



**Patron in Chief**  
HRH Prince Phillip  
Duke of Edinburgh

**Patron**  
RA Guy Griffiths AO, DSO, DSC RAN Rtd

**All Correspondence  
To Secretary:**  
Mrs Helen Miller  
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# 2012 ANZAC Day

Arrangements for this year's ANZAC DAY MARCH are as follows:

- Assembly:** **Wednesday 25 April 2012**  
**Assembly point – same as last year**  
**King Street** directly opposite the Theatre Royal  
HMAS *Canberra* and HMAS *Shropshire* members will march as we have done previously as one unit behind both banners side by side.
- Step Off:** **0900 hours led by RADM Ross Swan**  
**former Midshipman in *Shropshire***  
**\* see note inside regarding transportation**
- Decorations:** **To be worn.** You are also encouraged to wear your CANBERRA SHROPSHIRE caps. Remember it's off caps as we pass the Cenotaph
- Reunion:** **City Tatts Club.** 198 Pitt Street, Sydney. A memorial service will be conducted by Earl Chisholm at 1100 hours in the ground floor area.  
An RSVP for catering numbers to the Tatts Club reunion is included in this mailing. Please indicate by returning the slip whether you will be attending the reunion after the march.
- Annual Dues :** These are now payable at the annual rate of **\$10.00**
- Raffle Books:** Prizes as follows:  
**1<sup>ST</sup> Prize \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$60, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$40**  
**Raffle butts are enclosed and need to be returned in the enclosed envelope**
- Donations:** Your continued donations help keep the Association afloat and are greatly appreciated by the Treasurer and Committee
- President:** Chris Johnston      **Phone**      **0413 995605 or 02 99806753**
- Treasurer:** John Hardiman      **Phone**      **02 4392 1986**  
**Editor:** Chris Johnston  
7 Beahan Place,  
CHERRYBROOK NSW 2126.

**IN REMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE DRIFTED FROM US**

**VALE**

Douglas Aston, Wireman, Sandringham VIC	30 September 2011
Ronald Zeimer, CPO, Bendigo, VIC	27 November 2011
Edward Browne, Telegraphist, Rosanna, VIC	21 December 2011
Harry Kruse, Writer, Beaumaris, VIC	22 December 2011
William McKenzie, AB, Altona, VIC	19 February 2012
Frederick McGuinness, PO Stoker, Lindisfarne, TAS	

**Lest We Forget**

**ANZAC Day 2012**

The Sydney ANZAC Day march will this year be led by our very own Patron RADM Guy Griffiths and we as *Canberra Shropshire* will be led off by RADM Ross Swan. At the request of several members, I have again arranged for an Army Jeep for transportation for those members who still wish to March, but find the distance too great. I again encourage you to take this offer up if you were not considering marching. This year, all jeeps will "march" directly behind our overall march leader under a banner titled "WW2 Navy Veterans". When you return your subscription, please indicate if you would like to take up the offer of transportation in order that we can advise the march organisers – we have 1 jeep so its first in best dressed!

It is expected that RADM Griffiths will "Step Off" at 0915.

This year, special seating has been arranged near the corner of George and King Streets for those who wish to witness the march with their carers or family members. If you would like to arrange seating in this area, you will need to phone Jeff O'Brien or Bob Battie from the RSL on 9264 8188 ext 705 to reserve your seat.

**Important Dates to Remember in 2012**

<b>ANZAC Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 25 APRIL 2012</b>
<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMAS <i>Canberra</i> Sinking Memorial Service at GI</b>	<b>Sunday 12 AUGUST 2012</b>
<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Friday 28 SEPTEMBER 2012</b>
<b>Annual Reunion Luncheon and Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Saturday 20 OCTOBER 2012</b>

## **From your President**

Welcome to the ANZAC edition of the Times for 2012. I hope that you all had a lovely festive season and that you have survived the constant rain that has greeted us in 2012.

I've been advised by Richard Gardner that Captain Godfrey Nichols nephew – Tony Nichols will be in Australia in early April 2012 and is doing a tour of Garden Island on Thursday 5 April. He will tour the chapel and our stained glass windows as well as the Heavy Cruiser Memorial and the Naval Heritage Centre. Richard advises anyone that would like to meet Tony and his party should catch the 11.40AM Ferry from Circular Quay to GI on 5 April and meet in the Naval Heritage Centre.

This year will be a memorable one as it will be 70 years since that fateful night in August 1942 when HMAS *Canberra* met an overwhelming force off Savo Island and was eventually sunk along with 84 of her crew. We will commemorate this occasion at the chapel at Garden Island with many dignitaries on 12 August. More to come on this closer to the time.

There is a centenary church service at GI on 11 April 2012 that all are invited to. RSVP has come and gone, however if you wish to go please contact Chaplain Stephens whose details are on the enclosed invitation – it's still ok to register.

Should you need to discuss anything at all, feel free to call me – 0413995605.

Best regards,  
Chris.

## **EDWARD FRANCIS BROWNE. 1925 - 2011. A tribute by Mac Gregory**

*The NSW Association was saddened to hear of the loss of Frank Browne from our Victorian Association. Mac Gregory paid the below tribute to Frank on his website which is fitting:*

Edward Francis Browne was born at Elmore, Victoria, on September 12, 1925.

He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy at Rushworth on September 14, 1943, with the Official Number, PM 6923.

Frank served as a Telegraphist in the 8 inch gunned Heavy Cruiser HMAS Shropshire, a gift to the RAN from Winston Churchill to replace her sister ship HMAS Canberra, sunk at the Battle of Savo Island on August 9, 1942.

He was a long serving and valuable member of our Committee of the Canberra/Shropshire Association. Frank mailed our newsletter the Shropshire Times to his old shipmates, and knew where his total mailing list members all lived, mention a name and quick as a flash he would respond, oh yes he lives in Bendigo.

At our Anzac Day meetings at our tree, close to the Shrine of Remembrance, Frank would call the names of our members who had died in the past year. At our annual reunions he would buy fine boxes of chocolates as door prizes, and distribute them to the lucky winners with his dry sense of humour. He performed this task as recently as October 26, last year.

As president of the Canberra/Shropshire Association, on behalf of my Committee and members, I extend our sympathy to you Rita and to your Family in this, your very sad loss. Edward Francis Browne, you will be greatly missed. Your flag has flown high and with great distinction, We Salute You!

## Helicopter dock ships boost defence

by: MARK DODD From: [The Australian](#) February 22, 2012

**THE arrival in 2014 of the first of two 27,000-tonne Landing Helicopter Dock warships represents the biggest change to Australia's "force projection capability" since the navy's first aircraft carrier was acquired more than 60 years ago, Defence Force chief General David Hurley said yesterday.**

Speaking at a key defence conference in Canberra, General Hurley said restructuring of the army's three combat brigades into an amphibious assault force - the most ambitious revamp of Australian Defence Force doctrine in decades - was on track to enable company-size ship-to-shore landings by 2018.

He acknowledged "disappointment at the state of the amphibious fleet" and pledged new maintenance practices that would ensure ships "in the right condition" were available for future missions.

Last year, the Royal Australian Navy was unable to provide support to victims of Cyclone Yasi because none of its amphibious vessels was seaworthy.

The challenges in creating an Amphibious Task Force (ATF) should not be underestimated, he warned.

Much would be learnt from the shared experiences of the US Marine Corps, units of which will soon to be based in Darwin, and its British counterpart, the Royal Marines, General Hurley said.

As reported in The Australian in December, the testbed for the new capability will be the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, just returned from Afghanistan. However, outside Afghanistan, the Australian Defence Force's primary operating environment extends from the eastern approaches of the Indian Ocean to the island states of Polynesia and from the equator to the Southern Ocean.

"This area encompasses 25,000 islands, 85,000km of navigable waterways.

"The ADF must be able to maintain situational awareness across this vast area and must be capable of responding swiftly and decisively to a range of scenarios," General Hurley said.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith told the conference it was likely Canberra would follow Washington's lead and postpone the purchase of 54 of the stealthy F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (JSFs) beyond the 14 the federal government is committed to buy.

"It won't be a priority in my view this year to make judgments about the receipt or the delivery or the arrival of future or additional Joint Strike Fighters," Mr Smith warned.

Experts said that was likely to translate into a decision to upgrade at least six of the new 24 F/A-18F Super Hornet fleet to advanced electronic warfare variants.

The federal government had 12 Super Hornets hard-wired on the assembly line for possible conversion as EA-18G Growlers - a move that would give the air force a formidable new capability unmatched in the Asia-Pacific.



The Director General Chaplaincy – Navy

Principal Chaplain Stuart R. Hall, RAN

Cordially invites

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**HMAS Canberra and Shropshire Naval Association**

To the Royal Australian Navy Chaplain's Branch

Centenary Church Service.

To be held at

HMAS Kuttabul Chapel Garden Island

on

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012

at 1800 h (6:00pm)

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**RSVP**

**Friday, 23 March 2012 on the enclosed form.**

To  
SO DGCHAP-N  
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## Duke of Edinburgh becomes Royal Navy Lord High Admiral

MOD News 24 Nov 11

**His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, has formally received Letters Patent as the holder of the title and office of Lord High Admiral.**



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh takes the Royal Salute as the Lord High Admiral in Admiralty Square, London. Warrant Officer Terry Casey, the Command Warrant Officer, stands at His Royal Highness's left side, with Her Majesty The Queen in the background

Her Majesty The Queen conferred the title and office as a gift to the Duke of Edinburgh on his 90th birthday, which keeps alive the tradition of the monarch investing the office as an honour. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at the Admiralty Board yesterday, Wednesday 23 November 2011, and were met by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, and the Guard and Band of the Royal Marines gave a Royal Salute.

After receiving the Letters Patent and the Lord Admiral's flag, the Duke watched a short performance of the Royal Marines Corps of Drums. The Duke of Edinburgh has a strong involvement with the Navy, having enrolled at Dartmouth Naval College when he was 18 years old.

During the Second World War, His Royal Highness served with the Mediterranean and Pacific fleets and reached the rank of Commander before retiring from active service. Although His Royal Highness gave up his active naval career some time ago, he has remained closely connected to, and actively interested in, every branch of Service life.



Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, briefs Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on naval matters in the Admiralty Board Room at Admiralty House in London, with the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, also in attendance]

In 1952 he was appointed Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force and Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps. The following year he was promoted to Admiral of the Fleet and appointed Captain General of the Royal Marines.

Her Majesty The Queen has held the office of titular head of the Royal Navy - Lord High Admiral - since the Navy's organisational structure was reviewed in 1964 and the title was re-vested in the sovereign. Neither the Army nor the Royal Air Force have similar offices at their head and the Navy is the only Service in which Her Majesty holds the official headship in addition to being 'Head of the Armed Forces'.

The office of the Lord High Admiral dates from the 14th century when the English Navy consolidated into one force. Originally responsible for aspects of Navy policy, the position of Lord High Admiral was held on commission by various peers of the realm.

By 1628, following the death of the Duke of Buckingham, the position became entirely honorary, with the duties of running the Navy delegated to a board of commissioners. Control of the Navy was passed to and from the board and the Lord High Admiral until 1709, when the powers of the Lord High Admiral were finally vested in the board.

For a short time in the 17th century, the office of Lord High Admiral was held by reigning monarchs King Charles II, King James II and, at the beginning of the 18th century, by Queen Anne (although on this occasion it was only for a month).

### **The Queen personally congratulates Navy - Navy News 8 December 2011**

#### **By Graham McBean**

HER Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has personally congratulated the RAN on its faithful service to the nation in its centenary year of the 'Royal' prefix.

A letter addressed personally to Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs states "it gives me great pleasure to send my personal and sincere wishes to the Royal Australian Navy in the Centenary year".

The original intent was for the Queen to present the letter to VADM Griggs personally during her October 19-29 visit but her schedule precluded a personal presentation. Instead, the letter was signed by the Queen and forwarded from Buckingham Palace immediately following the royal visit.

Equerry to the Queen, CMDR Andrew Willis, said she was very much aware of the centenary year and every

effort was made to coordinate the Queen's and CN's schedules.

"Unfortunately, through the nature of the visit program, as well as CN's schedule at the time, things just did not line up," CMDR Willis said.

CMDR Willis said it had been an honour and privilege to have been involved with the visit and to have worked behind the scenes in Australia and at Buckingham Palace in the lead up to the visit.

"It was an amazing experience to see behind the scenes of what is to so many people just a public persona, and assist in the creation of a polished visit," he said.

He said the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh both enjoyed their visit to Australia and they had looked forward to the tour.

"It was something that had been talked about at the palace for some time before the visit," he said.



**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AM CSC RAN,  
Chief of Navy,

From its very beginnings as a coastal defence force to the fleet's current role as one of the most powerful forces in the Asia Pacific Region, the Royal Australian Navy has been unfaltering in conduct, efficiency and preparedness.

Only three years after His Majesty King George V granted the title 'Royal' to the force, the fleet proved ready and able to protect Australia's ports, shipping and trade routes at this most difficult time. There have, of course, been many changes since then and The Royal Australian Navy has since gone on to see action in every ocean of the world. Yet the RAN has continued to demonstrate such immense responsibility and an admirable devotion to duty throughout that makes this Anniversary all the more distinguished.

Since your 75th anniversary in 1976, the RAN's noble work in disaster relief operations throughout the Pacific region has served to prove a particular moral strength and compassion which can be said to characterise the RAN, and for which every member should be individually proud.

It gives me great pleasure to send my personal congratulations and sincere best wishes to the Royal Australian Navy in this Centenary year. I am confident that the RAN will continue to inspire such high standards of professionalism and dedication for many more years to come.

9th November, 2011.