

Introduction to the Joint Issue

We are very pleased to produce this joint issue of the *Australian Naval Review* and *Canadian Naval Review*. As countries with common roots in Britain, similar institutions and processes, and comparable sizes and economies, it is interesting and useful to compare Canada and Australia. Whilst we are far separated geographically, the challenges our navies face are remarkably similar.

When we planned this joint issue (which was born out of a chance email exchange), we came up with a list of topics we thought would be pertinent to audiences in both countries. The list is as follows:

- the national security climate, and the role of the navy in addressing threats;
- climate change and its impact on the Australian and Canadian navies;
- recruitment and retention in the two navies; and
- submarines.

Having selected these topics of common interest, we then began the search for Australian and Canadian authors to write about them. The result, as you will see, is articles that are both fascinating and timely.

On the Australian side, the article on national security explores Australia's place in the Indo-Pacific region and the future of warfare in this geostrategic region, as well as the recently released Defence Strategic Review. In the article about climate change, we see that the impact of climate change on the Royal Australian Navy is already being keenly felt, most notably through the frequent, and often short-notice, deployments on humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations throughout the region. The article on recruitment and retention illustrates that the RAN has a continued focus on these issues. The Director General of Navy People notes that the RAN must work hard both to recruit and retain people to meet its ambitious growth targets. The AUKUS announcements in 2021, and again earlier this year, that Australia will procure nuclear submarines is perhaps one of the most significant defence announcements in a generation. The article on submarines, penned by a former Commander of the Australian Submarine Force, looks at the enduring characteristics and emerging features of submarines in Australia.

On the Canadian side, we see that policy about national security currently utilizes a broad definition of domestic security with little focus on the military, and this raises problems for the Canadian Armed Forces in general and the Royal Canadian Navy in particular. The article about climate change and the navy illustrates how the RCN is attempting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by bases and vessels and how the roles of the RCN will be affected by climate change particularly in the Arctic.



Official portrait of *Australian Naval Review* editor, Lieutenant Ben Page.

Credit: Provided by Ben Page



Canadian Naval Review editor, Dr. Ann Griffiths, in Nova Scotia 2022.

Credit: Provided by Ann Griffiths

The article about recruitment and retention in Canada illustrates that personnel shortages are becoming critical, exacerbated by institutional processes, public perceptions and demographics. The final Canadian article discusses submarines and illustrates that a combination of increased Russian activity in the Arctic and the US Navy focus on China may mean that Canada will be expected to procure submarines to fill a gap in Arctic security.

We extend our thanks to the authors who have shared their thoughts and contributed to this joint endeavour. With the geostrategic environment in a state of flux, the promotion and advancement of the debate about navies and their role in national security has never been more important. We hope that you will find this issue as interesting as we have! ⚓

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