

R 070859Z JUL 11
FM CN AUSTRALIA
SIC WAA/Z4P

SUBJ: COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

1. ON 10 JULY 2011 THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY WILL COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS SINCE HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V APPROVED AUSTRALIA'S REQUEST TO HAVE THE 'ROYAL' PREFIX ATTACHED TO THE NAVY'S TITLE. THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE THEN WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NAVY THAT AUSTRALIA AND HER NAVY HAD COME OF AGE AND IT WAS A REFLECTION OF THE EMERGING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NAVY AS A MARITIME FORCE IN THE REGION.

2. THE TITLE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY WAS PROMULGATED IN NAVAL ORDERS ON 5 OCT 1911 AND RAN SHIPS WERE FROM THIS TIME ON TO BE PREFIXED WITH HIS MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN SHIP (HMAS).

3. AUSTRALIA'S NEW FLEET TOOK SEVERAL YEARS TO BUILD BUT, ON 4 OCT 1913, THE POWERFUL FLAGSHIP HMAS AUSTRALIA I LED A FORCE OF CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS INTO SYDNEY HARBOUR FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS WAS A MOMENT OF GREAT NATIONAL PRIDE AND IMPORTANCE, ONE RECOGNISED AS A KEY SYMBOL OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS TO NATIONHOOD.

4. LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, AS WAR LOOMED, THE FLEET WAS COMPLETED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SUBMARINES. THE RAN ENTERED WORLD WAR 1 IN ITS INFANCY BUT PROVED IT WAS READY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE AUSTRALIAN NATION, DEFEATING OR DETERRING FORCES CLOSE TO HOME IN THE PACIFIC, THE INDIAN OCEAN WHEN HMAS SYDNEY DEFEATED THE GERMAN CRUISER EMDEN AND FURTHER ABROAD. DURING THIS PERIOD THE SAILORS AND OFFICERS OF THE RAN WON A REPUTATION FOR PROFESSIONALISM, COURAGE AND SACRIFICE - A REPUTATION WHICH CONTINUES TODAY AND IS REFLECTED IN NAVY'S CURRENT VALUES OF COURAGE, LOYALTY, HONOUR, INTEGRITY AND HONESTY.

5. TO COMMEMORATE THIS MILESTONE IN THE RAN' HISTORY THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE BEING CONDUCTED OVER THE PERIOD 8 - 13 JUL 11:

A. 8 JUL: OPENING OF THE 'PRIDE OF THE NATION' EXHIBITION AT THE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE, MELBOURNE THAT RUNS UNTIL 27 NOV 11

B. 9 JUL: A RECEPTION IN SYDNEY HOSTED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL RANKS

C. 10 JUL: A PUBLIC CONCERT BY THE RAN BAND IN SYDNEY ATTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

D. 10 JUL: DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL STONE AT ST MARY'S CHAPEL IN BRISBANE

E. 13 JUL: UNCOVERING OF A TIME CAPSULE AT HMAS STIRLING THAT WAS BURIED AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

6. THESE COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN PROMOTED ON THE NAVY INTERNET WEBSITE AND POST ACTIVITY IMAGERY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT: WWW.NAVY.GOV.AU

7. AS WE COMMEMORATE THIS IMPORTANT DAY IN THE RAN'S HISTORY IT IS TIMELY TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS. IN PARTICULAR WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND GOOD HEALTH IN THE SERVICE OF OUR NATION. WE ALSO REMEMBER THE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES WHO HAVE STOOD BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE RAN IN THE LAST 100 YEARS. THEY HAVE DONE SO IN PEACE AND WAR, THEY HAVE ENDURED LONG PERIODS OF SEPARATION FROM THEIR LOVED ONES AND HAVE CARED FOR THEM WHEN THEY HAVE RETURNED FROM THEIR SERVICE.

8. 100 YEARS ON OUR NAVY IS STILL GROWING AND WE CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OPERATIONS WITHIN OUR REGION AND THOSE FAR FROM HOME. TODAY WE HAVE MANY PEOPLE ON OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, SUDAN, IN THE MIDDLE EAST BOTH ASHORE AND AT SEA, IN EAST TIMOR, AND OF COURSE THOSE WHO PROTECT OUR BORDERS EACH DAY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE A RELATIVELY SMALL NAVY THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE RESPECTED FOR OUR PROFESSIONALISM, SKILL AND DEDICATION. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AS A MODERN AND EFFECTIVE FORCE WE RETAIN THE VALUES AND FINEST TRADITIONS ESTABLISHED IN OUR EARLY YEARS.

9. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO SERVE AUSTRALIA, AND FOR THE WORK YOU DO TO PROTECT OUR NATION, OUR VALUES AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.
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