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OBITUARY

Rear Admiral N. S. Coates, AM, RAN

Rear Admiral Nigel Coates, a former vice-patron of the Institute (2007-2009), died on 2 June 2010 after a short, but aggressive, illness.

Coates joined the Navy as a cadet midshipman in 1975, graduating as dux from both initial training and seaman officer training, before training as an air intercept controller and a principal warfare officer (direction). His 35 years of distinguished naval service included command of HMA Ships *Canberra* (1996-97) and *Anzac* (2001-02), with both ships receiving the Duke of Gloucester Cup for being the most efficient ship in the Navy during his tenure. Other key appointments included Commander Sea Training, Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force, Chief of Staff Headquarters Australian Theatre, Director-General Navy Personnel and Training, and, on promotion

to rear admiral in July 2007, Commander Australian Fleet.

Admiral Coates was appointed a member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia for his service in command of HMAS *Anzac*, particularly for his leadership during *Anzac's* operational deployment to the Arabian Gulf in 2001.

In the words of the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russell Crane, AO, CSM, RAN: "With his passing, Navy has prematurely lost an outstanding individual and consummate professional, who committed his entire working life to serving his country with great skill, dignity and honour. The Navy, the Australian Defence Force and the broader Australian community have lost one of their finest military leaders and a great mate."

David Leece¹