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HMAS Para



With much of the Royal Australian Navy fleet deployed to foreign waters in the early years of World War II, the defence of Australia's coastlines became a primary concern for the Naval Board. The Naval Auxiliary Patrol (NAP) was a war-raised unit approved on 25 June 1941, charged with patrolling and safeguarding Australia's inner harbours, ports, rivers and estuaries against enemy sabotage or attack. The NAP fleet was comprised primarily of former pleasure craft, offered freely by their owners.

In May 1942, the NAP was transferred to the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RANVR) and was thereafter known as the RANVR NAP. By October 1942 the total strength of the NAP had increased to over 3000 mobilised and unmobilised reserves. This was to remain the case until early 1944 when it was considered that the danger of enemy attack was remote enough to reduce the strength of the NAP to a minimum. <https://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/naval-auxiliary-patrol>.

Para was a 45 foot Motor Launch that served as a Naval Auxiliary Patrol Vessel. The boat was requisitioned for naval service on 26 August 1942, before being commissioned into the RAN on 14 October 1942, under the command of Naval Auxiliary Patrol Skipper Desmond W Wyld. HMAS *Para* was decommissioned on 23 May 1946, and held in reserve for two years before being returned to her owners in July 1948.

" PARA."

Skipper, N.A.P. Desmond W. Wyld 14.10.42
(Commissioned 14th October, 1942.—Tender to "Torrens.")

HMAS *Para* first appeared in the January 1943 edition of the Navy List:
https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Navy_List-January-1943.pdf



Type	Motor Launch
Pennant	673
Commissioned	14 October 1942
Decommissioned	23 May 1946
Dimensions & Displacement	
Length	45 feet
Beam	10 feet 7 inches
Performance	
Speed	10 knots
Armament	
Guns	1 x .303 inch Vickers machine gun
Other Armament	2 x Mk VII depth charge



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