



Australian Naval Institute



To Fight and Win at Sea: 125 Years of Australian Naval History

Call for Papers

Australian National Maritime Museum,
Sydney

19-20 November 2026



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Hosted by Sea Power Centre–Australia & the Australian Naval Institute

In 1901, the Commonwealth Naval Force was formed, bringing together the separate colonial navies of Australia under one Commonwealth banner. The title 'Royal Australian Navy' was granted in 1911. In 2026, we examine these 125 years of Australia's navy history.

We invite proposals for 20 minute presentations which illuminate Australia's naval history through an individual, strategic, political, economic or thematic lens. Contributions based on original research are preferred, and innovative methods and approaches are encouraged. Proposals with a comparative or international dimension will be prioritised.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Command at sea
- Australian sailors – their traits and experiences; the history of the WRANS; the evolution of Australian maritime culture
- Campaigns and operations
- The maintenance of Australia's economic connections to global trade
- Building the fleet – from *Australia* (I) to Ghostshark and SSNs
- Navies, labour markets and economic development
- Biography, autobiography and memoir in navy history
- The changing role for Navy in Australian defence strategy

We also invite panel proposals from multiple presenters (up to 4) on a key issue relating to the theme.

At the conference organisers' discretion, presenters may be invited to submit a paper for an edited collection or for online publication through the SPC-A website: <https://seapower.navy.gov.au>

Proposals for presentations should be a maximum of 400 words + separate 50 word author biography.

Panel proposals should be one submission, following the individual presentation proposal format and including a short paragraph to explain the significance of the proposed panel theme for the conference.

All proposals should be sent to: navy.history@defence.gov.au by 23 April 2026.

Use file names: '[Author]NavyHistoryConf26' or '[Author]PanelNavyHistoryConf26'