.
- † CPOSE C.W. O'Neill, R37883, 02 September 2020. Aged 90.

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Republic of Korea and the United States for Exercise Pacific Vanguard, in waters off Guam.

World leading, Australian designed anti-missile technology has been installed on HMAS Adelaide by BAE Systems Australia in a 'COVID-collaboration' with the Royal Australian Navy.

The Morrison Government's National Shipbuilding Program has reached another milestone with the keel laying for the first Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) under construction in WA.

The RAN has officially welcomed Rear Admiral Chris Smith to the role of Deputy Chief of Navy and Head Navy People Training and Resources (HNPTAR).

The world knows the Republic of Kiribati as a very low-lying nation in the mid-Pacific that is in danger of inundation as the climate changes and sea levels rise. Much less is known about its strategic location and the attention now being paid to it by Beijing.

HMA Ships Stuart and Arunta sailed in company with ships from Japan, South Korea and the United States in the Pacific Ocean this week.

With global tensions rising and the war of words between Beijing and Washington escalating, the rising power has sought to flex its growing military capabilities, conducting joint carrier operations for the first time in a direct challenge to the US Navy.

Current and former members of the Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy gathered in Albany, Western Australia, on August 28 to remember submariners who died during World War II.

The Morrison Government will build a Maritime Security Training Centre in Darwin to facilitate training of Royal Australian Navy and other Australian Defence Force members for Maritime Security operations.

Royal Australian Navy Chief Petty Officer Kieran Lamond, of Ballarat, Victoria,

- † LSG R.E. Scales, R35692, 31 August 2020. Aged 100.
- † LSAH1 A.P. McGowan, R38444, 30 August 2020. Aged 88.
- † WOETW R.G. Fairbairn, R42214, 29 August 2020. Aged 77.
- † LCDR C.J. Cook, O93637, 28 August 2020. Aged 73.
- † LEUT G.A.R. Bailey, O2287, 25 August 2020. Aged 79.
- † J.R. Kelley, R65789, 24 August 2020. Aged 76.
- † LCK R.S. Ames OAM ASM, R50117, 23 August 2020. Aged 83.
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Lest We Forget

September Hero

Our September hero is LWRWTR Edith Jessie Flanders WR/1528 – Code-Breaker



Edith Jessie Flanders was born on the 10 March 1921 and grew up on her father's property 7 miles out of Harrow, Victoria. Her mother did not have a licence and as she could not travel to school, she was educated by Governesses until she went to boarding school at age 14.

As dawn broke over Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on Anzac Day 2018, war veterans gathered

along St Kilda Road readying themselves for the annual march, their enthusiastic camaraderie warming the crisp, solemn autumn air. Among these revered men and women who served our nation with valour was Jessie Flanders, who at 97 was marching in the Melbourne service for the very first time.

On Jessie's lapel, almost outshining her proud smile, was a precious gold pin she'd received from former UK Prime Minister David Cameron. The veteran Women's Royal Australian Navy officer was taken by surprise when the little package, postmarked from England, arrived at the post office of her home town Casterton, in far western Victoria, seven years earlier. Continue reading Jessie's story at: <https://navyvic.net/heroes/flanders.html>

never thought he would work 30,000 feet above Iraq with the RAAF when he joined the ADF more than 18 years ago.

Two warships of the Royal Australian Navy have conducted high-end simulated sea combat on opposite coasts as part of Exercise VIKING RAIDER.

VETERANS and their families are being encouraged to keep socially connected as part of Veterans' Health Week, with \$200,000 in funding available to community groups and ex-service organisations to assist with activities.

HMAS Sirius has proved invaluable during her current international deployment, not only to the Australian ships in the task group but to multiple partner nations, which benefited from the reliable and efficient replenishment support Australia's only tanker provides.

HMAS Adelaide has been recognised with a 2020 Work Health and Safety Award for improving safety for personnel and extending the service life of some of the ship's key components.

HMAS Gascoyne has evoked her motto "return to the sea" after completing her unit readiness evaluation in Jervis Bay.

First-aid personnel are enhancing Victoria's public testing as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist.

The Royal Australian Navy's lead ship of the Supply Class auxiliary oiler replenishment (AOR) ships, NUSHIP Supply, has set sail from Navantia's Ferrol shipyard for Australia.

HMAS Canberra returned to Sydney after a three-month deployment comprised of multilateral training exercises as part of a task group, maritime integration with Army elements and a successful search and rescue in the Pacific.

BAE Systems Australia has welcomed a fifth ANZAC class warship to its Henderson facility as part of the fleet upgrade that will keep the ships in service until they are replaced by the Hunter class frigates.



VACANCY

The Victorian Government is seeking expressions of interest for three upcoming vacancies on Victorian Government boards in the Veteran portfolio: the Shrine of Remembrance Trustees and the Victorian Veterans Council.

Chairperson to the Shrine of Remembrance Trustees
Board Member to the Shrine of Remembrance Trustees
Board Member to the Victorian Veterans Council

[Download the document with full details.....](#)

Mission to Seafarers Art Prize



The Mission to Seafarers Maritime Prize and Exhibition will be opening on 16 October until 1 November. You will be able to enjoy looking at the wonderful Maritime art in the building at 717 Flinders St, Docklands or online. Further details are available on their [website](#).

If you can't make it to the show, then why not buy a raffle ticket [online](#) for one of the fabulous prizes on offer.

Prizes to be confirmed. \$5 per ticket and it will be drawn in October at the People's Choice awards night.

Our Cadets Need You

[Australian Navy Cadets \(ANC\)](#) is a youth organisation for people aged 13-17 years of age and they are currently seeking Expressions of Interest nationally, to perform the roles of Officers and Instructors of Cadets.

Applications for Officers and Instructors of Cadets are currently open.

For more information visit www.navycadets.gov.au.

Watercraft manufacturer The Whiskey Project Group, led by two Royal Australian Navy veterans, announced the acquisition of boat manufacturer and government supplier Yamba Welding & Engineering (YWE), and maritime design company Naiad, in a strategic move that they say helps secure Australian defence industry capability in the post-COVID economy and heralds a new era of sovereign design and industrial capability for military and specialist watercraft.

China is bent on creating a world-class military that can conduct joint operations across the globe and already boasts the world's largest navy, according to the Pentagon's latest annual assessment of the Chinese military.

The Royal Australian Navy has proven its warfighting capability with devastating effect at Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC).

Welcome to the second instalment of 'China military watch', a new monthly feature discussing recent trends in Chinese military affairs. This week, Charlie Lyons Jones and Malcolm Davis look at the People's Liberation Army's perception of Australia's defence strategic update and the growth of China's carrier fleet in the Indo-Pacific.

LEGISLATION introduced today by the Attorney-General is a significant step forward in the establishment of the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention

Naval Historical Society (Vic) President's Musings for September is now available to [download.....](#)

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

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