



BROADSIDE

September 2021

Volume 11 Edition 9

Editorial



'To better understand how we're coping with the COVID-19 pandemic as a nation, it's important to examine the current Australian psyche.'

Former prime minister Paul Keating stated in the ABC series Keating, that "The biggest issue facing Australia today is a psychological one", in the context of a discussion about what it means to be Australian.'⁽¹⁾

Once upon a time there was a large land that was settled – way back in the late 1700's. This land was so large that there were many settlements all working alone. About 50 years after the first settlers arrived, the people started to think that it might be a good idea if they all joined together for some things. This process was not an easy process – there were many discussions; different points of views and a lot of negotiating had to occur. Along the way some even pulled out all together.

Eventually The Commonwealth of Australia was born.

"The efforts to bring about federation in the mid-19th century were dogged by the lack of popular support for the movement. A number of conventions were held during the 1890s to develop a constitution for the Commonwealth. Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of the Colony of New South Wales, was instrumental in this process. Sir Edmund Barton, second only to Parkes in the length of his commitment to the federation cause, was the caretaker Prime Minister of Australia at the inaugural national election in 1901 in March 1901."⁽²⁾

Events Calendar

(see [Calendar](#) 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](#).

06 Oct – Soundwaves concert

10 Oct – Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service

11 Oct – Normandy Veterans Association Ceremony

17 Oct - Seafarer's Service, St Paul's Cathedral

17-24 Oct - Navy week in Victoria

21 Oct - HMAS Lismore service, Tree

25 Oct - Naval Historical Society (Vic) meeting, TBC

03 Nov - Soundwaves concert TBC

11 Nov - Remembrance Day

19 Nov - HMAS Sydney Service, Shrine

21 Nov - HMAS Goorangi service, Queenscliff

Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

Keep up to date on all the news by visiting our website: <https://navyvic.net>

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"Combine Australia!"

Punch, National Museum of Australia. Photo: Dragi Markovic

It has slowly dawned on me recently, that 120 years of Federation and cooperation between States and Territories is slowly being eroded. Covid 19 has a lot to answer for – but we really can't let it take our identity as a country, away from us as well.

'As a nation, Australians have a stereotyped history of dealing with calamitous events with a "She'll be right, mate" approach. This is an important phrase that depicts the laconic, easy going larrikin who enjoys life and isn't easily perturbed. Added to this are the legendary stories about the Anzacs – the Aussie and Kiwi soldiers who fought bravely in wars, and approached battles with easy humour.

We speak of the "Anzac spirit" when we witness bravery in our firefighters and other emergency workers who have been repeatedly tested by Australia's many natural disasters. Underpinning this historical picture of the Australian approach to calamity is the depiction of the archetypal Australian as a young, fit, stoic man. This depiction of a pioneering nation, where rugged physicality is valued and needed, seems outdated in 2020. However, an updated and inclusive picture of the "typical" Australian is still unclear.

Australians appear to have a dual relationship with authority – with an overt "larrikin" response, but underneath, an actual respect for authority, especially in critical situations.'⁽³⁾

Federation has been around for nearly 120 years and has withstood many challenges, and then one day – a small item arrived on our shores –and before we knew it – it became State against State and

PODCASTS.....

- Policy, Guns and Money: AUKUS, climate change and Afghan opium trade

VIDEOS.....

- Australian and India maritime warfare exercise - AUSINDEX 21
- Australian and Thai navies team up for AUSTHAI during Indo-Pacific 2021
- Decommissioning of HMA Ships Paluma and Mermaid
- AUKUS Announcement from Chief of Navy
- Come On Board HMAS Armidale
- Australian and Malaysian navies partner during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21
- Navy Fleet Support Unit - Augmented Reality Program
- Malaysian seariders on board HMAS Canberra for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21
- 1950's video: WOMEN IN THE NAVY
- On board with aim of building partnerships
- Capability put to the test in Exercise Malabar
- Navy delivers solution to water problem

NEWS.....

ASTUTE-Class attack submarine, HMS Audacious, was formally commissioned today during a ceremony at HM Naval Base Clyde. Equipped with sophisticated sensors, the Astute-Class submarines carry both Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles (TLAM) and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes.

The world's gotten more dangerous – and quickly. And while nuclear submarines from the new AUKUS partnership will give Australia a powerful long-term deterrent, this won't

borders were firmly closed to keep people out.

We often comment on the 'squeaky wheel' that gets all the attention – then I propose that we become that squeaky wheel and start 'talking up' this great country – not just each individual state. The electronic media (Television, Facebook etc) and paper media all have a history of negative reporting.

'Coping well with COVID-19 requires us to be flexible and adapt quickly. To do this we need to have an extensive emotional repertoire, including being positive, articulating sadness and anger, solving issues logically, being altruistic, grieving, and experiencing many other emotions. The new Australian psyche appears to be equipping us to do just this.'⁽⁴⁾

Recently, there was an editorial with information about all the wonderful Naval Heritage Museums around the country. At this time, it is virtually impossible to gain entrance to most of them so I thought I would hunt up some wonderful commemorative memorials around this beautiful country of ours, to remind us of the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us.

We have some fabulous sites to visit, that celebrate our Defence history, and I know that, when possible, I will be travelling to them regardless of which State they are in.



Stunning tribute to our service men & women by artist Matt Adante in Hay, NSW

be a fast program that delivers inside 15 years. It's becoming even more essential that Defence matches the speed of change in the strategic environment in areas that can deliver well before then.

HMAS Anzac's embarked MH-60R Seahawk 'Berserker' has reached a milestone of 2000 flight hours while deployed in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. Navy's chief of naval operations is committed to helping Australia with its newly announced nuclear-powered submarine program and equally committed to operating seamlessly alongside the French Navy, after the recent Australia-U.K.-U.S. submarine agreement caused a political fallout between the triad and France.

The Italian Navy released the first cleared photos of the bridge of its latest class of surface combatant, the Multipurpose Offshore Patrol ship (PPA), and it looks like something out of a sci-fi movie.

Huon-class minehunter coastal HMAS Gascoyne started its latest deployment with a bang, conducting a live mine disposal activity off the coast of northern NSW.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs: "Today's protest at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance was disgraceful and those who participated in it are to be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

HMA Ships Maitland and Maryborough farewellled Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter carrier JS Kaga and destroyer JS Murasame with a formation sail in the waters just off Darwin this week.

Seaman Alexis Tavener describes supporting NSW Health at vaccination pop-up clinics in western NSW as an incredible experience.



A lovely street art in Kapunda South Australia.

The murals span a six-block length of the main road both sides. Kapunda have taken the time to produce a pamphlet showing locations and brief storyline for each. Well done, Kapunda



Legerwood carved memorial trees

Legerwood Tasmania - The small village of **Legerwood** was put on the map in 2005 when Eddie Freeman from Ross sculptured the trees here as a memorial to World War I soldiers with his chainsaw.

The Navy's oldest vessels, HMA Ships Paluma and Mermaid, were farewelled from service during a ceremony at HMAS Cairns at the weekend.

Navy – and the Australian Defence Force – is about to undergo a major shift in military technology, in which it will enter a new era of sub-surface capabilities. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has announced that Australia will acquire a fleet of at least eight nuclear-powered submarines, supported under an enhanced trilateral security partnership with the United Kingdom and the United States - AUKUS.

To mark the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the ANZUS Treaty, I am pleased to announce that the Government has decided to fund the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) to establish an office in Washington DC.

HMAS Sirius (I) conducts a dual replenishment at sea with HMAS Canberra III and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area's USCGC Munro during Indo-Pacific Endeavour.

HMAS Canberra III and HMAS Anzac III departed Thailand after a busy and beneficial visit during Indo-Pacific Endeavour.

American officials have stressed the importance of Australia having nuclear-powered submarines that are fast, discreet, with extremely long range and able to operate closely with their own undersea fleet.

Australia is going to build nuclear submarines as part of a new broader defence technology pact with the US and the UK. How much the world has changed since just April 2016.

FACTSHEETS:

[AUKUS: Trilateral security partnership – PDF \(203.91 KB\)](#)

[Nuclear-powered submarines – PDF](#)



Legerwood carved memorial trees



Heywood water tower, an indigenous war memorial mural by Matt Adnate and Levi Geebung, completed in late May 2021.

Heywood water tower, an indigenous war memorial mural. Recognising the sacrifice made by the Gunditjmara service men & women (although interestingly, no women were featured on the tower).

There are many other examples in all the states and territories -

We have celebrated this great country in Music, Poetry and Theatre, I am sure most of you will remember the words to the Judith

[\(240.11 KB\)](#)

[Nuclear technology in Australia — PDF \(157.02 KB\)](#)

[Shipbuilding in South Australia — PDF \(198.79 KB\)](#)

[Shipbuilding in Western Australia — PDF \(388.07 KB\)](#)

A recent Strategist article by ASPI's Marcus Hellyer highlighted issues becoming evident with the Hunter-class future frigate as the planned construction date slides another 18 months to mid-2024. A lot of the delay is put down to modifications to the British Type 26 design to accommodate Royal Australian Navy requirements. This has had negative impacts, including increasing the weight from 8,000 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes.

HMAS Warramunga and Indian Navy warships INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatk conducted high-end maritime warfare training off the coast of the Northern Territory during this month's AUSINDEX 21.

The Assistant Minister for Defence released the second ACSC Annual Cyber Threat Report: July 2020 to June 2021 in Perth. The ACSC Annual Cyber Threat Report details the key cyber threats Australians face, and provides critical advice on how to protect yourself online, jointly compiled by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

The ABC can reveal HMAS Diamantina, one of the Navy's Huon-Class Minehunter Coastal (MHC) vessels, is stuck in Vanuatu because of what Defence describes as a "maintenance issue". In the past week another vessel contracted by Defence, the MV Sycamore, arrived in Port Vila to begin a repair effort that has been complicated by strict COVID-19 measures in the small island nation.

Durham song:

*We are one, but we are many,
From all the lands on earth we come.
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice,
I am, you are, we are Australians*

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

Sources:

- (1) (3) (4) <https://lens.monash.edu/@jayashri-kulkarni>
(2) <https://peo.gov.au/>



If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). 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 R.R. Semmler, PA2760, 21 September 2021. Aged 96.
- † LRO J.W. Cooper, R50553, 20 September 2021. Aged 84.
- † TO K.C. Seib, R53346, 18 September 2021. Aged 81.
- † CPOMTL P. Larsen, 14 September 2021. Aged 66.
- † CPOSBA J.R. Turner, R41664, 13 September 2021. Aged 90.
- † PORSS P. Bennett, 12 September 2021.
- † RADM J. Davidson AO, O.1321, 11 September 2021. Aged 97.
- † LCDR B.C. Clark, OAM, R42038/O.2579, 10 September 2021. Aged 81.
- † POMTP E. Fielder, 09 September 2021.
- † WOETP G.E. Northrop, R96397, 01 September 2021. Aged 69.
- † POEWR J. Souter, R57484, 29 August 2021. Aged 80.
- † ME N.G. LeWorthy, R104770, 28 August 2021. Aged 72.
- † WOMTPSM R.J. Bateman, R43170, August 2021. Aged 71.
- † CMDR M.R. Freeman, O.2522, 25 August 2021. Aged 87.
- † SURG CMDR R.J.F. Butler, O.2006, 24 August 2021. Aged 82.

Lest We Forget

Our September Naval Hero:

Chief Officer Sheila Mary McClemons CMG, OBE, SJM



Sheila McClemons was the third of five daughters born to Ada Lucy Walker, the first wife of William Joseph McClemons, Anglican clergyman. She was born in Claremont, Western Australia on 3 May 1909. Sheila's childhood was not an easy one. Abandoned by their alcoholic father, Sheila and her sisters were raised by their mother who was forced to work a variety of jobs and to take in boarders to make ends meet. Sheila learnt compassion for others at an early age as well as how to rely on

her own resources to achieve her goals.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense detected a Chinese submarine operating in the contiguous zone of Japan's southern islands, they announced in a Sept. 12 press release, and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) air and naval units are maintaining surveillance on the submarine.

Britain's Ministry of Defense (MoD) has issued a pre-procurement notice for a unique type of vessel to help the Royal Marine Commandos. The document outlines an 'uncrewed surface and subsurface vessel' (USSV). The vessel must be multi-payload, have a low signature, and long endurance, according to the notice. The basic concept has the characteristics of an uncrewed submersible boat, one that can operate on the surface for long periods and can also run submerged.

Taiwan's president oversaw the commissioning of a new domestically made warship Thursday as part of the island's plan to boost indigenous defense capacity amid heightened tensions with China.

HMA Ships Childers, Launceston, Glenelg and Wollongong took the opportunity to practise the warfighting aspect of their roles in a recent exercise.

Ships deployed on Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021 (IPE21) took part in the biennial maritime Malaysia-Australia Exercise (MASTEX) while transiting through Southeast Asia.

The Australian Department of Defence has signed the acceptance certificate of NUSHIP Stalwart, the second of the two Supply class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ships built by Navantia Ría de Ferrol for the Royal Australian Navy.

The U.S. Navy has declared the five missing crewmembers of an MH-60S helicopter crash deceased. The US

Despite the opposition of her employer, McClemans enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) on 11 January 1943 at HMAS Leeuwin, Western Australia. As a WRAN rating she completed the first WRANS Officer Training Course at HMAS Cerberus, Westernport, Victoria. Promoted to Third Officer on 15 February 1943, McClemans was appointed to the staff of the Director of Naval Reserves and Mobilisation, Navy Office, Melbourne, in May of that year. Her excellent leadership and organisational skills earned her rapid promotion being appointed Second Officer in July and First Officer in November 1943. In January 1944 First Officer McClemans was appointed to administer the WRANS and in August she was appointed as the Director of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service.

Confronting stringent service limitations that offered WRANS personnel fewer occupations than members of the Australian Women's Army Service and Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, McClemans strove to increase recruitment, to expand areas of employment and to improve promotion provisions. Many of her endeavours, however, were frustrated by the conservative hierarchy of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), unused to women in the service.

Her full story can be found on our website:

<https://navyvic.net/heroes/mcclemans.html>



Congratulations to ex-CPOCK Tom Fowler PM5187 who turned 102 on the 02 September 2021. The photos below show Tom with CN Vice Admiral Mike Noonan who visited him on his 100th birthday. Tom served on HMA Ships Kanimbla and Westralia during WWII. Happy Birthday Tom.



Navy's MH-60S helicopter, embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), crashed into the sea while conducting routine flight operations off the San Diego coast.

The longstanding bilateral defence partnership between Singapore and Australia was again on display during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021 (IPE21). The cooperative activity, held on September 1, continued a long history of exercising together, which has built trust, precision and technical skill.

Navy replenishment vessel HMAS Sirius is living up to her motto of "serve and provide" one last time before decommissioning in December. After 15 years of service, the ship has commenced her final deployment, which will take her to South-East Asia and the south-west Pacific.

Enrolments are now open for the 2022 Australian Defence Force (ADF) Cyber Gap Program, which will support students studying a cyber-qualification. Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Andrew Hastie MP, said the ADF Cyber Gap Program, run in partnership with the Digital Transformation Agency, would continue to boost Australia's sovereign cyber workforce capability. "Cyber is the new battleground, and the important mission our service men and women undertake in cyberspace will be vital to keeping Australians safe and secure." Assistant Minister Hastie said.

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

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