

The Trade

Newsletter for the deep thinker
Summer 2008



BOOM

CBASS fires

This edition we look at all the latest from the boats, the way of the future for supply, behind the scenes on course in the US and congratulations to all in their training and promotions.

SMFEG End of Year/ Christmas BBQ



Date: Friday 12 December

Time: 1000– 1400

Naval Association

Point Peron Road, Rockingham

**FAMILY & FRIENDS
WELCOME TO ATTEND!!!!**

- Live Entertainment
- Jumping Castle
- Hey Presto Magician
- Sumo Suits
- Face Painting by Pirate Pete
- Lollies for the kids
- Great door prizes

RSVP: Thursday 4 December

- PO Toni Ralph- 9553 2874/
toni.ralph@defence.gov.au
- Mrs Deborah Paterson– 9553 3067/
deborah.paterson@defence.gov.au

Major door prize proudly donated by
Harvey Norman, Port Kennedy



INSIDE

Our cover shot shows LSAWASM Phil Ingall as HMAS *Fancomb* came alongside FBW this month.
Photo by AB Morgana Salabert



The Trade Summer 2008



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Contributions are always welcome. Articles should be approximately 1000 words, submitted in Microsoft Word format and be accompanied by high-resolution, digital photographs in JPEG format.

Please direct all submissions and enquiries to:

The Editor, The Trade
Building 80, HMAS STIRLING
PO Box 2188
Rockingham DC
Western Australia 6958
Phone: 08 9553 3064
Mobile: 0401 999 943
E-mail: ruth.mclaughlin@defence.gov.au

Production:

The Green Giraffe Desktop Publishing
Ph/Fax: (08) 6468 4487
Mobile: 0433 951 330
E-mail: thegreengiraffe@iinet.net.au

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Farncomb update

Putting
the fun
back.

Welts, footy and a VIP seal.....

Since June 2007, home for HMAS *Farncomb* has been the ASC facility at Outer Harbour, Adelaide.

Farncomb has been undergoing a routine Mid-Cycle Docking (MCD) which has included the installation of the Replacement Combat System and the MK 48 Mod 7 Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System (CBASS) torpedo, the same combat system whose deadly power was recently tested by HMAS *Waller* during EX RIMPAC 08. Other projects included the installation of a new communications mast and automated shut all hull valves.

But the crew's extended stay in Adelaide was not all work with ample opportunities to comply with the Commanding Officers (CO) instructions Ch 1 Para 19, "...you are hereby directed to have fun".

The Greenies (Electronic Technicians) found a remote outpost to conduct some paintball skirmish to the cries of, "run Fatboy, run!!" - the welt count at the end of the day was impressive.

The Tiffies (Engineering) divisional run consisted of studies into thermodynamics and liquid transfer systems, funny thing was they came back with Coopers Brewery coins, quite curious considering their diligent attention to somewhat submarine pertinent subjects.

The seaman divisions' run involved pursuit activities, namely Go-Kart races at Gepps Cross. No reports of any Senna-like incidents, although the Schumacher skills were on display. Other

activities included an afternoon of Ten Pin Bowling and a few involving touch footy.

Farncomb finally sailed on Sunday 21 September following six days of Safety Assessment, which was a little harder because the Control Room personnel were without a Diving Safety Console watch keeper for the first time following the test run on HMAS *Rankin*.

Farncomb berthed at the main wharf at Port Lincoln on the 25 September and were greeted by very welcoming locals and everyone had a ball during the five day visit. Of particular note was the VIP visitor, a seal making himself comfortable sunbaking under the stinger and frolicking in the water jet pushed out while charging the batteries.

During the Inclination Trial on Saturday 27 September, the boat was able to gather the required data while completing only seven of twelve runs due to a jump in wind speed from five to 41 knots. With only one metre of the fin clear of the water, the wind was strong enough to break a bollard off one of the vessels holding the boat. 3000-odd tonne of submarine versus a bollard plus a mother-nature freak out, we all know who was going to win that one! The CO ordered the main ballast blow just in time to avoid parking the boat under the wharf.

Farncomb pulled back alongside Fleet Base West on Friday 7 November, welcomed by CDRE Steve Davies (CANSNG), members of the SMFEG, family and friends.





HMAS COLLINS



Mick meets Darwin...

By LEUT Simon O'Hehir

On joining HMAS *Collins* a few months ago, the first thing I noticed was every second bloke onboard was named Mick.

There is Mick "Dundee" Silvello (who in his spare time works as a semi-professional croc wrangler); Mick Coleman (who is without doubt the most capable coxswain onboard *Collins* at the moment); Mick Cronin who is madly preparing for his Part Three Board; and Daniel "Moo" Cowan (he just gets called Mick for convenience of others).

The other thing I noticed was a tightly knit, happy crew who happen to be really good at their jobs.

Collins has had a busy and at times trying few months. My time onboard kicked off with a Mariner Skills Evaluation (MSE) which, at times, seemed like it would "outlast religion", however the crew pulled together as one and got the job done. Of course the crew could not have done it without me..... the first week at sea I managed to lock myself in the heads, try to take a periscope trick at 60m and got us killed four times (don't mention it team!).

Our next adventure was Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) Sea Week, in the waters off Darwin. With water temperature of around 27 degrees, jumpers and doona jackets were soon forgotten. Exercising in close proximity to HMAS *Melbourne* and HMAS *Toowoomba* gave us a chance to hone our war fighting skills. At the same time, we were able to provide valuable training opportunities for the skimmers and their birdie friends.

Unfortunately, rough weather meant the green team could not conduct a boat transfer from *Toowoomba*. CST-SM was forced to spend a week with the skimmers, which proved to be a boon for the PWO types. Giving them rare insight into sub-hunting, it also

allowed CMDR Wadley to 'rough it' in a cabin bigger than our wardroom.

Our arrival in Darwin's Fort Hill Wharf created quite a stir among the locals with a large crowd of spectators arriving to watch us come alongside. It was hard not to feel loved when greeted by a huge crowd and flash photography, which may explain why some of us decided to "live like rock stars" while alongside in Darwin. The boys in particular were local celebrities at the "Melaluca" backpackers in the middle of Mitchell Street, the Wardroom and Seniors Sailors of course kept a lower profile.

I should probably take the time now to thank the good people of Darwin who made us feel very at home. Our crew were really well received and many were reluctant to sail but EX KAKADU was looming.

Darwin was abuzz with navy types from Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, PNG, USA and Japan to name a few. Couple this with the multi-national force of backpackers in town for the Darwin Cup season and the pubs and clubs were reaching capacity. Many of us took the time to venture out of the city to Berry Springs, Litchfield and other local attractions.

The weekend prior to sailing marked a number of major events. Our boys bravely took on the world in the KAKADU sports day with honourable mentions to all those who participated, although a sports day without a beer tent seemed strangely out of character for Darwin.

A team from "A Current Affair" also boarded and were given 'unprecedented access'.

We also took the opportunity to farewell our XO, LCDR Mike Manfield, who moves on to greener pastures; gearing up for com-

HMAS COLLINS

mand of *Waller*. Our new XO, LCDR Matt Hoffman, was kind of dropped in the deep end, a few days prior to sailing but took it in his stride. Welcome aboard, Sir!

Sailing for KAKADU, most of us were happy to be leaving Darwin, if for nothing else than to give our livers a much-needed rest. We embarked CST-SM and a couple of Green Team for further assessment and we were on our way. The long transit to the dive position saw a few rounds of 'six degrees of separation', last-minute planning and quiet reflection. Then it was time to put our game faces on.

KAKADU gave us a hectic timetable with a number of combined anti-submarine exercise serials every day. Once again *Collins* proved she was up to the task, acquitting ourselves early in the piece we proved we could indeed handle the challenges posed by the exercise. Unfortunately our time on KAKADU was cut short, yet both *Collins* and the other units involved gained invaluable experience.

Returning to Darwin many of us took the time to take in more of the sights. Many of the crew treated the first night back in as a 'pit stop', a chance to catch up with old friends and even make a couple of new ones.

Fleet Commander RADM Nigel Coates visited the boat and had a fireside chat with the junior sailors, morning tea with the officers and senior rates and even managed to squeeze in one of our famous bacon and egg sarnies. RADM Coates discussed the future direction of Navy leadership and in particular the emphasis on training and career devel-

opment. It was a worthwhile experience for all and seeing the Chief Tiff in whites was well worth the price of admission.

Heading home, the focus switched to our part threes who were nearing the completion of their boards and pulling back into FBW the smiles on the faces of the guys with shiny new dolphins could only be matched by LSMTSM Lindo who had recently had a new addition to the family...well done, mate.

A number of personnel gained qualifications during this running period, including:-

- LEUT Ryan Wilson gained Dived NAV and OOW (Dived) qualifications.
- ABMTSM Fernie, ABETSM Schueller and ABETSM McNiell passed their Part 3 boards, with more to come.
- ABETSM Welsh and ABETSM Brown were passed out as Surfaced Helmsman.
- POETSM Willcox is now a POOW.
- ABMTSM White gained his MST qualification
- LSMTSM Russell was awarded his MSM qualification.
- ABAWASM Daniel 'Moo'/'Mick' Cowan was awarded his dolphins on the 12th of August 2008.

All in all it was a tough couple of months for *Collins* but very worthwhile and the experience both individually and collectively will no doubt strengthen the crew. As a testament to both our CO, CMDR Matt ("Mick?") Buckley and the crew, *Collins* is back and as united as ever. Vanguard.





“The Trade”

They bear, in place of classic names,
Letters and numbers on their skin.
They play their grisly blindfold games
In little boxes made of tin.

Sometimes they stalk the Zeppelin,
Sometimes they learn where mines are laid,
Or where the Baltic Ice is thin.
That is the custom of ‘The Trade’.

Few prize-courts sit upon their claims.
They seldom tow their targets in.
They follow certain secret aims
Down under, far from strife or din.
Where they are ready to begin
No flag is flown, no fuss is made
More than the shearing of a pin.
That is the custom of ‘The Trade’.

The Scout’s quadruple funnel flames
A mark from Sweden to the Swin,
The Cruiser’s thund’rous screw proclaims
Her comings out and goings in:
But only the whiffs of paraffin
Or creamy rings that fizz and fade
Show where the one-eyed death has been.
That is the custom of ‘The Trade’.

Their feats, their fortunes and their fames
Are hidden from their nearest kin;
No eager public backs or blames,
No journal prints the yarns they spin
(The Censor would not let it in!)
When they return from the run or raid.
Unheard they work, unseen they win.
That is the custom of ‘The Trade’.

RUDYARD KIPLING

HMAS COLLINS

Part threes, port visits and pressurised chooks

BY CMDR Matt Buckely, CO Collins

Following the successful reconstitution period and workup of 2007, the *Collins* team along with their mates in the Black Knight set off from FBW early in the New Year for a deployment to the continents Eastern shores.

This was notably the first deployment for *Collins* since prior to the Full Cycle Docking (FCD) and the crew was determined to enjoy the freedom of snapping the WAXA/SAXA elastic band.

The deployment was a beauty and incorporated visits to Sydney for Aus-

tralia Day (oh yeah and the Mardi Gras) weekends, Hobart for the Regatta celebrations, Melbourne for the Grand Prix along with *Rankin* and Launceston for Easter.

In addition to all of the port visits, the boat was involved in Fleet Concentration Period (FCP) East and conducted several activities with our good friends from Swanbourne.

We also managed to train a good number of Part III's, awarding several sets of dolphins over the course of the deployment.

Nav was also kept busy with a series

of inshore ops and surfaced nav exercises around the picturesque Tassie coast which included a breathtaking anchorage in Port Arthur.

There were also two very interesting VIP boat transfers in delightful conditions in Albany which kept the seamanship team well and truly on their toes. *Collins* hosted several VIP's during the deployment and STU and the Chefs did a great job of keeping them all well fed and watered.

Back in the West for a snappy IMAV and leave period, the *Collins* team dusted off the overalls for another foray, this



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time heading up North for the winter and series of exercises in the NAXA. Following a few weeks with the good men of Sea Training Group and having mopped the blood off the deck, we turned our bows to the North and waved farewell to the rain and cold.

On arrival in Darwin the boys became very well acquainted with the revamped and almost cosmopolitan tourist precinct and gave two thumbs up to a different form of accommodation at the local backpacker's in the centre of the main drag. Complete with swimming pool and of course a cocktail lounge no one seemed too upset when our stay was extended as we started to wrestle with a defect on our hydraulic system that would sadly harpoon our eventual cunning plan for a Singapore sling at raffles.

The crew put in a great effort to keep us in the game during our month in Darwin and while disappointed with the final outcome, put on a brave face when we decided to return home to fix our problem and live to fight out the remaining months at sea.

Prior to leaving Darwin, several of the crew participated in the filming of an article for "a current affair" which showed a little of life onboard and demonstrated why it's defiantly better in boats.

Making the most of our remaining time at sea prior to Mid Cycle Docking (MCD), *Collins* had a very busy couple of months starting with our journey back from Darwin. Sceptical at first, nearly everyone became a huge fan of three watches after our underway trial which due to its success was continued during our passage to Albany. The two week underway training period which included the Albany run ashore became notable for three very distinct reasons; the number of trainees qualified, the week with "Sixty Minutes onboard" and the killer lurgy that just about everyone onboard managed to contract.

There was certainly no need to worry about anyone in strife ashore in what was easily the quietest port visit an Aussie boat has probably ever conducted. It was certainly a far cry from the month earlier with paper umbrellas and coloured cocktails in the tropics as the wind and sleet battered the town for the entire visit. On the bright side though we all survived the lurgy and saved our subbies, we qualified a swag of trainees and the Sixty Minutes crew had a ball producing a quality story on life under the waves.

To finish our year at sea off on a high note, *Collins* in conjunction once again with our mates from Swanbourne, safely and successfully completed sea verification trials for a new submarine special forces capability that will take our joint operations to a new level into next year and beyond.

Collins is now getting a good going over at the Henderson facility and thanks to our friends from SRG and contractor subwatch assistance, the crew is enjoying the opportunity to clear some leave and do a few courses. We will be back again next year with some new faces but the same purpose "living the submarine dream". So if you're feeling like some action and fun filled adventure in 2009 "Get in the Van" and join the *Collins* team.



ABOVE: On the casing at anchor
BELOW: The CO and XO host retired CDRE Kim Pitt and his family in Hobart
BELOW LEFT: Dutywatch looking sharp in Tassie





Last goodbye



A rainy 4 July marked the final day of CDRE Ric Shalders' role as the head of the Submarine Service and nearly 30 years with the Submarine Squadron, proudly wearing dolphins. It also marked the end of an era for the submarine squadron as he will most likely have been the last 'O' boat commanding officer to fill the Commodore's chair. Above, CDRE Shalders, right, is farewelled by CDRE Steve Davies, while left, he says farewell to the Warrant Officers.





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USN COMMAND COURSE



In command

BY LCDR James Lybrand

The USN Submarine Command Course (USN SCC) is an adjunct course that a recently qualified Perisher graduate conducts prior to assuming Command of an Australian Submarine.

So how does the USN SCC value add to the experience of a recent Perisher graduate?

Due to the international nature of Perisher, tactical employment of weapons is not a highlight of the assessment. The USN SCC however has a very large weapons focus with classes firing between 30-60 MK48/ADCAP in a wide range of tactical scenarios both in deep and shallow water.

Both of the nuclear command courses that the RAN has exposure to, the UK Perisher and USN SCC, train both Commanding Officers and Executive Officers. This provides flexibility to command and a further filter to ensure the best personnel are ultimately posted in command of a submarine.

A little about the construct of the USN SCC: The course is nine weeks long with six weeks classroom and command team trainer time and a three-week sea assessment phase. The stated aim of the course is to provide the USN Submarine Force with:

- CO's who can safely move to and from the fight and competently plan and execute typical submarine missions, and,
- "XO's who can safely operate the ship and provide timely, focussed command-level support to the CO".

Where do RAN post-Perisher students fit in?

The RAN students traditionally join the USN SCC in Hawaii for the shore phase of the course and will conduct the sea assessment in either exercises following RIMPAC or

in Western Australia for exercises centered around Lungfish. Recently a number of RAN students have conducted the Atlantic SCC which has a shore phase on the east coast of mainland USA followed by a sea phase near Florida and the Bahamas and on the AUTEK range.

Australian students are treated as PCO's and keep duties as Duty Commanding Officer at sea and they also provide diesel submarine subject matter expertise in both shore and sea roles.

Due to the limited speed available to diesel submarines to both approach/attack and evasion the RAN students generally bring an aggressive manoeuvring style to the course and a natural familiarity with periscope depth operations and with periscope safety situations.

Alternately RAN students are exposed to operating submarines with a very similar combat system in a complex environment where they can extend on the knowledge and abilities that they have just honed in Perisher. They also get to observe and fire a very large number of ADCAP torpedoes, both simulated weapons in Attack Centres and practice weapons on fully instrumented ranges, in a tactically challenging environment against submarines simulating a wide variety of regional targets.

Post exercise reconstruction of all firings also lets students see what worked and what didn't work and gives a better understanding of the capabilities and limitations of themselves, their equipment and the weapon. It also gives them the final opportunity to act in a command role with some backup and mentoring from the experienced, post-command PCO instructors before they take command of their own submarine.



The good, the bad and the ugly

By CMDR Andy Nelson

The Good,...

I'll start on the positives, if only to maintain the flow of the article.

Recent changes to the way support is being delivered to the submarines are being trialled through the work of the Fleet Logistic Support Element – Fleet Base West (FLSE – FBW). This arrangement, if successful (as all current indications suggest it is), will result in support staff previously allocated to the SMHQ, working within the larger pool of JLU-West staff.

At the waterfront, this will result in no degradation of service, but should improve the level of staffing and experience available. We will also benefit from the greater experience and larger workforce available in JLU-W, as evidenced by *Collins*' recent de-storing activity.

Speaking of storebies, we are making good progress on gaining approval to include an SN in the permanent scheme of complement. This would greatly improve the material support of the vessel while removing the accountability and responsibility from the POET who presently manages the onboard stores account. So, if you know of any keen young storebies wanting to experience life in a submersible warehouse, then send them my way!

The Bad,...

The Budget. As you'd all be aware, Defence has had to shoulder a considerable 'efficiency savings' lately, and this has resulted in considerable pain for the *Collins* supply chain. Consumables are not being replaced, repairables are mounting at JLU-W awaiting funds and the ability of the support organisations to address obsolescence issues is being severely hamstrung.

The FEG is representing this hurt through Fleet Headquarters to seek additional funds for the remainder of this financial year, but even were that money to appear instantly, the flow on improvements in the stock situation would not be felt for months or even a year, such is the nature of repair turnaround times and industry capacity.

And.....

Me! Yes, I'm a skimmer, but with over 22 years supply experience I think I've got some background that may help to improve your lives and increase submarine availability and capability. I've just returned from a second tour in Baghdad, having served as the Deputy Chief of Logistic Plans, focussing on the support of over 150,000 troops and 165,000 contractors in Iraq.

I see my role as twofold. I serve as CAPT SM's supply subject matter expert and as the 'squadron Pusser'. Any support issues relating to stores, catering, stewards, service funds, deployment planning etc lie within my responsibility, so feel free to come over to the SMHQ and drop in for a chat and let me know your concerns, and I'll update you on what is being done to address them, or take them onboard for action.



HMAS WALLER



LSAWASM Jamie Dennis

Aloha - the Waller story so far

By LEUT Adam Masters

Deploying a submarine overseas for an extended period of time is never an easy undertaking, especially when participating in the largest naval exercise in the world.

For HMAS *Waller*, the stakes were even higher, for the expectations of two nations were riding on the successful demonstration of the CBASS Mk48 Mod 7 heavyweight torpedo.

Despite the pressure, the deployment for RIMPAC 08 would mean a lot of opportunities for her crew in both a professional and a personal sense. For some, this would be their first RIMPAC deployment, a great chance for exposure to a high-intensity war fighting environment, as well as chance to enjoy the sights of Hawaii. For others, this would be one of several trips to Pearl Harbour, but every time they come back there is something new to be learned and something new to do.

The trip from Australia to Hawaii is over 4000 nautical miles, a long transit in any ship, let alone a submarine. This

was not just some dull and boring transit, a lot of preparation and training needed to be conducted if *Waller* was going to mix it up with the best the world has to offer.

A lot of units *Waller* would be working with would not be very familiar to the RAN, so the first job was studying up on the capabilities and limitations of the various RIMPAC units. This was a collective activity with the whole control room involved in discussing potential scenarios and tactics. This preparation was to prove invaluable. Plenty of individual and team training was also conducted, including tracking drills, weapons firings drills, and of course, liberal amounts of damage control training.

During this time, there were a few opportunities for some recreation. Pizza night and Tombola were always things to look forward to, as well as the traditional Crossing the Line ceremony. Many of *Waller's* Part 3 trainees had hardly been to sea before, let alone been brought before King Neptune. An in-



HMAS WALLER

So far...

genious below decks ceremony was put on by Ship's Staff, with plenty of weird and wonderful costumes on display – thank heavens for gash bags!

Once *Waller* arrived in Pearl Harbour, the pace of the preparations increased. During the day, there were many operational briefings for key players to attend; this included the very arduous task of providing personnel to the various receptions hosted by the international RIMPAC participants. These functions were a great way for our crew to meet the key players for the upcoming exercise.

While *Waller* hosted a few visitors during her time in Hawaii, the highest profile visitor was the Minister for Defence. Coming onboard for a tour just before sailing for the exercise, the Minister got to see a submarine and speak to a crew who were at the peak of their preparation. Not only was he very impressed with the pride that the crew take in their submarine, he also got a chance to speak with many of the sailors about issues affecting the submarine community.

During RIMPAC all units took advantage of the range facilities provided by the Pacific Missile Range Facility. The highlight of this was the Mk48 CBASS Warshot firing. This is the event that the submarine and the crew had been preparing for nearly 2 years. That preparation paid off in a spectacular fashion as the ex-USS FLETCHER was decommissioned on 16 July 08. The professionalism of the crew and the dedication to ensuring that this shot was a success was seen in everyone's faces once the explosion was heard and FLETCHER sank beneath the waves.

On return to Pearl Harbour after a successful exercise, the crew took the chance to unwind and relax. This included a barbeque hosted by *Waller*, the Japanese submarine JS NA-RUSHIO and the South Korean submarine ROKS LEE SUN SHIN. It was a designed as a 'thank you' to our US hosts, who us with fantastic support, both at sea and alongside.

The hard work is not over for *Waller*. She is looking forward to another very intensive sea period participating in the US Submarine Command Course (SCC), and will be hosting a large number of US CO- and XO-designates. This will just be another chance for *Waller* and her crew to shine, and display to the world the tenacity and professionalism that the Australian submarine force is renowned for.



DWEEO and USS Kitty Hawk



LEFT: SM XO's course with instructor CMDR Phil Stanford
RIGHT: SM qualifications awarded



HMAS WALLER



MAIN: PO2 Vincent Campo

RIGHT Top and Bottom: SM Qualifications

RIGHT CENTRE: Nav LEUT Simon Dickfos and XO LEUT Jack Tha on the bridge

Firing with tenacity!

HMAS *Waller* departed FBW in May 2008 bound for the Hawaiian operating areas. She made her first stop in Sydney, where she re-fueled, re-provisioned and began the 19-day transit to Pearl Harbor for operations in RIMPAC 2008, the USN Submarine Command Course (SCC), and Exercise Lungfish 2008. The boat has been running 'flat out' since early last year and this article will bring you up to date on its accomplishments.

RIMPAC 2008

RIMPAC 2008 included participating warships and submarines from 19 countries including US SSNs and SSKs from Japan and South Korea.

Waller's operations were to include many unique aspects and her achievements would be the culmination of effort for countless personnel, military and civilian, Australian and American, involved in the Armaments Cooperative Project (ACP).

HMAS *Waller* is the first Collins Class submarine to be fitted with the BYG-1 Fire Control System, fully capable of employing the CBASS torpedo. The *Waller* team, led by her Commanding Officer, CMDR Brett

Sampson, worked for over a year to bring *Waller* out of ASC in Adelaide and return her to full capability as a deployable asset for the Fleet Commander.

While exercise firings can be used to test tactics and validate modeling, they cannot demonstrate that the weapon would have detonated properly, and hence a SINKEX is conducted periodically. These trials usually involve the sinking of a decommissioned 'hulk' using a randomly selected weapon from the inventory. The results of the firing and the data collected are analyzed and provide valuable information in the continuing effort to produce the most effective torpedo possible. However, the part all submariners truly enjoy is watching a skimmer suffer a crippling blow from a single weapon, resulting in a quick trip to the bottom!

On July 16, 2008 CMDR Brett Sampson brought HMAS *Waller* to periscope depth. A target solution was developed while the weapons system was brought to the ready. CMDR Sampson ordered the weapon in tube four fired and in a matter of minutes, the FLETCHER felt the effects of the weapon, lifting the ship out of the water



HMAS WALLER

and 'breaking' its back. The bow soon rose prominently in the air and the noble vessel slid beneath the waves, appearing to be backing down to her new watery grave.

USN Submarine Command Course 2008-03

Never to rest on their laurels, on arrival to Pearl Harbor on 30 July and before actually pulling in to Sierra One pier, the *Waller* weapons team, made up of PO Mario Paroli, LS Sean Creighton, CPO Dion Chandler, LS Gareth James, LS Todd Kassis, and AB Jarod Blanche loaded exercise weapons in support of operations within the US Submarine Command Course (SCC). The course provides Prospective Commanding Officers from both Australia and the US valuable experience in operations on and against well-trained nuclear and diesel submarines.

SCC 08-03 included 23 American submariners and 1 Australian – LCDR James Lybrand (see page 12). Over the course of SCC, he would have the opportunity to employ weapons onboard USS PASADENA (SSN 752) and USS SEAWOLF (SSN 21) in addition to his time aboard *Waller*.

Waller completed SCC operations on 20 August with a small boat transfer off of the island of Kauai. The *Waller* team performed exceptionally well in all aspects and were recognised by all embarked students as extremely professional, enthusiastic and highly capable submariners.

Exercise LUNGFISH 2008

LUNGFISH is an annual four day tactical development exercise between the RAN and USN submarine forces. It provides a dedicated opportunity to trial tactical development goals against a high-end opponent, and this year *Waller* exercised with USS CHARLOTTE (SSN 766).

WALLER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Waller completed operations in Pearl Harbor with the completion of Exercise LUNGFISH on 27 August 2008. She made history with her 'first-ever' CBASS SINKEX, however, some of the milestones she met, along with completing other operational objectives, certainly deserve highlighting. Specific accomplishments include:

- Initial Operating Release for the BYG-1 Fire Control System and the CBASS torpedo
- First-ever Weapons Certification for the CBASS torpedo in the RAN
- First Harpoon firing by an RAN submarine since 2000 and only the second ever for a Collins Class submarine
- Successful firing of over 100 torpedoes, missiles, and shapes since the crew manned up just over a year earlier
- Training of 22 Prospective USN Commanding Officers and Executive Officers and 1 RAN Prospective Commanding Officer
- Meeting all operational requirements over 50 days at sea in support of RIMPAC, SCC and LUNGFISH

These achievements were not accomplished by one individual but rather by a talented, well trained and tenacious team that would make CAPT Hector Waller proud of his namesake. The *Waller* team was never heard to say a mission was not achievable, but were always quick to identify solutions. They were always ready, answered every bell, shot every weapon, and were also ready for liberty once alongside. This is truly a team of which the SMFEG, the RAN and Australia can be justifiably proud.



ABOVE: Preparing for a helo transfer and BELOW, *Waller's* Acoustic Warfare department.



ABOVE: The Wardroom top-side

LEFT: Alongside in Hawaii

Waller's close encounter

Article taken from www.defence.gov.au



July 24, 2008.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today congratulated the crew of the Australian submarine, HMAS *Waller*, for being the first submarine to successfully fire a new heavyweight torpedo been jointly developed by Australia and the United States (US).

The firing occurred during the Rim of the Pacific 2008 (RIMPAC 08) exercise, involving multiple navies off the coast of Hawaii between June and July. This controlled exercise resulted in the planned sinking of a retired US warship.

"This represents the first new heavyweight torpedo warshot to be fired by either Navy. Just as significant is the fact that the warshot torpedo was assembled in Australia," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The MK 48 Mod 7 Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System (CBASS) torpedo is the latest enhancement for the MK 48.

Considered the world's premier submarine-launched torpedo, the MK 48 Mod 7 represents a superior capability against both surface ships and submarines with sonar enhancements that make the torpedo an effective weapon in shallow water and in a countermeasure environment.

The development of the CBASS torpedo has been achieved under an Armaments Cooperative Program between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy. This partnership has established common requirements, interfaces, configurations and maintenance standards enabling any Australian or US submarine to load torpedoes prepared by any Australian or US torpedo maintenance facility.

"For Australia in particular, this exercise has been a successful demonstration of the ongoing capability of the Collins Class submarine," Mr Fitzgibbon said.



SCHOOL'S IN



Flagging the competition

On 29 July the newly appointed CANSG (CDRE Steve Davies), attended Port Kennedy Primary School to present their new faction flags. The school has a close

association with the submarine squadron and has named their four factions after submarines: Rankin (red), Waller (white) Collins (gold) and Sheean (blue).



CHARITY WALK

Doin' it for the kids

The dying wish of a husband and father was realised beyond his wildest dreams when the Cancer Walk for Kids rolled in to Canberra on June 6 with more than \$55,000 in the kitty.

The concept was that of the late submariner, Petty Officer Bob Wilson, 62, who was diagnosed with cancer on June 28 2007. That co-incidentally was the birthday of his son and RAAF Base Richmond loadmaster SGT Stuart Wilson, who has subsequently deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations with 37SQN in C-130s.

Bob, who died on April 2, 2008 at 62, would have been mighty proud as the fund-raising foot soldiers, who had more than doubled their goal of \$25,000, did the last hard slog to their objective, the Royal Australian Navy Memorial on Anzac Parade.

There they were met by a hearty three cheers and Commodore Peter Marshall, chairman of the central canteens committee, who boosted funds by \$500 with a cheque on behalf of Navy.

"During his many visits to the Prince Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane for treatment and appointments, dad met and saw any children with cancer and was touched by their situations," SGT Wilson said.

"That's why he decided to organise a fund-raising event for kids with cancer and send the proceeds to the children's hospitals in Sydney and Brisbane."

The walk of about 1200km from Coolangatta to Canberra began on May 4.

The eight permanent walkers were joined along the way by about 150 volunteers and other walkers, including some of his old submariner mates and people from communities through which the event passed. Bob's wife Carol was heavily involved and did some walking, daughter Kim Hinkley found time in her busy life as the mother of four children to organise the logistics and join in for six days. Stuart walked on three days. Kim was amazed by all the support, generosity and how all the community and past and current submariners pulled together in such a short time.

Walker Jock Copeland, 67, was surprised that people driving on the highway would stop and donate. In most of the towns the group of walkers expanded to 50.

"Thank you to everybody involved in walking, or helped along the way and supported us," a tearful Carol said at the walk's end. "It was Bob's dream we do this."

"The amount raised was quite in excess of what Dad was expecting, so it's fantastic," Stuart said.

"He would have been ecstatic if he had been able to be here. I think half-way through the walk he would have realised just how much it had grown beyond his expectations and he would have been over the moon.

"It was his dying wish and we made him a promise that it would go ahead."

And as the bronze figures of the Navy memorial also looked down on the scene in silent approval, Stuart made the observation: "I am sure he's up there right now, looking down on us and smiling."

BOB'S LEGACY: The late Bob Wilson's children, Kim and Stuart, with their mother Carol, at the walk's end in Canberra.



CHARITY WALK

WHO was Bob Wilson?



Walkers hit the streets of Canberra on June 6, raising money for kids with cancer (see story P21).

Robert Charles Wilson 11th July 1945 – 2nd April 2008.

Bob (Tug) joined the RAN in July 1962 and served in HMAS *Anzac*, *Stuart* (which was involved in the rescue of survivors from the *Voyager*) *Kimbla* and *Harman* before going to the UK in 1966 for submarine training and service in HMS *Alcide*.

He returned to Australia in 1967 as spare crew for submarines and served at various times on *Oxley*, *Otway*, *Onslow* and *Ovens* until 1971 when he left the Navy as a Petty Officer.

During his time in submarines he was the President of the Junior Sailors Mess at HMAS *Platypus* for a number of years and also won awards for wire splicing.

He joined SAA Queensland in February 1992 and over the last 16 years he has been part of the Committee

as Treasurer and Social Committee and had a big hand in the organisation of numerous functions and especially Subcon06 in Brisbane and opened his home for numerous BBQ's and meetings of the SAA Queensland branch.

He also from 1993 until 2004 was very involved with the Beenleigh RSL Sub-branch and Services Club serving on the Committee as Treasurer and Secretary and was instrumental in the renovations to the Club.

He was married for 42 years and he and Carol raised two children Kim and Stuart who have given them six beautiful grandchildren with another on the way.

Just four days before he passed away he was presented with Life Membership of the Submarines Association Australia by Capt. George Hunt DSO* DSC* RANEM, Patron SAA Queensland Inc. in appreciation of his 16 years service to the Association.

Bob passed away on 2nd April, 2008.

Walkers get underway in Coffs Harbour on 12 May.



Bob received his life membership of SAA just four days before his passing.



SPINNING WHEELS

Show your colours

Cycling - the new golf! Get ready to ride in a great range of Team Submarines cycling/multisport clothing. Shown here is a small range of what is available; from sleeveless summer riding jerseys to fleece winter trainers and windstopper vests. Triathletes and multisport athletes are also catered for with removable chamois knicks, skin suits and running tops. For a full price list or order form please email or telephone: LCDR James Lybrand, james.lybrand1@defence.gov.au, jrlybrand@mac.com or 0402409206.



Life of a military wife

My husband deployed today. I waved goodbye with the kids by my side. I feel kind of sad, kind of anxious and actually a little excited. The kids are more excited about seeing the huge submarines than worrying about Dad going. While Miss Two is still blowing kisses, Miss Four and Master Six are competing to see who can get closest to the edge of the wharf without falling into the water. Miss Fifteen looks over at me and laughs with that glint in her eye, “Aaah freedom!”

It’s begun, sole parenting, once again!

Like him, the kids and I have been doing some “pre-deployment” training and household workups to make sure we “operate” well in his absence and to ensure survive the next six months without him. It’s a busy house and like any successful operation we have learned to employ some organisational techniques to make sure we get through each day and we all still get along by the time we close our eyes at night. Rosters and award charts, school clothes out the night before, frozen meals cooked in bulk so I don’t have to cook and clean every night and a delegated chore list are just some of the routines we work up to before Dad leaves.

The one thing I have learned with his previous deployments is that he can focus on his job much better if he knows I am ‘handling’ things OK back home. That makes me feel better. The first few deployments are always the worst and when I look back, I realise how well we now handle life as a military family.

The few times we talk I always make sure I tell him what we have achieved back home.....the good news stories. It’s the little things that the kids might do that he loves to hear. Meanwhile I tell myself daily that it is not what happens to us in life, but how we deal with it. Like the time our little Miss Four shoved a bead up her nose on a Saturday morning and had to have it vacuumed out by a lovely nurse at the local hospital, making Master Six very unhappy because he was missing out on football. It probably would have been amusing had it not been for the four hour wait at the hospital beforehand. As Miss Four tells Dad about the saga and how the lovely nurse gave her a lolly, she finished off with her usual optimistic four year-old outlook exclaiming, “So next time I put something up my nose Dad I want to go back to her”.

I used to think my husband owed me for supporting him all the time while he was, “off doing what he wants to do”. I know my husband loves what we have and hold as a family but I know he loves his work too. I am proud that he is pursuing what he wants out of life and even though the demands of military family life are at times arduous he always encourages me to pursue my dreams too. Life is too short to put things off so I have decided to pursue my dreams now.

I work full time and study for my diploma one evening per

week, knowing I am inching closer to my dream of designing sustainable homes. I chose not to wait until the kids are older to commence studies and now find those couple of hours on a Tuesday night are my “me time”. These few hours help balance things out a little and although I know I am going to walk into a mess when I arrive home those few hours seem to give me enough breathing space to see things more clearly.

Some days I arrive late to work after all the school drop offs and I have learnt not to beat myself up about it. If one of the littlies is not having a good start, taking an extra five minutes to listen to them and have a “huggle” before I leave them is not going to kill my boss or compromise my work, but it does enhance my relationship with my kids, a supportive boss who appreciates military family life also helps.

After homework, bath and story time, I sit on the couch in silence with a glass of red in my hand and think to myself how well we have all done. Today was a great day and no matter what life throws at us, it’s all in the way we deal with it. As for tomorrow – BRING IT ON!

■ Do you have a story to tell? Has something funny happened while your partner has been away? Have you had to cope with something you thought you never would, but did? Share it with other partners/families and spread some laughter. Email ruth.mclaughlin@defence.gov.au or post to

Mrs Ruth McLaughlin
HMAS Stirling- SMHQ
PO Box 2188
Rockingham DC WA 6958



AUDIT TIME



Inspector General's Audit

On 2 October, a group from the Inspector General's office were onboard HMAS *Collins* to conduct focus groups. As part of their Defence-wide audit, they were examining the disciplinary procedures used on the boat to ensure they were fair and just. HMAS *Collins* received a satisfactory result from the process.

ABOVE: Colonel Roy Abbott conducts discussions in the junior sailors mess onboard HMAS *Collins*.

L to R: ABAWASM Michael Silvello, LS-MEDSM David Croft, COL Roy Abbott, LSCSOMWSM Shane Constable and ABETSM Byrne McNeill.





ABOVE: Colonel Roy Abbott (left), facilitator from the Inspector General's office, hands SMNAWASM Mick Cronin a tick and flick form to complete on the casing of HMAS *Collins* along with some of his crew mates.

RIGHT: Chief of the Boat, CPOCIS Mark Cossey (right) discusses information about the focus groups with Wing Commander Steve Edwards (middle) and Wing Commander Glenn Theakston (left) onboard *Collins*.





Building a future

The SMFEG 08/09 Strategic Plan has recently been signed off on and sets out how the SMFEG will achieve its objectives in FY 08/09. It is a business plan for 08/09 but it also sets out our vision for the submarine capability over the next 5-10 years. The specific activities we work on each year will vary as our funding allows and as our shorter-term goals (ie the FAS) vary, but all of our activities will contribute towards our long-term aim.

Our job is to provide submarine combat power to the Australian Government. The cost to Government of the submarine capability is over \$400M per year. As FEG Commander my job is to make sure that we deliver the most capability we can for this huge investment. That capability is measured in terms of quality and quantity.

We currently produce about 600-700 submarine Unit Ready Days (days when the Government could use its capability) per year from the force of six submarines. This may be enough today, but in tomorrow's increasingly uncertain world more may be required.

Our ability to produce more capability is limited by the number of crews we have and the number of platforms (subma-

rine hulls) available. The capability we do produce is of a high quality – our submarines are the best conventional submarines in the world, they have some of the latest technology and are crewed by some of the best submariners in the world.

Our challenge is to maintain the quality of our submarine capability while increasing its quantity. We can and will do this by improving our manning and platform availability.

The safety of submarine operations is the FEG's highest and overriding priority. We cannot afford a major submarine accident – apart from the obvious human tragedy

a major accident would most likely cause the Australian people to lose confidence in its submarine force.

We will work hard to maintain our strong safety systems and will progressively bring the Submarine Escape and Rescue System back into

service in 2009.

The FEG's next highest priority after safety is its people. As of now, the FEG's emphasis has changed from managing 'submarines' to managing 'submarine crews'. For FY 08/09 we have three sustainable crews and we will give each the best platform to maximise our capability.

We will work with the DMO and ASC to deliver platforms when our manning plan needs them, rather than platform availability driving our manning.

We will work hard in 08/09 and 09/10 to identify and rectify those manning deficiencies that prevent us from forming a fourth crew sustainably. We will form that crew once we are

“Sustainability of the submarine workforce is vitally important - we cannot afford to burn our people out.”



IN SUMMARY

Building a future cont'd ...

able to do so, but I don't expect that will be before 2010. This work will involve close liaison with many personnel agencies in Navy and Defence, but the FEG will drive it.

Sustainability of the submarine workforce is vitally important - we cannot afford to burn our people out.

This year we will use the results of RADM Moffitt's review to change the way we crew our submarines to give submariners a better work-life balance. These actions will allow us to deliver more submarine capability in the next 5-10 years.

We will continue to recognise the vital importance of Australia's submarine support base - the Navy people, defence civilians and contractors without whom we couldn't support our submarine capability.

Finally, we must keep an eye on the future. We look forward to the Government's view on the importance of its submarines, expressed in the White Paper due early next year. We look forward to the full potential of the Collins class being realised over the second decade of their life, the next ten years. Achieving this will be the FEG's main area of work.

We will however also contribute to the studies that define the requirements of the future submarine force. We will take an active part in the project that brings it into service, to achieve a smooth transition to the new class. The greatest contribution we can make to the next submarine, however, is to demonstrate to Government that we can safely and reliably operate the current one.

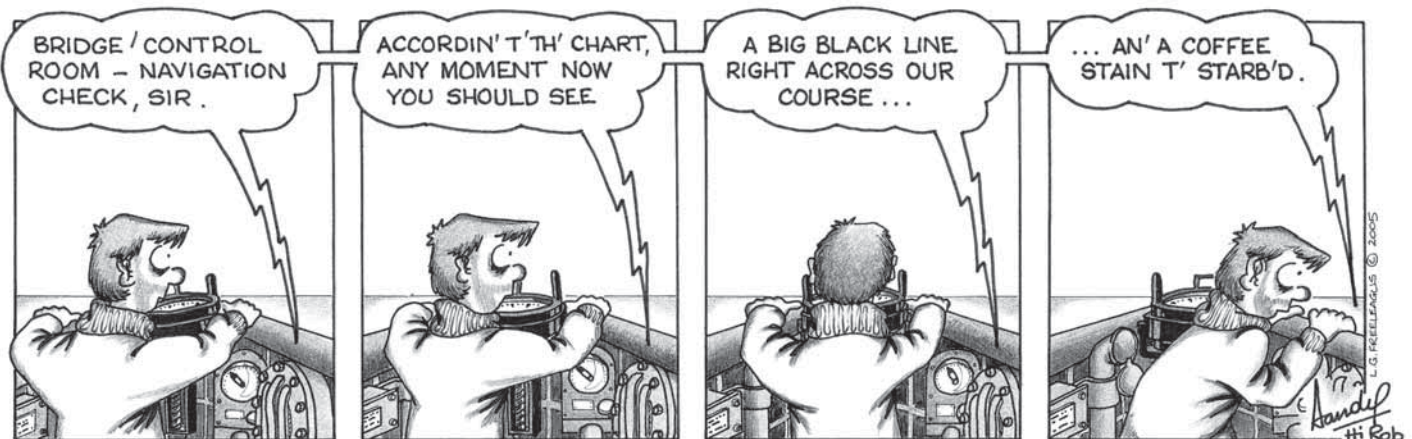
By doing the work above in this FY and over the next 5-10 years we will achieve our long-term aim - excellence in submarine operations and support. I look forward to leading you on this mission.

S.P. Davies
Commodore, RAN
Commander Australian Navy Submarine Group

■ The SMFEG 08/09 Strategic Plan can be viewed on the SMFEG intranet page.

Lighter side

GU HAT



About GU HAT

Sandy Freeleagus paid off after 20 years in the RAN, in 1981. While in the RAN, he submitted cartoons under the signature "Sandy Hi Rob" to *Navy News*, which published them quite regularly until he inadvertently upset a rather high ranking officer, who subsequently had the cartoons "censored" out of circulation. The name GU HAT stands for a Control Room term, 'group up, half ahead together'. Sandy still draws, and has more than 300 strip cartoons with a submarine theme, with more to come. Sandy's book *Under the Jolly Roger* can be purchased by contacting him directly at sandyhirob@bigpond.com



Manuka provides a home

The ACT Branch of the Submarines Association Australia (President Andrew Galley) was formed in 1991 and is based in Canberra. Our patron is Commander A.H.E Cook (RAN Ret) who was instrumental in 1964 for the submarine dolphins that all submariners now proudly wear.

The branch not only encompasses the ACT and surrounding area but also has members from as far South as Merimbula on the NSW coast, Tarago in the North and Holbrook and Cootamundra in the West. We presently have about fifty members on our books but due to Canberra's transient population this number can vary considerably from year to year.

The ACT has always had a long held association with the township of Holbrook. Holbrook is situated on the Hume Highway, 300 kilometres from Canberra and is well known as the submarine town - named after the British submarine captain Lieutenant (later Commander) N.D. Holbrook RN VC. It is also a stop of on the highway for travelers, lured in by the sight of HMAS *Otway* the casing and fin of which now sits in a park on the north side of the town opposite the museum.

In 2001 the ACT Branch hosted the annual submarine conference in Holbrook, with the whole town turning out for the celebrations. On the Saturday of the June Queen's Birthday long weekend, Holbrook's submarine museum was officially opened by the then Vice Admiral Ian MacDougall, A. C, A.F.S.M. The museum is open most days of the year and is well worth the visit.

This year we were again privileged to be able to hold the conference in Canberra. A total of two hundred and forty members and their partners from all over the country joined us in celebrations held over four days. The Friday night "Meet & Greet" was of particular significance as it was held in the Anzac Hall of the Australian War Memorial and included a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of the "Unknown Australian Soldier" and a personal guided tour of the memorial.

We were also very pleased to have CDRE Rick Shalders as a guest speaker at the Saturday night dinner dance in his last conference as Commander Australian Naval Submarine Group.

A great part of this year's conference was the "Walk for



Kids with Cancer" which was to raise funds for the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital and Sydney Children's Hospital Westmead. The walk commenced from Coolangatta on the May 4 and was completed on Friday 6 June, arriving at the Naval Memorial on Anzac Parade Canberra a total of 1200 Kilometers. Unfortunately the driving force behind the walk Queensland member Bob Wilson passed away before the walk commenced but his family along with a group of Submarine Association Australia members and partners fulfilled his wish and were able to raise over \$60,000 for the kids (full story see page 20 and 21).

The ACT Branch is well positioned within the Ex Service community to be able to represent the interests of submariners at many forums. Australia's capital, Canberra is privileged to be the headquarters for the Department of Defence and as a result uniformed submariners can be posted to Russell and Campbell Park for up to two years. We would like to encourage all submariners to join Submarine Association Australia and in particular the ACT branch if they get the opportunity to have a posting here. The facilities are tremendous and you will enjoy the company.

After seventeen years virtually in the wilderness the ACT branch of the SAA has acquired a permanent home. For many years we struggled to find venues for our meetings and gatherings. With the blessing of the President and staff, the Canberra Services Club Manuka has provided us with what we hope will be a place that we can use on a regular basis.

Remember, if you are a submariner you can be part of our association.

A Galley, President
SAA ACT Incorporated



Changes afoot

CAPT Steve Dalton

2008 has been a year of a number of initiatives that mark out a new direction for the submarine force. It's also my last year as Captain SM so this will also be my last article in *The Trade* in this job, and a good time to talk about a number of changes that have occurred in that time.

Whilst not the only part of Submarine Headquarters business, a focus on people has been a major part of my work during the last three years. Since I started at the end of October 2005, we have had to reduce our operational tempo from five submarine crews to three, to reduce the seagoing part of our workforce to a level we can maintain. The trigger for this was *Collins*'s difficulty completing safety work-up in the middle of 2006

due to a revolving door of operational reliefs in key positions. By October 2006 we had put in place a plan to reduce to three submarine crews by the middle of 2007, employing *Collins* in an alongside training support role in the interim. The positive impacts these changes have brought are reduced separation rates, less reliance on operational reliefs, and a relatively stable workforce since March 2007.

But there remains much more to do. Now under the new management of Commodore Steve Davies, we will focus on *crews* rather than *submarines*, in a similar fashion to how the Armadale patrol boat crews are managed. The first such movement between submarines is planned for October 2009 when the crew of *Collins* will transfer to *Dechaineux* to bring her out of full cycle docking. The other new initiative we have

been preparing to implement is *enhanced submarine crews*.

This year we will reap the benefits of a number of programs, reviews and trials, primarily:

- Project Klaxon, an initiative to identify factors behind high separation rates and implement solutions. Whilst much of Klaxon remains work in progress, we have already re-invigorated the Submarine Response Group (SRG), re-structured and enhanced MT and ET departments (prototyped in *Farncomb* and due to be rolled out in other submarines soon), relocated the MT DSC operator back aft with revised control room procedures (trialled in *Rankin* and now in place in *Farncomb*), and an enormous amount of data that has informed the two key reviews below.

- A whole-of-workforce submarine manpower review to identify a more robust scheme of complement capable of supporting itself without relying on operational reliefs, could operate in three watches, could better support training and had a more 'pyramid' departmental structure.

- The final and most important review many of you will have contributed to is RADM Rowan Moffit's submarine workforce sustainability review. The review will be presented to the Chief of Navy this month with the Submarine FEG's annual report.

So whilst it's not all beer and skittles after three years as Captain SM, it's not all doom and gloom either. By the end of this year we will be definitely at the 'end of the beginning' of recovering our workforce – by the time you read this Rear Admiral Moffit's review will have been completed and reported to Chief of Navy, and a long term or strategic 'transformation' of the submarine force will have begun.

The Government, from the PM down through CDF and CN, is committed to a submarine force for the long term, announcing the intention to build a new class of submarines to replace the *Collins* class. We have to get ready for the future. We should anticipate change for the better, we have to change to keep the force the potent weapon it is today into the future. So if you want to be part of future of the submarine arm now is the time to get onboard and get involved.



FORUM AGENDA

2008 SMFEG Forum “WORKFORCE CHANGE” 11 December, FBW Cinema

0830- 0840	Welcome/ Admin/ Introduction	CAPT Stephen Dalton
0845- 1000	Pulse Survey Overview	Mrs Gwenda Cross
1000- 1030	MORNING TEA	
1030- 1130	SM Workforce Sustainment Review	CDRE Steve Davies
1130- 1200	Capability Development Group	CMDR Phil Stanford
1200- 1300	LUNCH	
1300- 1330	DSUBOPS	CAPT Peter Scott
1330- 1400	Q & A Session	All presenters
1400- 1420	HMAS COLLINS Presentation	Boat Representative
1425- 1445	HMAS FARNCOMB Presentation	Boat Representative
1450- 1510	HMAS WALLER Presentation	Boat Representative
1510- 1530	AFTERNOON TEA	
1530- 1600	Awards and Presentations	



LEUT Buck Rodgers



Move is complete

CPO John Farrell

On August 15, CPO John Farrell and 26 trainees relocated from TA-SM to SMFEG with the view of integrating into the submarine workforce providing direct liaison with workforce and daily integration with submariners.

The result - the submarine community has accepted these personnel with open arms and have been able to assist with the weekly rotation of employment.

CPO Farrell supervises the cell under the management of PSO-HR and is responsible for getting the trainees to sea as SMSQ as quickly as possible.

The submarine training management cell co-ordinates:

- the POOW Dived / Surfaced;
- Helmsman;
- Seamanship Supervisor;
- AWA 2 and 3;
- WE and ME Officers Charge Qualification - Submarine Learners Guide; and
- Submarine Safety Assessment Task Book (SSATB) on completion for PMKeys action in consultation with TA-SM staff.

With sea bunks at a premium, close coordination with the crews is imperative to maximise every opportunity for training to grow our capability via SMSQ and through career development.

I envisage the cell will grow over time incorporating training bunks on all SM's for the allocation of POOW, MSC, MSM and Officer development/consolidation .

To ensure a steady flow of accurate information, the weekly musters have been instituted and are being attended by SMFEG HODs and members of the WOAG to answer questions and assist with potential problems as they arise.

Highlights of the first month

- Three promotions
- Five trainees to *Collins* on a fortnightly rotation
- One trainee qualified (congratulations to LSCISSM Dutchy Holland)
- Gainful employment for all trainees and
- Two members selected for MWVMC.

Our future is among these men and women so make them feel welcome in your workplace and with time and patience they will eventually be placed as trainees on our platforms with many going to *Dechaineux* in the future.

The number one aim for our cell is to get our trainees to sea so they can progress towards their qualification and award of their Dolphins.

Contact SMFEG POC CPO John Farrell 08 95533676
Mob 0448305207 email john.farrell2@defence.gov.au



Newly qualified

PERSONNEL QUALIFIED DURING THE MONTH Jul 08 (SM)

ABCKSM Hayes (*Waller*)
SMNAWASM Moss (*Waller*)
ABMTSM Fernie (*Collins*)
ABAWASM Evans (*Waller*)
ABCKSM Williams (*Waller*)
ABETSM Timmons (*Waller*)

PERSONNEL QUALIFIED DURING THE MONTH Aug 08 (SM)

ABCTSSM Schueller (*Collins*)
SMNAWASM Cowan (*Collins*)
ABETSM McNeill (*Collins*)
SMNAWASM Cronin (*Collins*)
LSCCKSM Curby (*Collins*)
LEUT(SMN)SM O’Hehir (*Collins*)
ABMTSM Corstorphan (*Collins*)
LSETSM Wakelin (*Collins*)

PERSONNEL QUALIFIED DURING THE MONTH Sep 08 (SM)

LSCISSM Holland (*Collins*)

PERSONNEL QUALIFIED DURING THE MONTH Oct 08 (SM)

ABETSM Morey (*Collins*)
LSMEDSM Campbell (*Collins*)
ABMTSM Vujic (*Waller*)



Promotions

AB to LS

AWASM BENJAMIN SMITH 5MAY08
ETSM ANDREW GLENN 5MAY08
ETSM OLIVIA BROWN 23MAY08
ETSM OWEN TURNER 2JUN08
MTSM DAVID REEKIE 5MAY08
MTSM NICHOLAS COWEY 21APR08
MTSM MICHAEL CRAMPTON 2JUN08
MTSM RODNEY SIZE 22SEP08
CISSM CRAIG BOX 2JUN08
CISSM LAWTON 1SEP08

LS to PO

AWASM DAVID CROKE 5MAY08
AWASM DAVID ROSENTHAL 2JUN08

PO to CPO

AWASM GRANT MAWHINNEY 5MAY08
AWASM ROBERT VARIAN 1MAR08
MTSM ROHAN PUGH 1MAR08

CPO to WO

AWASM RALPH JEFFREE 7AUG08



TRAINING

RIGHT: Some of the squadron's newest trainees.



Career advancements

Name	Date Completed		
Marine Technical Auxiliary Machinery Operator Certificate		ABMTSM D. Neville	26 July
ABMTSM L. McLintock	25 January	ABMTSM D. Thomson	10 August
ABMTSM J. Blanche	20 March	ABMTSM J. White	10 August
ABMTSM D. Neville	10 August	ABMTSM M. Dux	11 August
ABMTSM J. White	10 August	LSMTSM N. Hilleard	16 June
ABMTSM B. Crawley-Walsh	15 October	Marine Systems Controller Certificate and CCSM Endorsement	
ABMTSM M. Dux	11 October	LSMTSM J. Russell	6 February
Engineering Harbour Watchkeeping Certificate		LSMTSM GE. Street	6 February
LSMTSM J. Russell	16 January	ABMTSM L. Watt	8 March
ABMTSM L. McLintock	25 January	LSMTSM D. Evans	8 March
LSMTSM G. Street	6 February	LSMTSM D. Philips	8 March
LSMTSM B. Strickland	25 February	ABMTSM M. Crampton	8 March
ABMTSM D. Thomson	25 February	ABMTSM J. Saunders	23 March
ABMTSM J. White	25 February	LSMTSM T. Kaissis	28 October
ABMTSM J. Blanche	20 March	LSMTSM C. Page	28 October
LSMTSM C. Page	2 April	Marine Systems Manager Certificate and CCSM Endorsement	
ABMTSM M. Dux	12 April	POMTSM M. Paroli	22 June
LSMTSM N. Hilleard	16 June	LSMTSM J. Russell	3 July
ABMTSM D. Neville	25 June	POMTSM W. Preston	1 August
Marine Systems Technician Certificate and CCSM Endorsement		LSMTSM A. Parsons	2 October
ABMTSM L. McLintock	28 January	Marine Technical Charge Certificate (MTCC)	
LSMTSM J. Russell	16 January	CPOMTSM S. Howie	13 May
LSMTSM GE. Street	6 February	Electronic Technical Certificate of Competence	
LSMTSM B. Strickland	25 February	POETSM Aron Rowley	12 November 08
ABMTSM J. Blanche	20 March		
LSMTSM G. James	2 April		
LSMTSM C. Page	2 April		
LSMTSM GM. Street	20 May		





In with the new

Are We Having a Fire Today?...Meet the new CANSG, CDRE Steve Davies

Ed: What lead you to join the Navy? (What year did you join?)

CANSG: I joined RAN College in Jan 1981 straight after high school. I wanted to do something different to my friends who were going on to uni. There must have been some salt-water in my blood, my dad did a few years as an engineer in the merchant navy before I was born. When I joined I wanted to qualify as a Seaman Officer then become a pilot, but that changed. Also they scrapped the carrier the year after I joined!

Ed: When did you make the transition to submarines and what was your motivation for doing so?

CANSG: When I was a midshipman we were all required to go to sea in a submarine for a week. I joined *Otway* for a week of towed array trials off Sydney (pretty sure Guy Burton was the Torps). I thought it was great – very different from my life on the flagship (at the time) HMAS *Stalwart*. From that point I was hooked and started SM training the year after I got my watchkeeping ticket. If I hadn't been able to go to submarines then I doubt I would still be in the Navy now.

Ed: What was you fondest/ funniest memory from your time at sea?

CANSG: In that first week on *Otway* I got a bit weary and slid into a 'vacant' bunk outside the wardroom for a bit of midshipman time – it was the XO's bunk – bad move Mid!

The best times have been on submarines far from home with the workup behind us and the crew settled in to the routines – the feeling of being part of a small crew with lots of independence is great. I remember one time in command of *Collins* on its first deployment – we were on the way back from Malaysia and everyone was relaxing a bit on the passage. I wandered down to the LAS and found two of the on-watch sonar operators in shorts and sandals – CO: aren't you blokes attack party? LS (known only as Merlin): yes sir. CO: so are you going to the fire in sandals? LS: are we having a fire today??!



COMMODORE STEVE DAVIES

Ed: What has been your most challenging posting during your career/ why?

CANSG: The most challenging was probably my command of *Collins* in 96-98, just after it arrived in FBW. There were lots of material problems, given it was really a prototype at that time, and the crew was making the transition from trials in Adelaide to being part of the fleet – not an easy time. One of the first things we had to do was two weeks of 'first of class manoeuvring trials' – angles and dangles where we did things like 'go to 20 down at 10kts, let go the controls and see what happens'. We learnt a lot about driving the boat in that couple of weeks, and gained a lot of respect for the design (it always pulled out!). My time in *Collins* was full of 'first time we've done this' moments and I'm sure all the crew would look back with a lot of pride (but not necessarily want to repeat it).

Ed: What is your main focus and what are you hoping to achieve during your time as CANSG?

CANSG: People are probably sick of hearing this by now, but my main focus is on staying safe at sea and looking after our people. I want to change the way we work so that we recognise that our submarine crews are the most important part of our capability. I want to make life better for our seagoing people so they chose to stay. I want to convince wider Navy to give the submarine workforce the priority it deserves.

Ed: What are three words that best describe you?

CANSG: Difficult question. Ask some of the people who have been under my command! Or my teenage daughters (no don't ask them). If I had the choice I would go with leader, thinker, friend. But others might disagree!



Submarines - an insurance

Submarines have never been more critical, with their ability to access areas denied by other platforms. RADM Peter Briggs, Retd, explains.

Without attempting to predict Australia's strategic environment in the period 2020-2050, it is clear there are powerful forces at work shaping Australia's future defence choices.

China and India are emerging as major global players, exercising political and economic power in pursuit of their objectives while constraining others in the pursuit of theirs.

The global competition for resources, particularly energy, key strategic minerals and water, is growing in strategic significance.

Australia is well endowed with energy sources. However, as Michael Wesley and Michael Richardson's recent analysis demonstrate, the trend is heading from a *sensitivity to energy interruption* to one of *vulnerability, increasingly serious economic and strategic vulnerability*.

Set against this power competition, the maritime environment is becoming more complex in both economic and strategic terms, carrying the vast majority of Australia's imports and exports. It is also becoming more demanding.

Regional nations are acquiring or improving submarine capability, with India and China acquiring advanced submarine technology.

In these circumstances, Australia's critical strategic problem – how to de-

fend 20% of the earth's surface with 0.3% of the world's population – becomes even more poignant.

What Australia needs is the ability to inflict a strategic sting of such virulence that no one wants either to experience it or to make the huge investment in attempting to counter it.

Central to Australia's "strategic sting" is a capable submarine force.

The submarine's unique capabilities of stealth, long range and endurance provide a force projection capability that is increasingly being denied to any other ADF platforms. Submarines inject a huge degree of uncertainty and unknown into an adversary's calculations – where are they, what are they doing, what can they hit us with and when?

The enhancement and expansion of Australia's submarine force will confer a significant deterrent capability, not only measured in Defence terms but also contributing to the security of energy and raw materials supply.

Submarines offer a significant return on strategic investment.

Their ability to access areas denied to other platforms, combined with their ability to concurrently observe activities underwater, on the surface, in the air and over the electromagnetic spectrum, afford it unique intelligence gathering abilities.

This information contributes to Australian and allied knowledge, provides warning, enables us to gauge intentions, deploy diplomatic and military prepara-

tions and, in the event of a contingency, position our limited military capability for maximum effect.

A submarine with land attack cruise missiles is able to position within launch range without alerting the adversary.

The submarine's ability covertly to gain access to the denied areas, assess the environment and deployment of opposing forces, without alerting the opponent and relay this back in order to allow future task force operations in the area, can ensure vulnerable and critical surface vessels such as the new landing ships and the air warfare destroyers are not put in harm's way unnecessarily.

Australian submarines are arguably Australia's most potent anti-submarine weapon; this is their most demanding role. This capability is enhanced by the optimised sensor suite possessed by a submarine compared with all other anti-submarine platforms.

Submarines constitute a unique capability, our strategic sting and an insurance policy that will enable us to predict, prepare and prevent a 'claim' – a very good policy indeed for the uncertain times on the horizon.

Rear Admiral Peter Briggs, AO, CSC (Retd) is the president of the Submarine Institute of Australia. He commanded HMA submarines Otway and Oxley and headed the Submarine Capability Team which was responsible for the Collins Project Recovery Program 1999-2000.