CHIEF OF NAVY'S HISTORY CONFERENCE

PURPOSE | PEOPLE | PLATFORMS | PARTNERS

125 Years of Australian Naval History — Conference Program

19–20 November 2026 · Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Day 1

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026

0745–0815 **Registration** *– please be seated by 8.15 am*

0815–0825 ***Introduction***
Captain Bernard Dobson, RAN, Director, Sea Power Centre – Australia

0825–0830 ***Welcome***
Ms Daryl Karp, AM, Director & CEO, Australian National Maritime Museum

MORNING: PLATFORMS

0830–0945 **Session 1 — Australia, the Royal Australian Navy and the Second World War**
Session Chair — Dr Ross Mackie
Commander Darren Puttock, RAN · Dr Knox Peden · Dr Tom Lewis

0945–1015 MORNING TEA

1015–1030 ***Chief of Navy's Address***
Vice Admiral Matthew Buckley, AM, CSC, RAN, Chief of Navy

1030–1145 **Session 2 — Shipbuilding and Fleet Acquisition: The Long-Run View**
Session Chair — Vice Admiral Peter Jones, AO, DSC, RAN (retired)
Dr Richard Dunley · Captain Alastair Cooper, RAN · Dr Allan du Toit

1145–1240 **Session 3 — The Deployment of New Technology and Weapons in Regional Environments: A Historical Perspective**
Session Chair — Commander Darren Puttock, RAN
Paul Grace · Lieutenant Colonel Clare O'Neill, CSC

1240–1345 LUNCH

AFTERNOON: PEOPLE

1345–1500 **Session 4 — The Social Dimensions of Sea Power**
Session Chair — Dr Knox Peden
Matilda Hatcher · Dr Ryan Gifford · Able Seaman Naffissa Mohamed

1500–1530 AFTERNOON TEA

1530–1645 **Session 5 (Panel) — Telling Bathurst-class Corvette Stories**
Session Chair — Captain Alastair Cooper, RAN
Professor Erik Eklund · Dr Antoinette Holm · Craig Monahan

1700–1800 ***Book Launch — Just Another Day in the Delta by Max Speedy***
The Hon Peter Tinley, AM, National President of the RSL
Captain Bernard Dobson, RAN

About the book

1900 ***No-Host Social at the Pyrmont Bridge Hotel***

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Day 2

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026

0800–0835 **Registration** *– please be seated by 8.35 am*

MORNING: PARTNERS

0845–0945 ***Keynote Address***

Professor Craig Stockings, University of New South Wales Canberra

0945–1015 MORNING TEA

1015–1130 **Session 6 — Essential Enablers**

Session Chair — Captain Lisa Batchler, RAN

Dr Neil Westphalen · Paul Chamberlain · Dr Victor Rudenno

1130–1245 **Session 7 — Navy, Maritime Trade and Prosperity in the Empire and in Our Region**

Session Chair — Commander Piers Chatterton, RAN

Dr Alex Little · Dr Ross Mackie · Coopper Kingsley

1245–1345 LUNCH

AFTERNOON: PURPOSE

1345–1445 **Session 8 — Underwater Cultural Heritage, Diplomacy and Statecraft**

Session Chair — Stirling Smith

Dr Natali Pearson · Commander Mick de Ruyter, PhD, RAN

1445–1515 AFTERNOON TEA

1515–1530 ***Announcement — Winner, John Jeremy Memorial Essay Competition***

David Michael, President, Naval Historical Society of Australia

Captain Bernard Dobson, RAN

1530–1625 **Session 9 (Closing Panel) — Strategy, Command and the Way Ahead**

Session Chair — Captain Bernard Dobson, RAN

Dr Miranda Booth · Vice Admiral Peter Jones, AO, DSC, RAN (retired)

1625–1640 ***Closing Remarks***

Rear Admiral Anita Williams, CSC, CSM, RAN, Fleet Commander

The Jeune École in the Drone Age: Technology and Naval Warfare, edited by Knox Peden

Speaker biographies