

Jump TO Article



The article on the pages below is reprinted by permission from *United Service* (the journal of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales), which seeks to inform the defence and security debate in Australia and to bring an Australian perspective to that debate internationally.

The Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales (RUSI NSW) has been promoting informed debate on defence and security issues since 1888. To receive quarterly copies of *United Service* and to obtain other significant benefits of RUSI NSW membership, please see our online Membership page:

www.rusinsw.org.au/Membership



Jump TO Article

DEFENCE NEWS

A century of submarine service in the Royal Australian Navy

The 100th anniversary of submarines operating in the defence of Australia was commemorated at the Australian National Maritime Museum on 7 February 2014. Commodore Peter Scott, CSC, RAN, Director General Submarine Capability, delivered the occasional address – extracts follow.

“The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was an early adopter of submarine technology. The arrival of *AE1* and *AE2* at the outbreak of the First World War marked the beginnings of a proud submarine heritage. These first generation submarines ... made a significant contribution to the RAN's World War I service record. Sadly, both submarines were lost during the war, with *AE1* disappearing off Rabaul, taking with her 35 lives. Her resting place remains one of Navy's greatest mysteries... Australia did not operate any indigenous submarines during World War II..... It wasn't until the 1960s that the modern era of submarines in the RAN commenced with the acquisition of Oberon-class submarines. The diesel-electric 'O-boats' served from 1967 to 2000 and provided invaluable service.

When it came time to replace the O-boats, no off-the-shelf design met Australia's requirements for range, endurance and overall capability, so a new design solution was required. The resultant Collins-class guided missile submarines continue to provide Australia with critical offensive and defensive capability.”

The RAN will host a number of commemorative events during 2014. Publically-accessible events will be listed on the events section of the Navy website (<http://www.navy.gov.au>).