



N·V·L

---

LUERSSEN AUSTRALIA

ARAFURA  
LAUNCH  
CEREMONY

---

① *ARAFURA*  
LAUNCH CEREMONY

🕒 16 DECEMBER 2021

📍 OSBORNE NAVAL  
SHIPYARD – SOUTH

# CONTENTS

---

Message from the Minister for Defence .....	04
Message from the Chief Executive Officer .....	05
Message from the Chief of Navy .....	06
The Ships's Sponsor .....	07
Official Proceedings .....	09
Order of Service .....	10
<i>Arafura</i> Ship Statistics .....	12
<i>Arafura</i> Major Milestones .....	13

December 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE

# MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

---

I am very proud to witness the launch of NUSHIP *Arafura*, the first of 12 Offshore Patrol Vessels destined to serve the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian people. I want to first congratulate the dedicated, hardworking and accomplished shipbuilders who contribute to delivering the OPV Program. Your efforts are vital to Australia's continued safety and prosperity. The launch of NUSHIP *Arafura* further strengthens the Royal Australian Navy and bolsters the Australian Government's commitment to do everything necessary to protect the rules-based international order and stability in our region.

The strategy behind the Australian Government's record investment in sovereign naval shipbuilding is to rapidly drive the delivery of defence capabilities. The launch of NUSHIP *Arafura* is testament to that. There is a new sense of urgency in the Indo-Pacific and the *Arafura* Class will be a key contributor to defending Australia's maritime security, interests and resources.

**I am confident that Defence and Luerksen Australia, alongside its expert contractors have given those who get to serve on NUSHIP *Arafura* the tools required to patrol and protect our region with increased capability.**

The Hon Peter Dutton MP

MESSAGE FROM THE

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

---

It is a privilege for Luerssen Australia to be the Prime Contractor on the Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessel Program. We won the contract in 2017 to build twelve OPVs, and started construction on *Arafura* in 2018 with an ambitious schedule and plans to involve as many local companies as possible.

I am proud of the high level of Australian Industry Content on the Program and the many dozens of close relationships we have forged with our partners, the Program Office and the broader Defence community over the years.

This launch is an important milestone in the life of *Arafura* and it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the hard work and commitment of hundreds of people. Thank you for supporting this very important Program. Everyone who worked on *Arafura* has a unique place in the Royal Australian Navy's history and you should be proud of your achievements.

**Together we have built a formidable vessel for the Navy.  
Congratulations to you all.**

Mr Jens Nielsen, Chief Executive Officer, Luerssen Australia

MESSAGE FROM THE

# CHIEF OF NAVY

---

On behalf of the Men and Women of the Royal Australian Navy, I congratulate Luerssen Australia and its many contractors on the launch of Australia's first Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), NUSHIP *Arafura*. *Arafura* is the first of 12 OPVs to be built for the Royal Australian Navy and will be the lead asset for national maritime patrol and response activities, while also undertaking national and regional maritime security and constabulary missions.

*Arafura's* state of the art sensors, as well as her command and communication systems, will allow increased interoperability with Australian Border Force vessels, other Australian Defence Force units and our regional partners. The *Arafura* Class will support specialist mission packages into the future, such as a maritime tactical unmanned aerial system, rapid environmental assessment and deployable mine counter measure capabilities. The introduction of *Arafura* is a step forward in capability for Australia, providing the Australian Defence Force with new levels of integration and the ability to take on an increased role in protecting Australia's borders and maritime interests.

**I look forward to accepting *Arafura* into service in 2022 and my thanks to the many highly skilled shipbuilders who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to our OPV Program.**

Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, RAN

THE SHIP'S SPONSOR

# MS NOVA PERIS

## OAM OLY

---

Ms Peris has enjoyed a distinguished career which has included being an Olympic gold medallist, a Commonwealth Games champion and the first Aboriginal woman elected to Federal Parliament.

With an astonishing sporting career representing Australia across the globe in two different sports, Ms Peris was a key member of both the Australian Women's field hockey team and the Australian Track & Field team.

At the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ms Peris became the first Aboriginal person and first Northern Territorian to win an Olympic gold medal, playing for the Hockeyroos that defeated South Korea 3–1.

Transitioning her hockey career to sprinting, Ms Peris competed in the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur winning two more gold medals in the 200m and 4x100 relay, making her the only person to win Olympic and Commonwealth gold in different sports. Ms Peris went on to make the Track and Field Team for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and was the first of 10,000 Olympic flame torchbearers at the iconic Uluru, where she ran barefoot with the flame.

Ms Peris competed in the individual 400m making the semi-finals and the 4x400m relay that finished 4th in the final. Ms Peris is the only person on the planet to make back-to-back Summer Olympic Games finals and consecutive Olympics in different sports.

Following her successful athletic career, Ms Peris then became the first Aboriginal woman to sit in the Federal Parliament as a Senator for the Northern Territory.

During her time in Parliament, Ms Peris served on multiple Senate Committees, including the Education and Employment References Committee, Finance and Public Administration Legislation and References Committees and the Senate Community Affairs Legislation and References Committees. She was also Acting Deputy President of the Senate.

Ms Peris has now started her own charity, the Nova Peris Foundation and recently her 2.6m tall, bronze statue was unveiled in Federation Square, Melbourne.

[Biography of the Ship's Sponsor Ms Nova Peris OAM OLY](#)

ARAFURA LAUNCH CEREMONY

# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

---

<b>9.00am – 9.30am</b>	Guests arrive
<b>10.00am</b>	Announcement of dignitaries Welcome to Country
<b>10.10am – 11.00am</b>	Official speeches Navy Chaplain service Formal naming ceremony Ship launch
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<i>Arafura</i> launch ceremony concludes Guests remain for official reception
<b>11.30am</b>	<i>Arafura</i> launch proceedings conclude Thank you for attending

LED BY CHAPLAIN WAYNE PHILP

# ORDER OF SERVICE

---

## **The Sentences (from Psalm 107): (Chaplain)**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever!

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters;  
they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love;  
his wonderful works to humankind!

## **Prayers: (Chaplain)**

For the Ship –  
Loving Father,  
who has power over the wind and waves,  
in your mercy bless this ship, which we are about to launch;  
so that, whether in storm or calm, peacetime or conflict,  
she may always be guided by you,  
and brought safely to her desired destination.

For the Ship's Company –  
Eternal God,  
as you saved your disciples from the dangers of the storm,  
guide the crew of this vessel,  
bless their work,  
protect them in times of need and keep them safe.

For the Builders –  
God of creativity and life,  
who has gifted the builders of NUSHIP Arafura with vision and skill,  
we give thanks for the many workers who have been involved in the construction  
of this ship.

May you continue to bless everyone involved in this shipyard with inspiration and wisdom; enabling them to flourish in all areas of life.

Loving God, we commit one another and our loved ones into your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

**The Naval Hymn: (All)**

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm restrains the restless wave,  
who told the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed bounds to keep:  
We cry, O God of majesty,  
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,  
Preserve their lives in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, flood and flame,  
protect them by your holy name:  
and to your glory let there be  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

**Blessing: (Chaplain)**

Go into the world in peace,  
have courage, take hold of what is good,  
Never pay back wrong for wrong,  
Let compassion be your companion,  
And forgiveness your constant friend,  
Keep the fires of the spirit burning,  
Seek always what is best, and keep the faith.

# ARAFURA

## SHIP STATISTICS

<b>LENGTH</b>	80 metres
<b>BEAM</b>	13 metres
<b>DRAUGHT</b>	4 metres
<b>DISPLACEMENT</b>	1640 tonnes
<b>PROPULSION</b>	2 x 4250KW diesel engines
<b>SPEED</b>	20 knots
<b>RANGE</b>	4000 nautical miles
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	40 crew with accommodation and services up to 60



# EUROPA

## MAJOR MILESTONES

<b>NOVEMBER 2018</b>	Commencement of construction
<b>MAY 2019</b>	Keel Laying Ceremony
<b>FEBRUARY 2021</b>	Mast Stepping Ceremony
<b>DECEMBER 2021</b>	<i>Arafura</i> Launch Ceremony





Australian Government  
Department of Defence





## NVL • THE DNA OF SHIPBUILDING

**Luerssen Australia Pty Ltd.**

640 Mersey Road North · Osborne · SA 5017 Australia · [events@luerssen.com.au](mailto:events@luerssen.com.au)

[www.luerssen.com.au](http://www.luerssen.com.au)