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# Navy



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The official newspaper of the Royal Australian Navy

## ON HER WAY



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CHOULES HEADS DOWN UNDER

## TOOWOOMBA

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ARRIVES HOME AFTER MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT



**CHANGING TIMES:** Warrant Officer of the Navy WO Mark Tandy reviews a recent Recruit School graduation parade at HMAS Cerberus.  
Photo: LSIS Paul McCallum



# MOVING FORWARD

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MILESTONE AS WO-N REVIEWS GRADUATION

DECOMMISSIONING TRIBUTE TO HMAS KANIMBLA CENTRE

# Alliance stronger than ever

By Graham McBean

DEEPER US-Australia military cooperation under new force posture initiatives between the two countries will enable the ADF to draw on US expertise in amphibious warfare.

The initiatives were announced during US President Barack Obama's two-day visit to Australia on November 16-17 and will enhance bilateral collaboration and offer greater opportunities for combined training and exercises.

Up to 2500 US marines and personnel will rotate through Australian bases for up to six months at a time by 2016-17 during the Northern Territory's dry season under the new arrangements.

US troop presence will begin as early as July next year with an expected 250-strong liaison element of marines expected at 1 Bde's Robertson Barracks just south of Darwin.

Importantly, a closer training partnership with US marines is expected to greatly benefit the Australian Navy and Army as the ADF develops its expertise in amphibious operations in the coming decade.

Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare said the new Landing Helicopter Dock amphibious ships being built in Spain would carry 1000 Australian soldiers, as well as about 100 trucks and 12 helicopters and would require new skills.

He said operating them would be vastly different to the RAN's present ships.

"We need to know how to use them, how to operate them. We haven't done it at that scale before," he said. "The Americans have been doing it for decades and they'll be very helpful in helping us skill up."

The new arrangements were announced during President Obama's visit, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty.

In a joint statement, President Obama and Prime Minister Julia Gillard said the initiatives strengthened an already robust partnership that had been an anchor of stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

President Obama said the region was of "huge strategic importance" to the US and the deepening of the ANZUS Treaty sent a clear message of that US commitment.

"These rotations, which are going to be taking place on Australian bases, will bring our militaries even closer together," Mr Obama said.

A joint US-Australia working group has been planning the new arrangements for 12 months, beginning at the AUSMIN 2010 talks in Melbourne.

The working group looked at the



**CHEERS FOR THE PRESIDENT:** US President Barack Obama greets ADF personnel at RAAF Base Darwin on November 17 and, inset, Darwin-based sailors cheer the US leader.

Photos: CPL Melina Mancuso

north and north-west of Australia and western seaboard for the potential to enhance and expand US visits, training and exercises conducted by both countries.

The Top End's accessibility provides opportunities to explore increased cooperation with our neighbours and prepare for regional contingencies.

"These initiatives will better posi-

tion both nations to join with other partners to respond in a timely and effective manner to a range of contingencies in the Asia-Pacific, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," Mr Obama and Ms Gillard said in their joint statement.

Ms Gillard welcomed the new arrangements and said closer ties would ultimately benefit the ADF.

## Highlight for Darwin personnel

By LEUT Peter Croce

LEUT Jon Milton (pictured) says shaking the hand of US President Barack Obama is the highlight of his career.

The staff officer to Commander Northern Command, LEUT Milton joined the 100-strong Navy contingent that contributed to a crowd of 1800 as the President addressed ADF personnel at RAAF Base Darwin on November 17.

RAN personnel took up prime position as the President's backdrop when vision was beamed live around the world from the substantial international media contingent that followed the President on his Australian visit.

LEUT Milton said it was an amazing experience and something he would truly never forget as he reached out and shook the hand of the world's most powerful man.

"It was surreal, I was sitting in the front row as he told the crowd he wanted to shake a few hands," he said.

"He made his way along the line to me and LCDR Moses Raudino (XO HMAS Coonawarra) and reached out and extended his hand. He was very genuine and very responsive – he even asked the XO to call him Barack."

Coonawarra's Commanding Officer, CMDR Richard Donnelly, said it was a proud day for his establishment and his people.



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# Navy

The official newspaper of the Royal Australian Navy

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**GOOD TO GO:** ADF Ship *Choules* is put through her paces during sea trials off the UK coast. Photo: LA Phot Shaun Barlow



# Choules on her way

## Crew passes trials with 'flying colours'

By James O'Callaghan

ADF Ship *Choules* is bound for Australia after successfully completing sea trials off the United Kingdom coast.

The vessel will add significant value to the RAN's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response capability, demonstrated by its work as part of the Royal Navy's fleet deployed to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

At 16,000 tonnes, 176m long and 26m wide with room for two large helicopters on the flight deck, *Choules* will form an integral part of the fleet as the Navy transitions towards the introduction of the Landing Helicopter Dock ships.

*Choules*' Commanding Officer, CMDR John Cowan, is proud of his new crew.

"The men and women who now form *Choules*' ship's company have

had to undergo a very comprehensive and demanding program to safely and efficiently crew the ship," he said.

"They have undergone an intensive period of training and assessment by the Royal Navy's Sea Training Group to certify them as safe to conduct the long and challenging voyage home.

"They passed with flying colours."

CMDR Cowan also thanked members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and A&P Dockyard in Falmouth where *Choules* recently underwent a major refit.

"*Choules* is a tremendous piece of equipment and she has recently completed her first five-year refit, and is materially in excellent condition and ready to begin her service with the RAN," CMDR Cowan said.

"Claude *Choules* passed us a

legacy of quiet achievement, being dependable and ready to respond when called upon without fanfare, but with determination to succeed and the resilience to overcome any difficulty.

"These are attributes the men and women of *Choules* have already embraced and they are developing a fine tradition of living up to the ship's motto of 'Face Difficulty With Zeal'.

"Like all members of *Choules*' ship's company, I am looking forward to returning home in time for Christmas and showing the Australian public what a valuable contribution this vessel will make to the RAN."

The ship is expected to be commissioned into the RAN in December as HMAS *Choules* and will be operational in early 2012.

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## Young Endeavour hosts reserve employers

NAVY hosted Victorian Defence reserve employers aboard Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* for a day sail on Port Phillip Bay on November 10.

Guests were treated to a sailing demonstration of the 44m square-rigged tall ship by the 24-strong youth crew and nine RAN staff crew.

Mr John Taylor, from the Department of Primary Industries, employs Victorian-based reservists and said the day sail was a fantastic opportunity.

"I've really enjoyed being able to see this first hand," Mr Taylor said.

Since 1988, the *Young Endeavour* Youth Scheme, in partnership with the RAN, has provided challenging training voyages for more than 11,000 young Australians.

The voyages provide a unique experience that increases self awareness, develops teamwork and leader-

ship skills and creates a strong sense of community responsibility.

The ship's Commanding Officer, LCDR Gavin Dawe, said a voyage in *Young Endeavour* was about giving young people a challenging and inspirational experience at sea.

"We focus on teamwork, communication, leadership and, most importantly, having fun," LCDR Dawe said.

LSCIS Carly Maxwell, one of the RAN staff crew on board, said it was an incredible job.

"Seeing the development of young people throughout each voyage is very rewarding," she said.

Australians aged 16-23 are encouraged to apply to join a youth crew. No sailing experience is required and selection is by ballot. Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents, able to swim 50m and be in good health.

For more information visit [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au)



**THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE:** STS *Young Endeavour's* Executive Officer LEUT Matthew Warren shows youth crew member Amy the ropes and, below, the ship under sail.  
Photo: LSIS Paul McCallum



**MOVING FORWARD:** Warrant Officer of the Navy WO Mark Tandy reviews the graduating sailors at Recruit School on November 4. It was the first time a non-commissioned officer has reviewed a Recruit School graduation at HMAS *Cerberus*.

Photos: LSIS Paul McCallum

## WO-N reviews Recruit School graduates

By LSIS Paul McCallum

FOR the first time, Navy's most senior sailor has welcomed the newest sailors into the RAN at a graduation parade at HMAS *Cerberus*.

Seventy-seven personnel graduated at the November 4 parade and will be the first of many graduates to be reviewed by the Warrant Officer of the Navy (WO-N).

Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs recently introduced a policy that WO-N would be the Reviewing

Officer for one Recruit School graduation each year.

WO-N WO Mark Tandy said it was a great display of the confidence CN had in the position of WO-N and was a practical example of New Generation Navy moving the Service forward and embracing a more contemporary view of Navy's customs and traditions.

"I'm honoured to be in the position of WO-N and have the privilege to review a Recruit School graduation," WO-N Tandy said.

"This is the first time WO-N has had the opportunity to review a graduation and I think it reinforces in the recruits and other sailors the important role that WO-N plays."

WO-N is the sailor's representative at the Senior Leadership Group and is the voice of the non-commissioned ranks among the highest levels of the Navy command structure.

"I work alongside CN and I regularly discuss issues that affect our sailors every day. It is a role I take very seriously," WO Tandy said.

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# Toowoomba home to FBW



**WELCOME HOME:** HMAS *Toowoomba* comes alongside Fleet Base West and, inset, families wait on the wharf for their loved ones with a special banner paying tribute to AB Steven Bebbington and AB Ewan McDonald, the two sailors who passed away while the ship was deployed.

Photos: LSIS Phillip Cullinan and ABIS Morgana Ramsey

By SBLT Sarah West

HMAS *Toowoomba* has been welcomed home to Fleet Base West after a successful six-month deployment to the Middle East Area of Operations, where her crew conducted maritime operations as part of Operation Slipper and the Combined Maritime Force.

The Anzac-class frigate was officially greeted on the wharf by Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs, Commander Australian Fleet RADM Steve Gilmore and Government representatives.

In his address to friends and family of *Toowoomba*'s crew ahead of the ship's arrival, RADM Gilmore praised the contribution of the west-based ship and its support network.

"In the six months since we farewellled her, *Toowoomba* and her crew have made a significant and lasting contribution to maritime security and counter piracy operations," he said.

"Their efforts to restore order and to protect peaceful users of the sea, whether threatened by others or by the dangers of the sea itself, have been absolutely outstanding.

"Your sacrifices are not forgotten. No ship at sea is self-sufficient. Our men and women cannot deploy without the support of their families and friends. Your part in our Navy family is absolutely fundamental."

During the deployment, *Toowoomba*'s crew completed seven flag

verification boardings, 20 approach assist visits, and one medical evacuation from a coalition ship, as well as providing medical assistance to merchant vessels on four occasions. She also escorted four merchant vessels which were vulnerable to pirate attack.

Commanding Officer CMDR Andrew Quinn said his crew exemplified Navy values during the deployment.

"I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and commitment shown by every member of this crew," he said.

"It is men and women such as these, and the way in which they carry out their duties, that allows us to stand up and be proud of the Navy for which we serve."

During her six months in the MEAO, *Toowoomba* travelled more than 65,000 nautical miles and her helicopter spent more than 118 hours in the air.

During *Toowoomba*'s return ceremony, RADM Gilmore also paid tribute to crew members AB Steven Bebbington and AB Ewan McDonald, whose lives sadly came to an end in April and October.

"These tragedies have had a significant impact on so many in the Navy, and *Toowoomba*, and I ask that we keep the families of Steven and Ewan in our minds and prayers as we welcome home their shipmates," RADM Gilmore said.

HMAS *Parramatta* has now taken over Operation Slipper duties in the MEAO.

## Warramunga mourns sailor

A MEMORIAL service has been held for HMAS *Warramunga* crew member, LSBM Bradley Livingston, who passed away while ashore on leave in Cambodia on November 10.

During the service aboard the ship on November 13, LSBM Livingston was described as a larger than life character, a loving father and a friend to many.

*Warramunga*'s WEEO, LCDR David Bettell, said the sailor, who leaves behind two much-loved children, would be remembered around the fleet as a hard-working and fun-loving member of the bosun community.

"Rest in peace Doc, and may fair winds and following seas find you," LCDR Bettell said.

During several moving speeches from his fellow gunnery rates, LSBM Livingston was described as a highly competent sailor and "one of the best bosuns a ship could hope to have".

"Never backward in coming forward, he was an excellent teacher and mentor who always gave his heart and soul into ensuring that everyone's potential was reached," one member of the ship's company said.

LSBM Livingston was repatriated to Australia on November 15 aboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster, which flew into RAAF Base Pearce from Phnom Penh. His casket was carried from the plane by sailors from *Stirling*, led by CHAP Stephen Gunther.

The deceased sailor was met on the tarmac by a small group of family members, friends and military personnel.

Chaplains, the Defence Community Organisation and the *Stirling* Bereavement Support Team have been providing support to LSBM Livingston's family and friends.

The cause of the sailor's death is under investigation.

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# Best of care

By Graham McBean

SENIOR Defence chiefs have identified seven priority actions for the care of ADF mental health following the launch of the ADF Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy on October 21.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon launched the new strategy based on the findings of the 2012-2015 Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing Study.

Mr Snowdon said the study had shaped the blueprint for managing the mental fitness of ADF personnel.

"This type of study to validate the prevalence of mental health disorders in a defence population is a world first," Mr Snowdon said.

The new strategy addresses seven immediate priority areas to be delivered in the 2012-2015 Mental Health Action Plan to be developed in consultation with the Services and key stakeholders.

The study confirms that mental disorder is as common in the ADF as in the wider Australian community, with about half of ADF members experiencing a mental disorder at some point in their lifetime.

Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health disorders and of these disorders, post-traumatic

stress is higher than the Australian community.

"What makes ADF people different is their exposure to high-risk situations and as a result there is a higher occurrence of PTSD than in the Australian community, making this an area where we are concentrating our efforts," Mr Snowdon said.

The study indicated there was little difference in the prevalence of mental health disorders between personnel who had deployed and those who had not.

"The results of this study will help the ADF tailor its mental health support to suit the needs of its serving men and women," Mr Snowdon said.

The strategy is specifically aimed at providing a solid foundation for good health and wellbeing within the ADF and to ensure services targeting mental health care are promoted and available.

It will focus on both strengthening resilience and enabling recovery.

The study is part of a \$93 million Mental Health Reform Program designed to improve access to mental health care for servicemen and women and veterans.

The four-year reform program was commissioned following recommendations from the 2009 Dunt

Review of mental health care in the ADF.

About half of the ADF workforce was surveyed as part of the project, a collaboration between the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies at the University of Adelaide and the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health, and Defence's Joint Health Command.

CDF GEN David Hurley said there was still some reluctance among ADF personnel to seek help for mental illness, stemming from a fear that having a mental disorder may affect an individual's career.

"The ADF is working hard to change that perception, providing a range of support to people who are experiencing mental health disorders," GEN Hurley said.

"Importantly, we have changed our policies and procedures to give us more flexibility with managing recovery times, with discharge from the Defence force being an option of last resort.

"I am very pleased to see that our comprehensive operational mental health support programs are working, ensuring better outcomes for ADF personnel and their families."

Copies of the study and strategy are available at [www.defence.gov.au/health](http://www.defence.gov.au/health)



## SEVEN PRIORITIES

- ▶ A communications strategy to address stigma and barriers to care.
- ▶ Enhanced service delivery.
- ▶ Development of e-mental health approaches.
- ▶ Upskilling health providers.
- ▶ Improving pathways to care.
- ▶ Strengthening the mental health screening continuum.
- ▶ Developing a comprehensive peer support network.

**GETTING RID OF THE STIGMA:** CDF GEN David Hurley has encouraged ADF personnel to seek help if they have mental health problems.

Photo: CPL Chris Moore

## ADF world leader in mental health

By Graham McBean

LEADING experts in mental health have applauded the ADF Mental Health and Wellbeing Prevalence Study as world's best practice.

Executive Director of the Brain and Mind Research Institute Professor Ian Hickie said the study would set the national standard for mental health reform.

"Where they have really emphasised prevention, early intervention, use of e-health strategies, easy access to care, peer and family support and most importantly collective action, they are world leading," Professor Hickie said.

It is also a positive sign for Defence personnel involved with the groundbreaking study.

Director General Mental Health, Psychology and Health Resources David Morton said the prevalence study had confirmed the foundation work established by the ADF and highlighted areas for further change.

He said the study highlighted the need for a partnership between the member, ADF, health practitioners and, importantly, the member's family in developing mental fitness.

"It has also helped us understand that there are some target spots for us," Mr Morton said.

"Young males with high levels of depression is something that we didn't really have a clear appreciation of before the study."

Mr Morton said programs could now start targeting new strategies for those areas.

ADF members can access mental health care by talking to their CO or supervisor, presenting to a health facility or contacting their Mental Health and Psychology Section. 24-hour assistance is available on the All Hours Support Line on **1800 628 036** which offers 24/7 access to crisis counselling and referral for treatment and support.

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# Call for JWAC mentors

By Annabelle Haywood

THE Junior Warfare Application Course (JWAC) is seeking junior officer mentors for its new trainees to provide guidance and mentoring during their JWAC training and pre-specialist phases.

CMDR Chris Smith, Director Navy Warfare Professional Requirements, said the JWAC mentoring scheme had always been an important part of the training continuum.

"It has become even more important with the advent of directed specialisation in 2009," he said.

"To reflect the increased focus on the scheme we are making some changes to the way trainees access mentors.

"From January 2012 we will have a website set up where JWACs will be able to access mentors by leveraging video and social media."

CMDR Smith said all LEUT and pre-charge LCDR maritime warfare officers who were specialised or hold an ADQUAL qualification were invited to volunteer as mentors if they were of good character, had the time to volunteer, were genuinely interested in engaging junior officers and had been recommended for representational duties on their most recent NOPAR.

"Mentoring is now an important part of the leadership training for all ranks; officers gain exposure to it during JOLC," CDMR Smith said.

"We are keen to make good use of this training through our JWAC



mentors in 2012, and we will be able to provide some mentoring training opportunities if necessary."

Volunteers are requested to email a biography (about one page) to [jwac.mentoring@defence.gov.au](mailto:jwac.mentoring@defence.gov.au) by December 2.

**GUIDANCE:** Interested in passing on your knowledge to junior warfare officers? Become a JWAC mentor and help young officers, like these pictured on the bridge simulator at HMAS Watson, become better leaders. Photo: ABIS Alan Lancaster

# Developing women in leadership roles

By Claudia Harrison

NOMINATIONS are open for the 2012 Navy Women's Leadership Program (NWLP) and Navy Women's Mentoring Program (NWMP).

Head Navy People and Reputation, RADM Allan du Toit, said he considered this an extremely beneficial leadership and mentoring program, aligning closely with the reinvigorated leadership strategies which formed an integral part of New Generation Navy.

"Navy is committed to supporting the presence of women in all leadership roles, and our participation in the program reinforces this commitment to the wider community," RADM du Toit said.

In 2012, the NWLP will provide for more than 100 female leaders to participate in a number of women's leadership development programs and events around Australia.

- This includes:
- ▶ Women and Leadership Australia;
  - ▶ Australian Women's Leadership Symposium;
  - ▶ Women's Leadership Journey workshop;
  - ▶ Australian Applied Management Colloquium; and
  - ▶ three half-day forum sessions.

The NWLP will also fund one position on the Avril Henry Executive 'Great Leaders are Made' women's leadership program in Sydney (for CMDR/CAPT), and 12 positions in Darwin and Cairns

on the SkillPath 'Conference for Women' (all ranks).

The dates and locations of the NWLP 2012 events were advertised in Information Defgram 741/2011 of November 10 and via signal from HNPAP.

More details about the NWLP events can be found at:

- ▶ [www.wla.com.au](http://www.wla.com.au)
- ▶ [www.appliedmanagement.com.au](http://www.appliedmanagement.com.au)
- ▶ [www.avrilhenry.com.au/services/leadership-programs](http://www.avrilhenry.com.au/services/leadership-programs)
- ▶ [www.skillpath.com/index.cfm/training/seminar/topic/Conference-Women](http://www.skillpath.com/index.cfm/training/seminar/topic/Conference-Women)

The cost of participating in these events will be funded by Navy Strategic Command but any travel costs will be the responsibility of the member's unit.

The NWMP will also continue in 2012. This program can be completed from any location, including at sea. Further details about the program, 'My Mentor: Challenging Women to Make it Happen' can be found at [www.emberin.com/products/mymentor](http://www.emberin.com/products/mymentor).

Interested Navy female personnel are to forward their names and details, nominated events and dates and approval for release to attend each event, through their Commanding Officer/supervisor to the Navy Women's Strategic Adviser, CMDR Jennifer Heymans, at [jennifer.heyman@defence.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.heyman@defence.gov.au) by December 23.



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# Supporting capability

By Annabelle Haywood

COMMODORE Training CDRE Daryl Bates recently launched a DVD resource to all Training Authorities under his leadership to provide an update on the Training Force Capability Improvement Project (CIP).

"We in Training Force have worked tirelessly to improve our processes, management, reporting and, most importantly, our product," CDRE Bates said.

"Many of these improvements made great headway in terms of producing better trained sailors and officers and in achieving improved levels of performance in our ships, submarines, aircraft and dive teams.

"Nevertheless, by early this year we were starting to run out of ideas on what needed to be done, and it was increasingly difficult for us to see where further improvements might be made. For this reason, we requested this program so our own people could focus on enhancing the experience of Navy training."

The DVD resource contains a presentation on the current status of the Training Force CIP and includes a video introduction from COMTRAIN.

The presentation is designed to be a divisional resource for all ranks.

CDRE Bates said he was eager for all Training Force and Fleet staff to embrace these improvements as their own.

"I'm very impressed by the quality

## TRAINING FORCE CIP AT A GLANCE

**W**HILE the Training Force CIP has clear and obvious links to both the Strategic Reform Program and New Generation Navy, it was not generated as a direct result of pressure from either of those two programs.

It was generated by a genuine desire to make sure that our training is the best it can be, within reasonable resource constraints, and that we continue to fight and win in the maritime environment.

The CIP is a program that will provide new and sometimes dif-

ferent ways of training our people. Ultimately, we aim to have:



- ▶ a Training Force that is well structured, organised, resourced, managed and highly focused;
- ▶ a Training Force that can support Navy's current and future capability;
- ▶ a Training Force with best practice business processes;

- ▶ reduced training pipelines; and
- ▶ improved efficiency.

— CDRE Daryl Bates

of the work provided by the CIP and extremely confident that implementing the range of initiatives that are now before us will prove most beneficial," he said.

"I implore you to assist us to implement each of these initiatives as best you can. Be a part of this project. Be a part of an improved Training Force, with improved processes and an improved product."

Training Force stood up on July 1, 2009, to provide a 'cradle to grave' focus on training that includes all individual, team and collective training, and all training ashore and at sea.

For further information, visit the COMTRAIN intranet site at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/navy-web/sites/COMTRAIN/ComWeb.asp?page=103749>

# Fleet gym works out savings for SRP

By Damien Hansen

BEING cost-conscious has led CPOPT Jim Lawless from the Fleet Sports Office to come up with some innovative savings opportunities in line with Navy's Signature Behaviours.

"By employing Fleet Support Unit (FSU) staff to refurbish and recycle existing gym equipment, Navy is saving up to 75 per cent of the cost of replacement items," CPOPT Lawless said.

"This adds up to a lot of money across the Fleet.

"In the past, a repair by replacement process has meant unserviceable gym equipment aboard ships has been thrown out and replaced at full cost, often with a delay.

"Generally wear and tear and the salt water environment has meant that cardio machines would only have a life expectancy of two-to-three years."

He said the typical cost for a treadmill was \$11,000, and that was a large amount of money being expended to keep seagoing sailors fighting fit.

"Through a new process of refurbishing equipment and establishing a ready use store at HMAS Kuttubul, the Fleet Sports Office is able to

provide a replacement machine for about 10-15 per cent of the price of a brand new machine, and usually in a one-for-one swap system," CPOPT Lawless said.

"For example, the gym fit-out for an LPA would be \$60,000 to \$70,000, yet under the new process we are looking at a saving of anywhere up to \$40,000. So by refurbishing we are reducing waste and making sure equipment is available when we need it.

**"By employing Fleet Support Unit staff to refurbish and recycle existing gym equipment, Navy is saving up to 75 per cent of the cost of replacement items."**

— CPOPT Jim Lawless

"We have been working closely with physical trainers from the LPA decommissioning crews to trial this process. The equipment coming off their ships will be used in the first instance to equip ADF Ship *Choules* on its arrival in Australia."

This is a great example of cost-conscious behaviour coming from within the ranks and will feed thousands of dollars straight back into capability and Force 2030.

An SRP mythbusters video of this reform is available to view on the SRP - Navy website at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/navyweb/sites/SRP-N/ComWeb.asp?page=122761&NA=1&View=Intranet>

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# Darwin boosts CHOGM security

By LCPL Mark Doran

HMAS Darwin was assigned as a surveillance and response asset as part of the ADF's involvement in providing assistance to the Western Australian Government for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from October 28-30.

Tasked with patrolling and monitoring merchant shipping entering the WA sea lanes near Perth, the ship used the operation as an opportunity to work with other assigned ADF assets including Army units and Air Force surveillance aircraft.

Darwin's Commanding Officer, CMDR David Mann, said his ship was able to link communications and transmit the data picture between the assets, as well as ensure the ship's company was on top of its game and ready for action if required.

"It is essential to have a maritime component with any joint operation as there could be threats from the land, air or sea, and we may have been called upon to assist by the WA Government," CMDR Mann said.

"This deployment also allows a lot of individual training – every day and every hour at sea is a training evolution for us. The crew were able to do engineering casualty control drills, aviation and weapons training

with small arms, as well as gunnery practice using the ship's 76mm gun."

Patrolling near Rottneest Island, Darwin's crew, including three Royal Canadian Navy sailors, also conducted continuation training in their air warfare and missile firing skills.

ABET Jodi Forster (pictured right) is one of a few female weapons maintainers in Navy and works on the ship's 76mm gun, torpedo tubes, and the Nulka active missile decoy.

She said during the preparations to support CHOGM the gun and operations crew conducted detailed training to ensure firing drills and procedures were correct.

"I just love doing my job, being able to work on the gun system, understanding how it works and knowing it is working because I am maintaining it," ABET Forster said.

Now following his grandfather's naval career, LSMT Matthew Bland has been a member of Darwin's crew for the past three months and assists in maintaining the ship's propulsion system.

"Being deployed as part of the ADF's support to CHOGM was fantastic," he said.

"It allowed me to have more training time at sea and work toward obtaining further qualifications."



**LOAD 'EM UP:** ABET Jodie Forster, LSET Adam Smith, LSET Grant Wheeler and ABET Rohan Hitch prepare to load 76mm training rounds aboard HMAS Darwin off the WA coast while supporting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.  
Photo: CPL Chris Moore

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# Big impact in Uruzgan

By ABIS Jo Dileo

FROM exploding mines on seabeds around Australia, to gathering intelligence from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Afghanistan, CPOCD Andrew Keitley is enjoying every minute of his deployment in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.

CPOCD Keitley deployed to Afghanistan in May to become a vital part of the Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT), which required him to swap his wetsuit for body armour.

“On the advance clearance divers’ course we do half advanced diving and the rest is dedicated to explosive ordnance detection, learning how to disable explosives in all roles and different situations,” CPOCD Keitley said.

The WIT conducts thorough investigations on any IED, ordnance

or home-made explosives and caches that are found in Uruzgan province.

“My role is busy with a lot of hands-on exposure to explosives, both in the lab and outside the wire investigating explosive sites,” CPOCD Keitley said.

“We are the end user of all the hard work of Mentoring Task Force 3.

**“We are now able to identify bomb makers...and positively identify the bad guy.”**

– CPOCD Andrew Keitley

“When they find IEDs, mines, explosives and components in the province, they bring them to the WIT to conduct investigations.

“A few years of a lot of work is now showing its benefits – we are now able to identify bomb makers or placers and positively identify the bad guy.”

The RAN has sailors deployed in various roles in Afghanistan and the clearance divers are making a major difference in the explosive detection exploitation mission.



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** CPOCD Andrew Keitley examines items that were found in a cache in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. Photo: ABIS Jo Dileo

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## Protecting civilians DVD launched

A NEW documentary will help guide peacekeepers in accordance with the laws of armed conflict and humanitarian principles.

Titled ‘Mandated to Protect: Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping Operations’, the documentary is designed as an educational tool to introduce peacekeepers, policy makers and other interested parties to some of the complexities involved in protecting civilians.

It will be incorporated into the United Nations Institute for Training and Research online training program and made available to all peacekeeping training centres around the world.

For more information, visit the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence website at <http://civmilcoe.gov.au>



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[www.wellbeingtoolbox.net.au](http://www.wellbeingtoolbox.net.au)

# Commemorations in Korea

By SGT Dave Morley

SEVEN Korean War veterans and the son of a 3RAR MIA recently returned from six days in South Korea where they attended commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of major engagements of the war.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs-sponsored party visited key battle sites to pay tribute to fallen mates and loved ones, and participated in several commemorative activities.

They included a former Navy officer, four former soldiers, an Army nurse whose brother died of wounds there, and a former Air Force officer.

The former Navy officer, CMDR Ken Barnett (retd), joined the Navy in 1943 as a 13-year-old cadet midshipman.

He later deployed to Korea aboard the Tribal-class destroyer HMAS *Warramunga* in 1950 for nine months.

CMDR Barnett said the trip was both thought provoking and inspirational.

"Being non-Army it was great being able to visit the Kapyong and Maryang San battlefields," he said.

"The dedication and precision of the Republic of Korea (ROK) military was splendid and their welcome and hospitality unsurpassed.

"Australia's Federation Guard also put on a splendid performance."

CMDR Barnett received a Mention in Despatches for his role in saving a

South Korean warship from sinking in April 1951.

He said he'd been sent to the ROK Ship *Apnok* as a liaison officer when it was attacked by four YAK-9 aircraft.

"We were close inshore near the Yalu River covering a team working to recover documents and instruments from a downed MIG-15 fighter," he said.

"The ship shot down one of the YAKs, but the crew didn't know much about damage control, and the ship was taking water with all the doors and hatches open.

"I went to the bridge and piped for all the hatches to be shut and a US Navy salvage ship later came alongside and pumped the water out."

CMDR Barnett later returned to Australia in HMAS *Bataan* and began pilot training in September 1951 at Point Cook, Victoria.

"I got flying in my blood from my brother being a fighter pilot in WWII and from a stint on the carrier HMS *Theseus* in Japan in 1947," he said.

He received his wings in July 1952 and went to the UK for operational flying training.

CMDR Barnett returned to Korea after the war, flying Fairey Firefly Mk 5 aircraft with 816 Squadron aboard HMAS *Sydney* III from September 1953 to June 1954.

He later commanded two Naval Air Squadrons, RAN Air Station at Nowra and Fleet Flagship HMAS *Melbourne*, before retiring from the Navy in 1974.



**RESPECT:** CMDR Ken Barnett (retd) chats with Australia's Federation Guard members (L-R) AB Chris Thompson, LS Paul Parker and AB Justin Beames in front of the RAN memorial on Ganghwa Island, South Korea. Photo: CPL Christopher Dickson

## KOREAN WAR 1950-53

- ▶ More than 17,000 Australians, including 4500 RAN members, served in the Korean War (June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953).
- ▶ Five RAN members were killed and six wounded during the war.
- ▶ HMA Ships *Shoalhaven*, *Bataan*, *Warramunga*, *Murchison*, *Anzac*, *Tobruk*, *Condamine*, *Culgoa* and *Sydney* (with RAN 805, 808 and 817 Squadrons aboard) deployed to Korean waters.
- ▶ 340 Australians were killed and more than 1200 wounded.
- ▶ 33,000 US personnel were killed.
- ▶ 4 million Korean and Chinese soldiers and civilians were killed.

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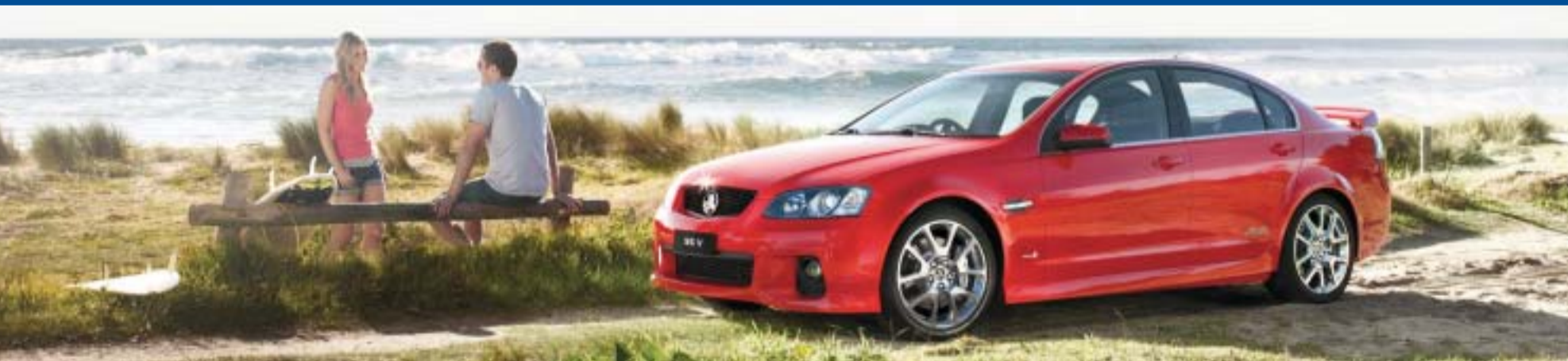
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# Message in a bottle mystery solved

IN THE November 10 edition of Navy News a story titled 'Mystery message in a bottle' was published on page 12.

The story was about a civilian in Western Australia, Sheryl Waidman, who discovered a message in a bottle while camping on a remote beach.

The message, which was faded and brittle, appeared to have been thrown overboard by a member of HMAS *Stalwart's* ship's company in 1978 or '79.

A few days after the newspaper was published, former *Stalwart* sailor Dave Phillips emailed *Navy News* and shed some light on the mystery.

The story of the bottle is that during the

deployment to Western Australia we were having trivia nights and, of course, something came up about messages in bottles.

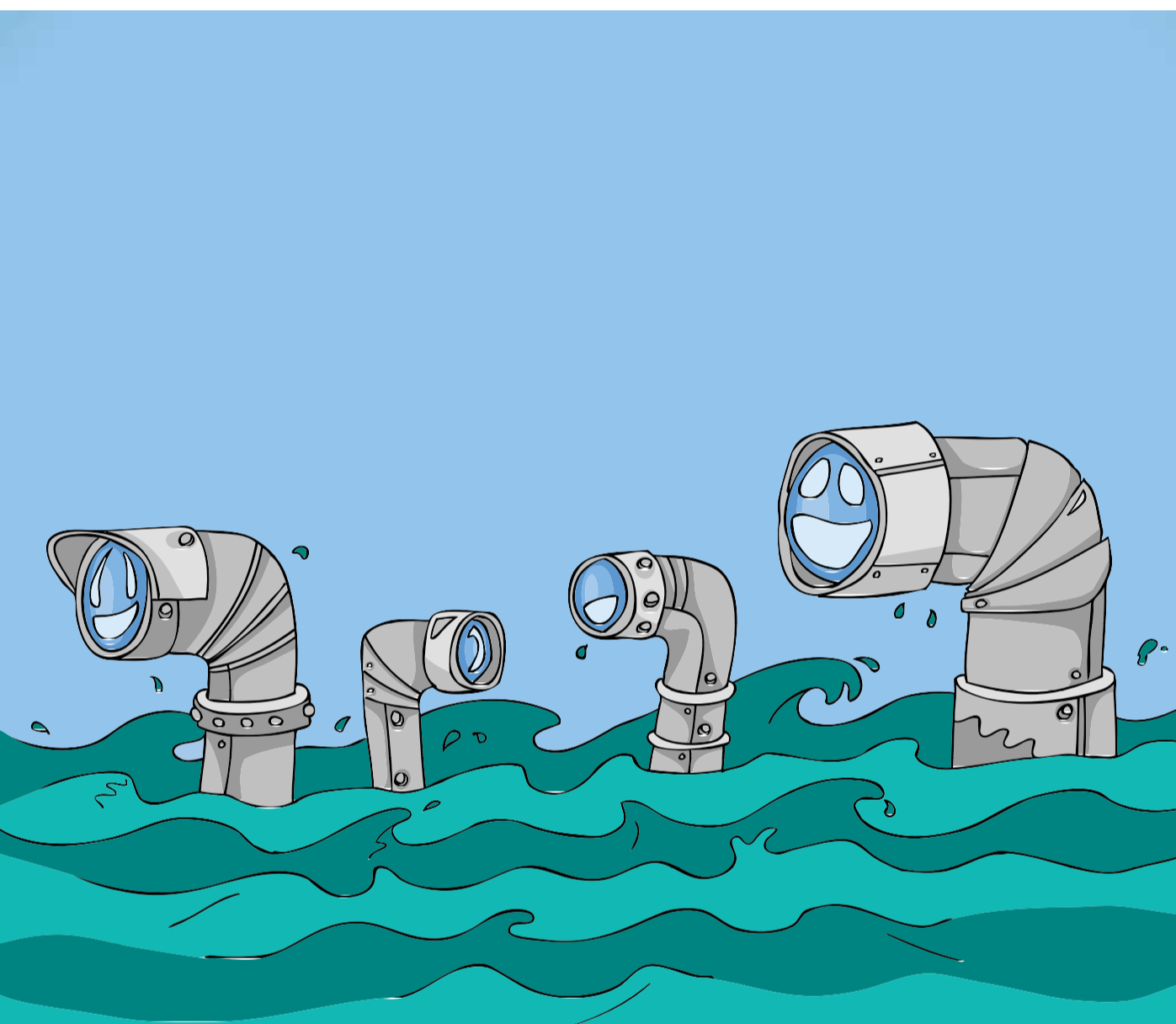
To my recollection we were discussing this in the Petty Officers' Mess at the time and PO Mick Allman decided to write a note and drop a bottle over the side.

*Stalwart* in its heyday carried the fleet band, and the band would play on the ship's boat deck. So at the end of 'beer issue' and a fleet band rendition, PO Allman launched the bottle off the boat deck.

Ironically, during the delivery trip to Greece when *Stalwart* again passed the Western Australian coast (around 1990), PO Allman again launched a bottle from the

boat deck, so there is another bottle out there somewhere.

**ALL FIGURED OUT:** A Navy News reader has solved the HMAS *Stalwart* message in a bottle mystery.



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## IN BRIEF

### Christmas goodwill packages

THE ADF has established special mailing addresses for members of the public to send Christmas goodwill care packages to Australian servicemen and women on operations overseas. Members of the public are able to send parcels through Australia Post, so long as they do not exceed a 2kg cubic weight limit. Items weighing up to 2kg and posted in a 'BM' size Australia Post carton can be posted without cost. Parcels exceeding this limit will incur full postal charges which must be paid by the sender. The postal addresses are active until December 9 and packages will be distributed throughout the operational areas. For postal security reasons, parcels must be posted in person with presentation of photograph identification and can be lodged at any Australia Post outlet. More information can be found at [www.defence.gov.au/christmas/mail/index.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/christmas/mail/index.htm)

### White Ribbon Day

NAVY has made an overwhelming contribution to the White Ribbon campaign, with 70 male members signing up to be White Ribbon Ambassadors. Head Navy People and Reputation, RADM Allan du Toit, said he was pleased to see the number of Navy Ambassadors had grown from 35 in 2010. "Their standing as an Ambassador is a reflection of their own efforts to encourage and role model positive and exemplary behaviour across Navy," he said. White Ribbon Day is held each year on November 25, and the campaign invites men to make a difference by swearing an oath never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. A number of events are being organised around Australia on November 25. For those in Canberra, look out for a sausage sizzle at the Russell (R4) barbecue area between 11.30am and 13.30pm. For more information visit [www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au)

### Victoria Cross public hearings

PUBLIC hearings will be held around Australia as part of the Victoria Cross Inquiry. Following the nationwide call for submissions in April, the hearings will be another opportunity for the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to receive evidence in relation to specific acts of gallantry. Hearings will be held in Canberra, Melbourne and Launceston in December. In 2012, the Tribunal will hold public hearings in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. Interested members of the public are invited to attend and should register their interest (for administrative purposes only) by contacting the Tribunal on (02) 6266 3486 or via email to [DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au). Note that only those invited by the Tribunal to speak will be able to do so. The terms of reference can be found at [www.minister.defence.gov.au/2011/04/16/parliamentary-secretary-for-defence-victoria-cross-inquiry](http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/2011/04/16/parliamentary-secretary-for-defence-victoria-cross-inquiry)

### New RPDE participants

DEFENCE Materiel Minister Jason Clare recently welcomed 12 new Australian organisations into the Rapid Prototyping, Development and Evaluation (RPDE) program. "Two-hundred and twenty companies and academic institutions are now part of this program," Mr Clare said. "The work they are doing is saving taxpayers' money and making sure our sailors, soldiers and airmen have the capability they need to do their job." Visiting the RPDE Canberra facility on November 7 for the induction of new participants, the Minister also acknowledged the start of the 100th activity for Defence: Quicklook 77 – Offshore Combatant Vessel Modular Concept. A full list of RPDE Participants can be found on the RPDE DRN website at [www.rpde.org.au/participants](http://www.rpde.org.au/participants)

### Another stamp of approval

ABC SO Rebecca Florance received another stamp of approval from the RAN when she was crowned dux of the Intermediate Combat System Operator (Underwater) course 286 at HMAS *Watson* on Remembrance Day. Earlier in the year ABC SO Florance was selected among thousands of sailors to appear on the RAN Centenary commemorative stamp, unveiled by Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs and Australia Post. At the Remembrance Day graduation ceremony, ABC SO Florance was awarded dux with a top score of 96.6 per cent, ahead of seven other students with an average of 92 per cent. ABC SO Florance said she worked hard during the 17-week course because "you never know what you can achieve until you apply yourself 100 per cent".



**IN PARTNERSHIP:** The Commandant of the Australian Command and Staff College, CDRE Richard Menhinick, with the Australian National University's Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Young.

## Quality education key to new partnership

By Cristy Symington

THE Australian Command and Staff College (ACSC), Defence's mid-career military education program, will now be joined by the Australian National University (ANU) to provide a military studies masters qualification.

The partnership was launched at Weston in Canberra on November 4.

Commandant of ACSC CDRE Richard Menhinick said the college was designed to focus on the operational and strategic interface, preparing graduates for operational command roles or challenging staff officer roles.

"ACSC is a highly selective program and now that we have joined with ANU, graduates can expect to be even better regarded by our allies for their command and staff skills, planning ability and well-developed strategic thinking," he said.

"The ACSC-ANU partnership contract offers an improved educational model with a world-class university."

"Both the provision of permanent on-campus university academics, including a Dean of Studies on site, and the proper alignment of educational standards with all work counted towards the final qualification, significantly enhances this college to that of the world's best practice command and staff courses."

He said the curriculum would be

structured on a vocational and academic military program that delivered postgraduate qualifications through coursework alone.

"This is unlike the current model, where many course members complete their masters' degree in their own time – and sometimes after the course year has been completed," CDRE Menhinick said.

The 10-year partnership agreement between ACSC and ANU will take the course from part-time university involvement to a learning model based on the ANU's Masters of Military Studies program.

The ANU will fully integrate with military and civilian teaching and support staff to provide mid-career military and university education.

Four academics and two administrative staff from the ANU will be permanently on campus at the ACSC, ensuring those undertaking the course receive support throughout the year.

Topics of the new course include strategy, operational art, expeditionary operations, complex operations, joint operations, Australian strategic policy, Defence organisation and military capability.

Officers interested in attending the ACSC should register their interest with respective Career Managers.

.....  
For more information visit [www.defence.gov.au/adc/centres/acsc/acsc.html](http://www.defence.gov.au/adc/centres/acsc/acsc.html)

# Bundy heads south to Sydney Harbour



**CHANGE OF SCENERY:** HMAS *Bundaberg* sails past the Sydney Opera House after a port visit to HMAS *Waterhen* in early November.  
Photo: ABIS Richard Cordell

By LEUT Andrew Ragless

THE Ardent Four patrol boat crew aboard HMAS *Bundaberg* are usually accustomed to crocodiles, stingrays and tropical thunderstorms at this time of year.

But a not-so-routine patrol for *Bundaberg* in early November afforded the crew the opportunity for a little rest and relaxation in Sydney.

*Bundaberg*, an Armidale-class patrol boat normally berthed in Cairns and deployed in northern Australian waters on Operation Resolute, travelled south to work with officers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and aid in their search for

irregular fishing activity in the waters off the east coast.

*Bundaberg's* Commanding Officer, LCDR David Ince, said the journey was a welcome break in routine for the Ardent Four crew.

"The tempo in patrol boats is high and the crew work pretty hard up in the tropics," he said.

"The change of scenery was very much welcome."

On her return to Cairns, *Bundaberg* stopped in at HMAS *Waterhen* for refuelling.

"On a personal note, it was a great experience driving *Bundaberg* into my home port, past the Opera House,

under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and showing off one of the Navy's newer bits of kit to the city's unsuspecting commuters," he said.

*Bundaberg* will arrive back at HMAS *Cairns* in a few weeks for a short break before continuing with Operation Resolute tasks – detecting and deterring illegal activity in Australian waters from Cairns to Christmas Island.

Under the command of Joint Task Force 639, Operation Resolute covers the entire Australian coastline and provides surveillance and response facilities to an area covering 10 per cent of the earth's surface.

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## TRAGEDY OF WAR



**SEVENTY YEARS ON:** The painting entitled 'Farewell Sydney', showing HMAS Sydney II departing Fremantle on November 11, 1941, was unveiled at the Remembrance Day commemoration at the WACA Museum in Perth.

By SMN Will Manning and  
SBLT Sarah West

**T**HE RAN has joined the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) in paying homage to a sailor and promising cricketer who perished in HMAS Sydney II when the ship was lost at sea in 1941.

The Remembrance Day service, held at the WACA Museum on the 70th anniversary of Sydney II's final departure from Fremantle Harbour, paid tribute to the warship and her men, while also reflecting on a number of aspiring cricketers whose careers were tragically cut short by war.

When Sydney II came to rest on the ocean floor, 112 nautical miles off the coast off Steep Point, Western Australia, so did the ambitions of hundreds of young Australian men including Stores Assistant Kenneth Norman Hilton Butler.

Butler was one of the 645 men lost after the ship fatally encountered the German Raider HSK Kormoran on November 19, 1941.

He was a budding cricket player who had just begun a career in teaching when he was called up for war service as a reservist in the RAN. Records of his short-lived cricket career are considered a testimony to his incredible talent.

Butler represented Perth's Wesley College First XI three times between 1936 and 1939. In his final year, he posted two substantial scores of 115 not out and 107, making him a highly respected cricketer by his peers.

He was also involved in club cricket. After representing Claremont-Cottesloe's B-grade team, Butler was soon promoted to first grade and

debuted for Mt Lawley Cricket Club shortly before his 17th birthday. He went on to play 38 games for Mt Lawley and finished with a career total of 753 runs.

Despite all his achievements on the pitch, it was one particular performance for Wesley College that truly bolstered Butler's prominence within the cricketing community.

In 1936, Butler and the other members of the Wesley First XI played Incogniti, a prestigious English team boasting three players who were in Australia to contest the Ashes that summer. After opening the bowling, Butler finished the day with 4 for 29, an incredible achievement for a school boy.

Butler was just 21 when he and his shipmates perished. His loss was felt not only by his family and the RAN, but by the Australian cricket community who never got to see him reach his potential.

At the memorial service, HMAS Stirling's Executive Officer, CMDR Rudi Overmeyer, used Butler's example to illustrate the importance of sport to the development of teamwork, mateship and esprit de corps in the RAN.

"On the field we learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, and empower each other to reach our full potential," he said.

"At sea, we do the same, working together towards a common goal, wearing the colours of our Navy which itself instils a sense of pride in our team."

The end of the service was marked with the unveiling of painting by Darrell White entitled 'Farewell Sydney', showing Sydney II departing Fremantle on November 11, 1941.

# PAUSING *to* REMEMBER

At 11am on November 11, RAN personnel joined thousands of Australians to remember the 102,000 sailors, soldiers and airmen who have given their lives for Australia in times of war.



Remembrance Day was first observed in Australia in 1919 with a minute's silence to honour those killed in the service of their country. November 11, 1918, was the day Germany signed the armistice to end WWI.



#### TIME FOR REFLECTION:

**Above left:** HMAS Cerberus' ship's company provides a guard for the service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Photo: Lauren Black

**Above:** A member of Australia's Federation Guard Catalafque Party at the Stone of Remembrance in Canberra.

Photo: Lauren Black

**Far left:** CHAP Andrew Watters says a prayer with HMAS Parramatta's CO, CMDR Guy Blackburn, during the Remembrance Day service on the flight deck while on patrol in the Gulf of Aden.

Photo: WO Paul Bradley

**Middle left:** The Wall of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

**Left:** Members of Australia's Federation Guard on parade at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Photos: Lauren Black

**Right:** ABMT Candice O'Keefe, ABMT Cody Linsley, ABET Pia Bartl and POET Mike Von Tucker sell poppies in Sydney for Remembrance Day.

Photo: ABIS Lee-Anne Mack



# Honouring their sacrifice

**H**MAS *Parramatta*, a Grimsby-class sloop displacing 1060 tons, was commissioned on April 8, 1940, under the command of LCDR Jefferson Walker.

She sailed from Fremantle on June 29, 1940, arriving in the Red Sea at the end of July.

*Parramatta* spent the next nine months performing monotonous but essential work escorting, patrolling and minesweeping as part of the Red Sea Force.

In April 1941 she took part in operations against Italian Eritrea in East Africa, towing the crippled cruiser HMS *Capetown* back to Port Sudan after she had been torpedoed by an Italian 'E' Boat.

*Parramatta* transferred to the control of C-in-C Mediterranean Station in May 1941, and LCDR Walker was pleased his ship's company would be encouraged by contact with the battle-scarred Mediterranean Fleet.

From June onwards she was assigned to escort duties in support of the Western Desert campaign in Libya.

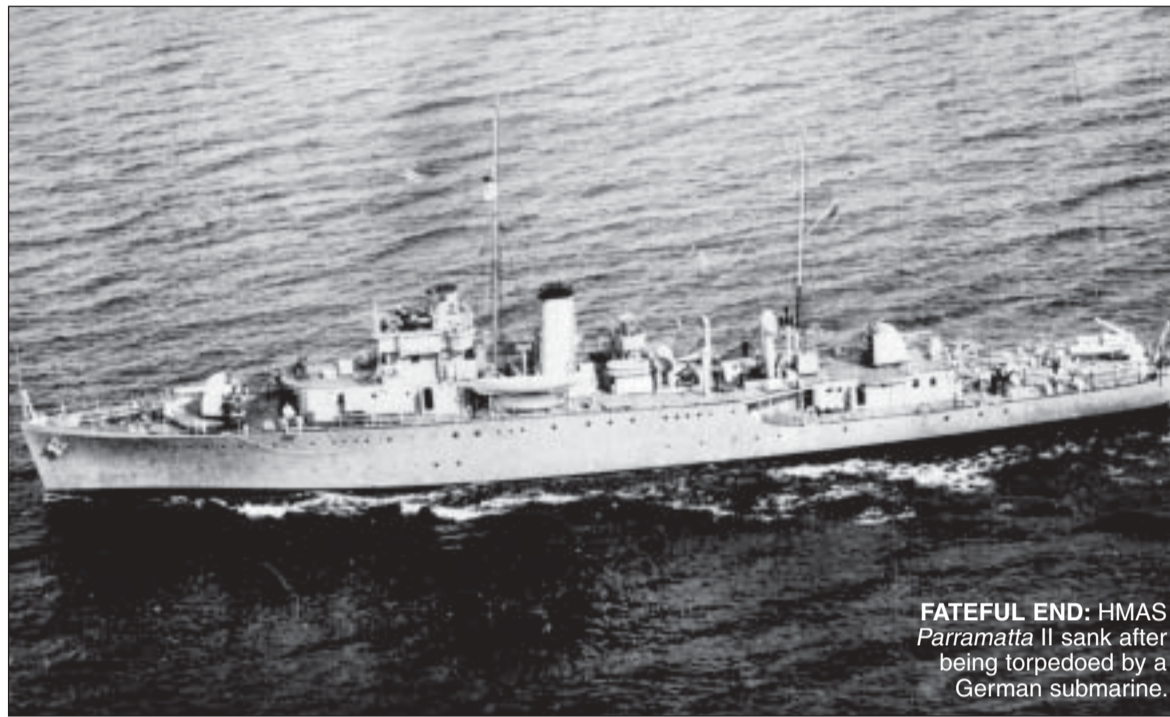
On June 23 *Parramatta*, the sloop HMS *Auckland* and the steamer *Pass of Balmaha*, carrying petrol to Tobruk, were subjected to more than eight hours of furious attacks by three formations each of 16 dive bombers.

*Parramatta* sustained no hits and destroyed three enemy aircraft, while *Auckland* was crippled and eventually sank after a heavy internal explosion.

Survivors of the *Auckland* were machine-gunned in the water by German aircraft, but *Parramatta* was able to return after dark and pick up 164 survivors while HMA Ships *Waterhen* and *Vendetta* provided support.

*Parramatta* was attacked by a German submarine five days later en route to Mersa Matruh, but while the

**Only 24 sailors survived the torpedoing of the sloop HMAS *Parramatta* II off the coast of Libya, by the German submarine U-559, 70 years ago this month. SGT Dave Morley explains.**



**FATEFUL END:** HMAS *Parramatta* II sank after being torpedoed by a German submarine.

enemy's aim was good, the torpedo ran deep under the ship.

From July to October 1941, *Parramatta* carried out escort and survey operations between Cyprus and the Gulf of Suez before being re-assigned to convoy escort duties off Libya in November.

*Parramatta* and the destroyer HMS *Avon Vale* sailed from Alexandria on November 25, escorting the slow-moving ammunition ship *Hanne* to Tobruk.

The three ships were about 40km north of Bardia at midnight on November 26.

Unknown to them, Kapitanleutnant Hans Heidtmann in submarine U-559 had been stalking the convoy for two hours.

He fired a spread of three torpedoes from 2000 metres at the *Hanne* just after midnight, all of which missed, and went unnoticed by the three ships.

Heidtmann closed in to 1500 metres and fired another torpedo.

It struck *Parramatta* amidships and there were two almost simultaneous explosions, the second probably the magazine.

The ship was torn apart, rolled rap-

idly to starboard and sank with the majority of the crew below deck.

Only those on deck had any chance of survival.

*Avon Vale* picked up 21 survivors while three others swam ashore in Libya and were found by advancing British soldiers.

One hundred and thirty-eight crewmembers, including all the officers, perished with their ship.

In a final twist to this story, the U-559 was attacked by Royal Navy ships on October 30, 1942, and after

## PARRAMATTA II COMMEMORATION

A SERVICE to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the loss of HMAS *Parramatta* II will be held on November 27 at 10.30am at the HMAS *Parramatta* Memorial, Queens Wharf, Parramatta.



**SOLEMN:** ABET David Jordan rests on arms during last year's HMAS *Parramatta* II commemoration in Sydney. Photo: LSIS Brenton Freind

being depth charged for 16 hours, surfaced.

Three British sailors boarded the sinking submarine and salvaged its Enigma coding machine and code books.

Two of the sailors were lost when the submarine sank, but their sacrifice enabled the Allies to break and read German naval signals, saving the lives of countless other Allied seamen.

The last of *Parramatta* II's survivors, Ordinary Seaman Harold Moss, 88, died at Ballina on July 2, 2011, with an honour guard from *Parramatta* IV attending his funeral.



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission

### Call for Submissions into the Treatment of Women in the Australian Defence Force

The Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is conducting a Review into the Treatment of Women in the Australian Defence Force. Specifically the Review is examining the effectiveness of cultural change strategies and initiatives required to improve leadership pathways for women in the Australian Defence Force.

The Review is being led by Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, who chairs the expert Review Panel.

The Review Panel is now calling for written submissions. In particular, written submissions are being sought on the following aspects of the Terms of Reference:

- The effectiveness of the cultural change strategies recommended by the CDF Women's Reference Group in the Women's Action Plan including the implementation of these strategies across the Australian Defence Force;
- Measures and initiatives required to improve the pathways for increased representation of women into the senior ranks and leadership of the Australian Defence Force; and
- Any other matters incidental to the terms of reference such as sexual harassment and abuse and sex discrimination.

The Review will not be investigating or making findings in relation to individual allegations or complaints. The Review can only report and make recommendations in relation to the systemic issues arising from the Terms of Reference.

**Submissions will be accepted over a four week period from Saturday 5 November to Sunday 4 December 2011.**

To view the full terms of reference and to lodge a submission please refer to the Submissions page of the Commission website at [www.humanrights.gov.au/defencereview](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/defencereview).

For any inquiries in relation to the Review submission process please see our website or contact the ADF Review Secretariat by email at [defence.review@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:defence.review@humanrights.gov.au) or call 1800 656 945.

Please note that submissions received will ordinarily be made available on the Commission website. People wishing to make a confidential submission should make this clear at the time of lodgement and the Review will not publish those submissions on the website. However, people should also be aware that whilst every endeavour will be made to ensure confidentiality, the Commission is obliged to determine any request for access to documents made under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 in accordance with that Act.

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## Iroquois on offer

THE Request for Offer (RFO) for six Iroquois helicopters reserved for sale to historical organisations was released on November 14.

Organisations will be able to apply for one of six Iroquois helicopters for static display.

Priority will be given to historical organisations in Australia that have strong connections with the aircraft.

Eleven Iroquois helicopters have already been allocated to Defence bases around Australia and one to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Another five will be kept by the ADF as training aids and another two have been offered for sale to national returned service organisations.

RFO documentation is available for download after registering on the AUSTENDER website at [www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au) citing reference DMOFD/RFO117/2011.

The tender will close on January 27, 2012.

# Historic flag finds new home

By ASLT Katherine Mulheron

A VALUABLE piece of Navy's past is back with the RAN after spending almost a century as a child's plaything and family keepsake.

The story began in 1914 during the Battle of Bita Paka in German New Guinea. The Australian Navy landing party was the first to go into action in World War I and AB Billy Williams, from Northcote in Victoria, was Australia's first casualty – the Williams Rifle Range at HMAS *Cerberus* was named in his honour.

Four naval officers from the battle were also awarded the first Distinctions ascribed to Australians in the Great War.

The success at Bita Paka led to the surrender of all German south-west Pacific territories and was the first victory of the war by British Empire forces.

After the battle, the German Governor's flag was confiscated and brought back to Australia by naval

members of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force.

For many years the location of the flag was unknown and it was eventually thought to have been stolen. It was, however, being used by the family of CAPT (later RADM) Fred Tickell, who held the position of Director Naval Reserves at the time the flag was seized.

RADM Tickell's grandson, Murray Wright, recalls playing with his sisters in the mid-1930s at their home in Melbourne and using the flag to re-enact their own naval battles.

"I was five at the time. We used to play 'pirates' with it, without really

understanding the significance of its history," Mr Wright recalls.

A few years ago, Mr Wright asked his sister Adrienne Shultze where the flag was. It turned out it had not been stolen at all. Their mother had passed it on to her and it had been in a drawer in a cupboard.

Earlier this month, Mr Wright and his sisters Adrienne and Helen returned the flag into the RAN's care. They presented the flag to the Commanding Officer of *Cerberus*, CAPT Mark Hill, who accepted on behalf of the Chief of Navy and the *Cerberus* museum.

The *Cerberus* museum first learnt of the existence of the flag two years ago and its curator, WO Marty Grogan, had been eager to house it at *Cerberus* since then.

"This flag is an important addition to the collection and we are proud to have it here," WO Grogan said.

CAPT Hill thanked the family for its generosity.

"This is a significant donation to our Navy family, of which you are all a part. It is a thing of beauty," CAPT Hill said.

With Navy celebrating 100 years of service and *Cerberus* commemorating its 90th year, the addition of the WWI German flag to the RAN's historical collection is momentous.

Mr Wright and his sisters are thankful their childhood keepsake has ended up where it belongs.

"I think it's very important for historical pieces like these to be given back to the nation," Mr Wright said.

"We're very happy the flag has found a home here."

**"This is a significant donation to our Navy family, of which you are all a part. It is a thing of beauty."**

– CAPT Mark Hill, CO HMAS *Cerberus*



**IMPORTANT RELIC BACK IN RAN HANDS:** A German flag (above) from World War I, captured by RAN personnel after the Battle of Bita Paka, is now on show at the HMAS *Cerberus* (inset) museum after spending almost a century as a child's plaything and family heirloom.

Main photo: LSIS Paul McCallum

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# Complete overhaul for MT trade

By Graham McBean

A COMPLETE overhaul of the Marine Technician (MT) category is being undertaken to improve the MT career path, aimed at delivering the right training at the right time.

The new career path will be known as MT2010 and will align MT sailors' careers to better suit the needs of the modern Navy while providing better qualifications.

The new arrangement will also feature a vastly reduced initial training period of 26 weeks.

During this time sailors will gain the underpinning knowledge for Metals Electro Mechanical (MEM) Cert II and Transport and Distribution Maritime (TDM) Cert III, aimed directly at meeting the needs of an MT's first sea posting.

On-shore simulation training will provide 80 per cent of the knowledge required for MST, MSC and MSM. This will vastly reduce the training requirement on the ship.

There will be five Cert IV trades offered after the sailor's MSC qualification is complete.

At this point promotion is offered to the rank of leading seaman.

The five new Cert IV trades will provide a deeper level knowledge and will be nationally recognised under MEM and Electrocomms and Energyutilities (EEOZ) for the first time.

The current senior technician's course will change; petty officers will gain TDM Cert V Diploma of Marine Engineering – Watchkeeper under MT2010.

Chief petty officers have the opportunity to complete TDM Cert VI Engineer Class 1.

CPOMT Walter Baumhammer, a member of the MT2010 project team, said the new structure aligned the MT training continuum to the employment reality.

"An occupational analysis was done that asked 'what does an AB do at sea?' – and that is exactly what we are going to train for," CPOMT Baumhammer said.



**TIMES OF CHANGE:** ABMT Hugh Daniell (right) and POMT Neil Harris monitor the gauges in the main engine space aboard HMAS Perth.  
Photo: ABIS Morgana Ramsey

"Now we are only going to train a sailor to the level they need to conduct organic maintenance. That is why the ITT at HMAS Cerberus is now 26 weeks."

The MT2010 continuum will include a transition plan through to chief petty officer and is expected to be rolled out for TTP92 sailors on their next promotion.

CPOMT Baumhammer said although all MT sailors were now being recruited and trained under the new system, development work on the MT2010 career continuum was continuing.

"This wasn't designed on a whim – it took a lot of consultation with the MT community," he said.

The new trade courses are currently being

developed by TA-ENG, with the view to having them ready for January 2012.

"MT2010 recruits won't be ready to do the courses for another three-and-a-half years; it will be TTP92 sailors already out there who don't have a trade who will be ready for the first courses," CPOMT Baumhammer said.

The MT2010 project team is located in the Directorate of Navy Category Management (DNCM). More information about MT2010 can be found on the DNCM (Marine Engineering) website at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/navyweb/sites/DNCMME/ComWeb.asp?page=108295>, and inquiries can be sent to [dncmteam@drn.mil.au](mailto:dncmteam@drn.mil.au)

## FIVE NEW TRADES

- ▶ **DIESELS:** will include generic fitting, mechanical systems and marine gas turbines.
- ▶ **ELECTRICAL:** where required, additional training will be provided in high voltage (above 5kV).
- ▶ **WELDING:** includes generic fabrication skills.
- ▶ **FLUID POWER:** includes all ship fluid power aspects such as davits, steering, stabilisers, controllable pitch propeller systems, winches and pumps (regardless of medium being pumped).
- ▶ **REFRIGERATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING**

## SIMULATION REVOLUTION

THE use of simulation will deliver training to sailors in a safe training environment while vastly reducing the on-the-job training load on ships at sea.

Simulators, virtual reality and mock-ups will replicate common ship platforms but will be supplemented by realistic special effects, accurate behaviour models and equipment that are presented in the virtual world.

The equipment will be represented with sufficient fidelity and integration to enable individuals and teams to demonstrate, practise and be assessed on MT tasks by MST, MSC and MSM operators.

The system will be initially located at HMAS Cerberus with two additional installations planned for Training Centres East and West after testing and acceptance of the initial system.

## New position established

FORMER Commodore Flotillas (COMFLOT) CDRE Stuart Mayer became the first officer to assume the newly created position of Commodore Warfare (COMWAR) on October 28.

The new position supersedes the former COMFLOT title and was changed because the old title no longer accurately reflected the function undertaken.

Commander Australia Fleet RADM Steve Gilmore said the old position carried with it potential for confusion over the roles and responsibilities of the position in a contemporary context.

"The COMFLOT role had evolved under New Generation Navy (NGN) and with the implementation of the Fleet Forward Strategy," RADM Gilmore said.

He said the COMWAR position would focus on three key outcomes of command, standards and warfare development.

"It is recognition of the transition that the former COMFLOT position has undergone post-NGN and is a means to sharpen the focus of the position moving forward."



**NEW TITLE:** CDRE Stuart Mayer, pictured here in the Expeditionary Warfare Operations Centre aboard USS Bonhomme Richard during Exercise RIMPAC 2010, is now Commodore Warfare.  
Photo: ABIS Dove Smithett



Australian Government

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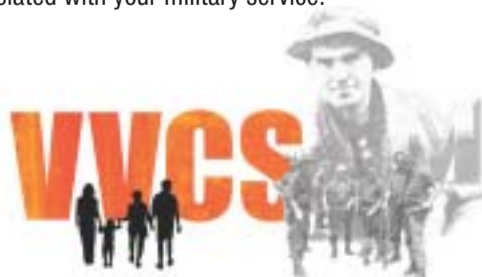
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# New reserve payroll on track

**CHANGES IMPLEMENTED:** Reserves now get paid via PMKeyS.

By Angela Richards

THE reserve payroll system was incorporated into PMKeyS on October 4 and more than 10,000 payments have been made to reserve members since implementation.

A number of changes to reserve pay forms and processes have occurred, including a move from monthly to fortnightly pay cycles, a new-look payslip now delivered to members' home addresses, and a new WebForm (AE126-1) for attendance diaries, applicable from October 1.

## Payments for five days continuous training

Until October 4, five days of continuous reserve training triggered an automatic payment to members in the CENRESPAY II payroll system. The introduction of the new system has changed this process, with all payments – including five days of continuous training payments – now paid on a fortnightly basis, in line with the fortnightly pay cycle in place across the whole of Defence.

## New reserve payroll cut off dates

It's essential that all reserve

members are aware of pay-related deadlines to avoid delays to payments. The RPAC cut off time is 4.30pm AEST/AEDT on the Wednesday of off-pay week, for payment the following Thursday.

Any requests for off-cycle payments to reserve members will only be approved in cases of genuine hardship. Any attendance diaries not submitted before the fortnightly pay cut off will be processed during the following pay cycle.

A detailed reserve pay calendar for the 2011/2012 financial year is available from each reserve unit, the PMKeyS support intranet site, the PMKeyS online library or by emailing [payrollimprovementproject@defence.gov.au](mailto:payrollimprovementproject@defence.gov.au)

## PMKeyS Self Service for reserves

PMKeyS Self Service (PSS) will not be available to reserve members until 2012 as Phase 2 of the Technical Refresh is scheduled to occur next year.

This phase will see the introduction of PSS functionality for reserve members with DRN access and enable reservists to access payslips and record attendances online.

## KNOW YOUR PAY RESPONSIBILITIES

### ► Are you a new enlistee or recently transferred from the Permanent ADF?

If so, ensure all commencement paperwork has been submitted for processing – this includes the provision of current bank account details to facilitate payments.

### ► Are your bank account details up-to-date?

If you're a reserve member and wondering why you aren't receiving payments, you may be one of over 150 members who don't have up-to-date bank account details in PMKeyS. It is your responsibility to ensure that your details are up-to-date.

### ► Do you know when reserve pay cut off is?

Check the PMKeyS online library for details about fortnightly reserve pay cut off deadlines.

### ► Need further assistance?

Call **1800 DEFENCE** for all payroll queries.

# Protect your DHOAS subsidy

MEMBERS in receipt of the Defence Home Owner Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) subsidy or who have applied for the subsidy before receiving posting orders need to be mindful of the occupancy obligation provided under DHOAS legislation.

As the peak Christmas-New Year posting period comes closer members need to be aware of the requirement to occupy a DHOAS property for 12 months from when the subsidy commences.

Director Relocations and Housing Alan McClelland said payments would not be jeopardised if members intended to occupy the home for 12 months but then received a new posting order.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) can approve a reduced period of occupancy if a member is being posted and service requirements prevent them from occupying a DHOAS property for the full 12 months.

Additionally, Mr McClelland said

members who receive a posting order and are unable to move into the DHOAS home before that posting takes effect could be adversely affected.

"They will either not be eligible for subsidy or will have their subsidy payments ceased, depending on the member's situation," Mr McClelland said.

Personnel are encouraged to notify DVA of any change in circumstances by lodging a change of circumstances form, which can be downloaded from the DHOAS website.

Where postings are concerned, members are requested to notify DVA of their posting before they vacate the DHOAS subsidised property.

For further information or advice about DHOAS and its occupancy provisions, members can call a subsidy adviser on **1300 424 627** before they take up their posting or make changes to their DHOAS loan. The change of circumstances form is available at [www.dhoas.gov.au](http://www.dhoas.gov.au)

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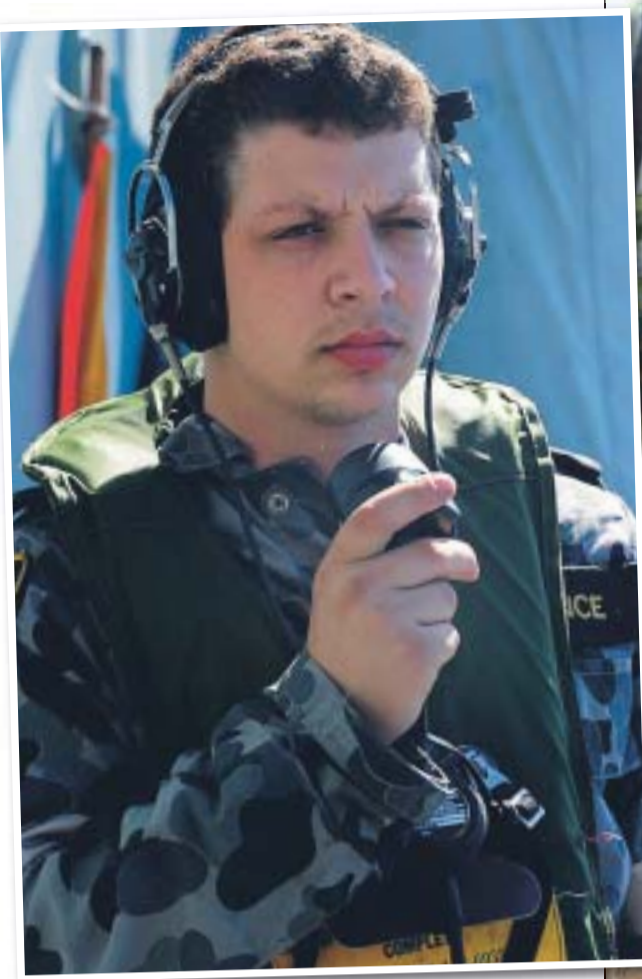
A SURVEY seeking members' views on the type of on-base and off-base accommodation assistance and facilities for Member without Dependents (MWOD) and Member with Dependents Unaccompanied (MWD(U)) is now available on the intranet.

Defence is currently reviewing MWOD and MWD(U) accommodation assistance to ensure that

future accommodation solutions meet the requirements of eligible members and the ADF.

The survey began on November 21 and will finish on December 9. All members are encouraged to take part.

The survey can be found on the DRN Pay and Conditions homepage under ADF News at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/pac>



**ALL FOCUS:** SMNET Toby Spence 'on comms' during a boat evolution serial aboard HMAS *Darwin* off the coast of Western Australia in support of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October.  
Photo: CPL Chris Moore



**WORKING TOGETHER:** CPL Joshua Irvine, LSMED Trent Crossdale, ABCD Jesse McMichael, PO Daniel Koim and SMNCD Brent McGregor with a collection of 75mm projectiles found in a cave used by the Japanese for ordnance storage during World War II. The sailors and soldier are conducting Operation Render Safe in PNG.  
Photo: ABIS Sarah Williams

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**SPECIAL MOMENT:** LSATV Matthew Hawkins meets his four-month-old twins McKenna and Elijah for the first time after HMAS *Toowoomba* returns from her deployment to the MEAO.  
Photo: ABIS Morgana Ramsey



**WELCOME HOME:** ABATV Shane Gibson is welcomed home by his family after six months away in the MEAO aboard HMAS *Toowoomba*.  
Photo: ABIS Morgana Ramsey



**A NEW LOOK:** ABMT Jessica Kelly joins fellow HMAS *Gascoyne* personnel in giving their time to paint classroom buildings at the Raluana Community School in Papua New Guinea. Photo: ABIS Sarah Williams



**HARD AT WORK:** (Above) PONPC Roy Wright, of HMAS *Gascoyne*, volunteers his time to give the Raluana Community School buildings a fresh coat of paint during Operation Render Safe in Papua New Guinea.

**MOVING UP:** (Right) CMDR Scott Craig, Commander Combined Joint Task Force 663, presents SMNCD Daniel Crichton with his epaulettes for promotion to AB during Operation Render Safe. Photos: ABIS Sarah Williams



**BELOW THE WAVES:** AB Jenna Dean aboard HMAS *Farncomb*. Photo: MAJ Michael Brooke

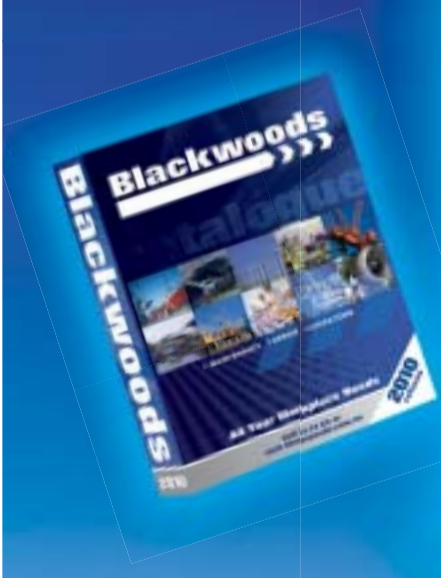


**ALL SORTED:** (Above) AB Dallas Smith sorts mail at Multinational Base Tarin Kot in Afghanistan. Photo: ABIS Jo Dilorenzo



**ON WATCH:** (Left) SBLT Amy Hyatt keeps a lookout during Exercise Bersama Lima. Photo: MAJ Michael Brooke

Sometimes you can judge a book by its cover.



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# That's nothing to sneeze at

'Hayfever season' doesn't stop with the end of spring – the summer months can also be a real itch. CPL Zenith King reports.

IT OFTEN jumps up and bugs us when we least want it – when we're on holidays or settling into a new location.

Hayfever – the sneezing, sniffing, itching eyes and itchy skin – tends to hit us in the warmer months and also when we're moving into new environments.

When we're relocating house, we're often so busy moving furniture and making sure the kids are okay that we don't give much thought to our new surroundings and what the potential impacts may be on our health.

Therefore, it's handy for those hayfever sufferers within Defence who may be travelling to new places or relocating interstate over the summer break to think beforehand about what they may be getting their sinuses into so they can be better prepared for any allergic reaction.

Hayfever is the common name for allergic rhinitis and is the result of an allergic reaction in the nose, throat and eyes.

The most common cause of such reactions comes from the inhaling of airborne pollens from grasses, plants and trees.

Pharmacist Tania Bretton said hayfever sufferers were particularly vulnerable when moving into environ-

## BEATING SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Showering, washing your face and using a saline nasal rinse can help to physically remove the allergens and, therefore, reduce symptoms.
- ▶ When gardening, wear protective eyewear and/or face masks.
- ▶ In the home, clean regularly to reduce dust, use dust mite-resistant or low-allergy bedding, wash linen weekly in hot water, keep animals outside and reduce mould by using extraction fans in bathrooms.



ments they had not had exposure to previously.

"Most people will not react at all, some may experience mild hayfever that clears in subsequent years or the hayfever may occur annually," she said.

"For people who are only affected for the first season, their reactions are usually mild and their immune system makes antibodies to the pollen so that the reaction is lessened the next season. This is the basis for desensi-

tisation injections that are often a last resort for severe sufferers.

"People who react quite severely are less likely to have their hayfever resolved."

Ms Bretton said hayfever symptoms were triggered by an allergic response.

"The symptoms and severity depend on what the person is reacting to, the allergen, how sensitive they are to it and how much of the allergen is present," she said.

"Common triggers are pollen, dust

mites, moulds and animal dander (skin cells and fur). For example, if someone reacts to pollen, they may react worse on windy days or when that particular plant is in bloom."

Ms Bretton said although hayfever was most common during spring, the condition could often extend into the summer months.

"The main explanation for this is that the person is in constant contact with the allergen. This occurs most commonly with allergens other than pollen," she said.

"Identifying and avoiding exposure to the allergen is the best way to minimise the severity and occurrence. This can be difficult and time consuming, but avoiding pollen by staying indoors with the doors and windows closed can help.

"Once the triggers have been identified, avoiding them and minimising exposure is step one.

"It is virtually impossible to avoid all of the triggers at all times, so symptomatic relief with medications is the next step."

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# Bill blogs on ... running

IT'S amazing how running has become my saviour. As the weather improves, instead of utilising the gym I'm finding myself pounding the pavement.



I participated in my second fun run last week and completed 6.4km in 39 minutes. As with the first fun run, I found myself overtaking younger people and maintaining a steady pace.

Leading up to the run I trained sporadically, and my motivation was still in need of a boost.

However, with the discipline of the previous months training, I was able to push ahead and finish the race.

I've put the scales away for the moment and I am using my original method of weight gain or loss, my clothing.

The buttons on my uniform are still there so I'm still on the right side of the ledger.

As we come into the last few weeks of the 'Join Bill Campaign', I encourage members undertaking their weight loss campaigns to update their achievements.

Send in your emails and tell us how you are going.

I still have a long way to go; the journey continues.

Email Bill at [vasilis.solomou@defence.news.gov.au](mailto:vasilis.solomou@defence.news.gov.au)



**TEAMWORK AT NEW HEIGHTS:** ADF skydivers complete a speed star formation at the 2008 Defence Parachute Championships and, inset, SBLT Jonathan Poulton holds on to the wing of a plane before jumping.

# Diving back into the sport

By Sharon Palmer

FOR most people, jumping out of a plane is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and once is more than enough.

Others such as SBLT Jonathan Poulton from 723 Squadron happen upon it and get hooked.

"I did a tandem skydive with the Parachute Training School while waiting at

HMAS Albatross for the basic observer course," he said.

"Before I was even on the ground I was sold that this was a sport I wanted to get into.

"I have had my A licence for two years, however, due to work commitments and the need to constantly gain approval to compete, I have had limited opportunity to participate fully."

That will now change for SBLT Poulton and other ADF skydivers after sports parachuting was recently re-granted approved sports status by the Australian Defence Sports Council, having been knocked back four years ago.

"Now that the sport will have regular sanctioned training camps and competitions, my involvement will increase," he said.

"Many ADF personnel are competing as members of civilian teams and it would be good to see ADF and Service teams representing."

SBLT Poulton said skydiving was one of the safer sports.

"Injuries and accidents, in my limited experience, are caused by inexperienced people operating outside of their capabilities," he said.

The Australian Defence Parachute Association's first skills camp is scheduled for December 19-23 at Skydiving Sydney in Picton. A competition will be held at the end of the camp with the aim of selecting a team to represent the ADF internationally.

For more information, contact WO1 Phil Thamm at [philip.thamm@defence.gov.au](mailto:philip.thamm@defence.gov.au)

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# ADF women give Kiwis a lesson

THE 25th anniversary of the Australian Defence Softball Championships was capped off in Werribee on November 4 when the ADF women's team beat a highly fancied New Zealand team in a Test match.

The ADF team, coached by ACW Tanya McGregor and with three co-captains – dual Olympian SGT Tracey Mosley, WO2 Virginia Morris and CPO Donna Edge – won 10-5.

The Kiwis had plenty of support because more than 100 personnel from the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Royal New Zealand Navy and New Zealand Army contested the titles alongside about 100 ADF players from October 29.

But the ADF women, sticking to a structured game plan, were not put off by the vocal supporters.

It was a different story in the men's Test. The ADF team, which has only beaten New Zealand once in a number of encounters, continued its run of outs with a 5-14 loss.

Led by captain CPL Tony Chave and coached by PO Justin Bayliff, ADF surprised the strong NZDF lineup by taking the early lead.

But the depth and experience of



the NZDF team allowed it to claw back the lead.

The Tests were the culmination of a memorable championship that began with cultural ceremonies.

First, a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony was conducted by elders of the Wurundjeri people to formally welcome all participants.

Then Maori elders from the Melbourne community responded with a traditional Maori welcome which featured songs and a haka performed by all members of the visiting NZDF contingent.

Then followed the games, broken by a rest day on November 1 to coincide with the Melbourne Cup.

The Australians and New Zealanders both played in a preliminary round competition with the top two teams from

each country playing in their respective national finals.

In the Australian finals, Queensland/Northern Territory won both the men's and women's sections, beating NSW and ACT respectively in tough encounters.

In the New Zealand finals, Air Force defeated Army in the men's final and Army downed Air Force in the women's final.

On the night before the Tests, a packed dinner was held at the Hideaway Club at RAAF Base Laverton, at which the 25th Anniversary Journal of the Australian Defence Softball Association was launched.

This 112-page booklet provides a detailed coverage of Australian Defence Softball from its beginnings in 1986 to the present day. Copies are available by contacting Alicia Matene at [alicia.matene@defence.gov.au](mailto:alicia.matene@defence.gov.au).

The ADF now hopes to participate in the NZDF Championships in Auckland in 2013.

Navy representatives were named among the ADF men's and women's squads for 2012. **Men:** PO Justin Bayliff, LS Brendan Chappell, LS Chris Murray, AB Rowan Davies, AB Evan Horvat, AB Michael Taylor, PO David Williams, PO Linden Mooney, SBLT Jude Power, PO Adrian Trevis, AB Daniel Green, MIDN Kristopher Spencer. **Women:** CPO Donna Edge, AB Jo Russell, LS Michelle Powell, AB Julie Waller, LS Candice Freeman, AB Krystal Moona.

**BATTER UP:** Former CPO Melinda Dagg winds up in the 'Past Players' match and, inset, ADF men's team coach PO Justin Bayliff pitches for NSW in the final against Queensland/Northern Territory. Photo: SGT Belinda Larson

## Fencing novice adds Pow

MIDN Fiona Pow enjoyed the chance to develop her skills further in the novice women's foil competition in the 2011 ADFA Fencing Tournament on October 15.

In a flurry of fast-moving duels she placed fifth in her section.

MIDN Pow was among 11 ADFA Fencing Club members who competed against 35 fencers at the ADFA Indoor Sports Centre in Canberra.

Also at the tournament, ADFA took the honours, 45-41, in its grudge match with the Australian National University – a rivalry spanning 10 years.

The win gave ADFA the trophy for the first time since 2007.

It has placed ADFA fencers in a strong position for the Australasia Open Fencing Championships in Sydney on December 2.

MIDN Pow said the tournament was a great chance to mix in the fencing community.

"The best thing about fencing is the self-discipline which is needed," MIDN Pow said.

"The focus and precision required can be applied to military tasks as well as fencing."

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# An oar-some partnership

NAVY celebrated its ongoing relationship with surf lifesavers from across Australia with the launch of the 2011/12 Australian Surf Rowers League (ASRL) season on the Gold Coast.

The first round of competition in the series marked the start of the fourth year of Navy's naming rights.

More than 300 surf rowers from 60 crews – competing in men's, women's, masters' and junior sections – took to the water at Surfers Paradise on November 5-6.

Navy is on the search for personnel to put their hand up to form national Navy men's and women's surf boat teams, to be based in Sydney.

The ASRL series will consist of 23 events at some of Australia's premier beaches, ending at Stockton Beach in Newcastle in February.

Navy spokesperson CDRE David Letts said the partnership with ASRL was mutually beneficial.

He said Navy's sponsorship of ASRL allowed surf lifesaving clubs to compete all across Australia and also boosted Navy's profile, helping gain community support.

"By nurturing the sport, Navy provides the Australian Surf Rowers League with the necessary resources to assist them in recruiting lifesavers, both male and female," CDRE Letts said.

Bert Hunt, president of the ASRL, said the importance of the relationship could not be underestimated.

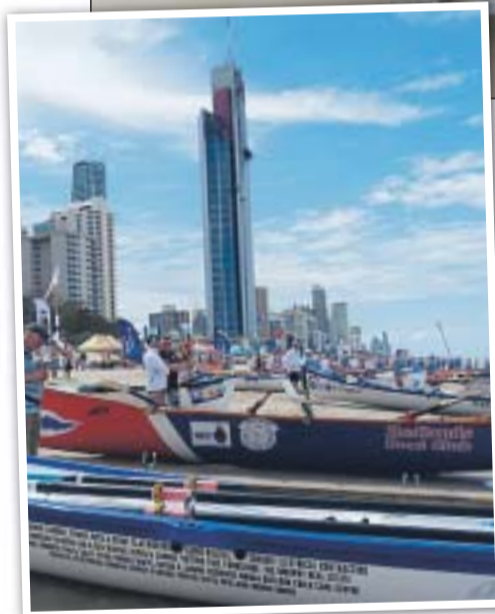
The ASRL has more than 3000 volunteer members from across 260 clubs competing in surf boat competitions throughout Australia.

"The more lifesavers are in the water, the more lives saved," Mr Hunt said.

"It's amazing when you think about the synergies between Navy and ASRL. While the Navy protects the Australian coastline, the ASRL protects the shores of every state and territory around the country."

723 Squadron provided one of the highlights of the weekend, putting on a public show in an Agusta A109E helicopter piloted by LEUT Ben Lancaster and his crew of LEUT Andrew Serchen and LSA Dan Colbert.

Personnel interested in helping establish a Navy surf boat team to take part in the ASRL series should contact LCDR Don Hogarth at [donald.hogarth@defence.gov.au](mailto:donald.hogarth@defence.gov.au)



#### SUN AND SURF:

(Above) Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club women's crew Kylie Buf, Shannon Grimsey, Emily Liner and Courtney Draver relax before the competition.

**VERY GC:** (Left) The Gold Coast's famous skyline provides a backdrop as people crowd the beach at Surfers Paradise for the launch of the ASRL Series.

**REACHING OUT:** (Right) LS Laura Morris, of the Defence Force Recruiting Centre in Brisbane, applies a Navy 'tattoo' to the arm of a young supporter on the Gold Coast.



**UP IN SMOKE:** The Navy Rally team pictured earlier in the year.

## 'Devastating' end to impressive season

THE Navy Rally team suffered a cruel blow in the final few kilometres of the season-ending Darling 200 Rally when a crash ended its dream of a podium finish.

The husband-and-wife team of LSMTSM Justin White and Kristin White finished the Sportsman Series of the Western Australia Rally Championship in fifth place, having failed to finish in the final event at Jarrahdale.

They had been on course for second in the overall standings as they drove their Toyota Corolla to a 47-sec-

ond buffer ahead of their nearest rivals at the start of the event's final stage.

But a driver error resulted in the car sliding into a tree stump.

LSMTSM White said it was a "devastating" way to end the team's debut season.

"Rally really is a cruel sport. It wasn't to be," he said.

"We came off the racing line and hit the slippery pea gravel only to slide out of control into a tree stump. The impact was not severe and Kristin and I were fine. All that safety gear really does make a difference.

"My heart dropped when I realised we were stuck. We tried to salvage our season in a frantic panic to dig the car out of the ditch, but it took too long. We had just thrown away our season."

Reflecting on the season, LSMTSM White said it had been a learning experience.

"We were the second best state rookie driver and co-driver this year out of over 20 teams that debuted. We produced top-five times against teams who had been competing for over a decade, and we had a blast doing it," he said.

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**HEAT OF BATTLE:** (Above) AB Ash Hudson and (right) Navy defenders AB Liam Chandler, SMN Jason Kingdon and AB Rick Lea try to block an Army header.



**GOING LONG:** Men's team coach PO Barry Rice looks up field for a passing option.

# Striker's haul sinks Army

By CFN Max Bree

THE golden boot of AB Amanda Aldridge has propelled the Navy women's side to victory at the Australian Defence Force Football (ADFF) national carnival in Sydney from October 29 to November 3.

Having finished the competition equal with Army on four wins and one loss, Navy claimed the title on a count-back of goals.

Navy scored 11 goals for only two conceded – much better than the Army's 10 goals for 5 conceded.

Army got the better of Navy in a tight opening game, winning 1-0.

Navy bounced back with a 3-0 win over Air Force, exacted 4-1 revenge on Army and finished the competition by thumping Air Force 4-0.

The Navy women's win brought an end to Army's three-year winning streak.

Sharpshooter AB Aldridge put five behind the keeper to finish as the competition's equal highest goal scorer.

But the HMAS Watson sailor was quick to play down her part in the team's achievement.

"The girls got it up there, and I was just lucky enough to take the penalties," AB Aldridge said.

AB Aldridge singled out newcomer SMN Shelby Fitzhardinge for praise.

"She came a long way over the tournament. She was definitely the most improved," AB Aldridge said.

In the men's competition, Navy

finished second after narrowly going down to a physical and talented Air Force side.

The Navy men began the competition with a 2-1 win over Army before the boys in blue lost to Air Force 1-2.

But Navy hit back with a 4-2 win against the Australian Public Service (APS) team.

APS finished third in the men's competition, while Army placed fourth.

Navy's impressive overall performance continued with a second place in the men's over 35s.

The team posted a 1-0 win over Air Force and produced a dominant 3-0 effort against the APS.

However, Army ended Navy's run with a 2-1 win.

Army finished top of the over 35s, while Air Force came third and APS finished fourth.

Men's coach PO Barry Rice said the tournament showed that Navy soccer was strengthening on and off the park.

"Increased sponsorship, better qualified coaches and a professional set-up has seen the performances and results steadily rise over the past few years," he said.

"There is also a real family feel among Navy football, with a fantastic team spirit and motivation to succeed."

For more information about Navy soccer, visit [www.navyffa.com](http://www.navyffa.com)



**UNDER PRESSURE:** AB Jules Gordy tries to control the ball and keep it from an Army opponent in the opening match. Photos: POIS Rex Hunt

## IN BRIEF

### Atkins leads shooting team to New Zealand

SHOOTER PO Steve Atkins will lead the Defence team into battle at the 2012 Australasian Police and Service National Trap and Skeet Championships in New Zealand next year. PO Atkins, of HMAS Albatross, secured a place in the 'down the line' and skeet Defence teams with his all conquering performance at the Defence Clay Target Association Inter-service Championships in September. He was the championship's overall winner with a score of 683. Navy won the Combined Service Team Shield for the third consecutive year. CPO Chris Nightingale will join PO Atkins in the skeet team at the New Zealand event starting late February.

### Sub group tees off for some team bonding

A LARGE group of enthusiastic golfers enjoyed a team-building day on the fairways for the Submarine Support Group's golf day in Western Australia earlier this month. The team of ABMT Zachary George and SMNCIS Chris Smith won the event with 38 strokes, just two over par, at the Marri Park Golf Course near Perth. Three teams tied for second on 41. Twenty-four sportsmen teed off in a fully fledged Ambrose competition. The event was a team-building activity to promote cohesiveness and efficiency in the workforce.

### Take on the 'mudder' of all challenges

NAVY personnel should start training now if they want to take on the 'mudder' of all challenges. Organisers of 'Tough Mudder' – dubbed the world's most extreme obstacle challenge – are urging service personnel to test their endurance and mental toughness when the event arrives in Australia next year. A 'Tough Mudder' will be held at Phillip Island in March-April and another in Sydney in September. Will Dean, developer of the concept, said Tough Mudder events in the US attracted more than 10,000 entrants, and he expected likewise in Australia. The challenge consists of a 20km trail over rugged terrain, featuring steep inclines, water hazards and military-style obstacles. For more information, visit [www.ToughMudder.com.au](http://www.ToughMudder.com.au)

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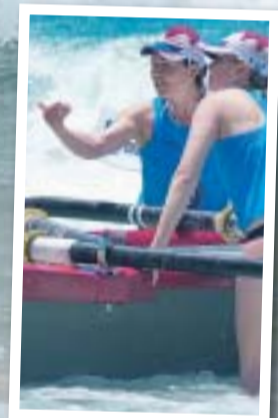
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**HOLD ON TIGHT:** BMD Northcliffe Surf Lifesaving Club's men's team – Peter Hickey (sweep), Liam Bell (stroke), Guy Constant (second stroke), Hayden Cush (second bow) and Nick Costley (bow) – hit the water in the opening round of the Navy Australian Surf Rowers League series on the Gold Coast.  
**INSET:** Amy Chaffey and Amanda Rob from Northcliffe, Queensland.



P26

Navy teams  
up with surf  
lifesavers



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HMAS KANIMBLA  
1994 – 2011



**NAVY**

100 years of  
the RAN



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**READY TO HELP:** HMAS  
*Kanimbla* arrives in Sumatra,  
Indonesia, during Operation  
Padang Assist in 2009.  
Photo: LSIS Andrew Dakin

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# HMAS KANIMBLA 1994 - 2011



My fondest memory of HMAS *Kanimbla* is how the ship's company dealt with the challenges that invariably confront a front line amphibious ship.

— CAPT GEORGE MCGUIRE, COMMANDING OFFICER 2005-06



Over her 17 years in the RAN, hundreds of officers and sailors have served in HMAS *Kanimbla* and seen her perform an enormous range of activities. She was also the first ship that a great number of Army personnel had their first experience at sea, in both exercise activities and on a variety of operations in the region and around the world.

— CMDR TIM BYLES, COMMANDING OFFICER 2009-10

**MILESTONE:** HMAS *Kanimbla* and the Combat Assault Company, a unit of the US Marine Corps, launch and recover amphibious assault vehicles while anchored off the Hawaiian island of Oahu during Exercise RIMPAC 2010. This was the first time an amphibious vehicle of this type had been launched from an Australian Landing Platform Amphibious ship.  
Photo: ABIS James McDougall



## Decommissioning marks end of an era



By Michael Brooke

**W**HEN HMAS *Kanimbla* decommissions at Fleet Base East on November 25 it will mark the end of an era for the RAN and her hard-working Landing Platform Amphibious (LPA) ships.

*Kanimbla* and her sister ship, former HMAS *Manoora*, which decommissioned in May, have provided the RAN with sterling service for the past 16 years, during which time they made significant contributions to ADF operations, deployments and exercises around the globe.

*Kanimbla's* decommissioning ceremony will be greeted with much sadness and nostalgia by hundreds of former crew, who will watch the 'old girl' retire after almost 40 years service with the RAN (1994-2011) and US Navy (1971-1993).

The ship will be fondly remembered by her shipmates as more than a tireless workhorse that brought credit to the ADF, but as a maritime force-multiplier that enhanced Australia's reputation around the globe.

*Kanimbla* began her illustrious career as a US Navy Tank Landing Ship (*Saginaw*) in 1971, but was converted by the RAN into a multi-mission amphibious transport complete with a Maritime Role 2 Enhanced facility (a resuscitative surgical and intensive care capability).

She joined the fleet on December 11, 2000, and won battle honours in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) and praise for her role in numerous humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the Pacific region.

When Australia's neighbours would 'Cry Havoc' in the aftermath of natural disasters, it was *Kanimbla* that responded swiftly to spearhead Australia's humanitarian assistance operations.

Many of *Kanimbla's* former commanding officers said it would be impossible to put a dollar value on what she had achieved for Australia's reputation and diplomacy through her role in coalition operations in the MEAO and disaster relief operations in the Pacific.

CAPT David McCourt led *Kanimbla* from October 31, 2001, until July 22, 2003, and said while under his command the ship's biggest achievement was to go from an unworked-up ship in 2001, to a fully worked-up, cohesive and highly effective command and control warship that served as the command ship for maritime operations in the Persian Gulf during the Iraq War in 2003, and which was described by a US Navy rear admiral as "nothing less than the lynchpin for the broad spectrum of maritime operations during your highly dynamic time in the north Persian Gulf".

"These operations led to the award of a Meritorious Unit Citation, which was fitting recognition of the great efforts of all crew members who responded magnificently to the challenges in their path and who were an absolute pleasure to lead," CAPT McCourt said.

CMDR Brendan Zilko was the ship's final commanding officer and said while *Kanimbla's* decommissioning would be a sad day for many Navy personnel, it was also a chance to look toward the future.

"It will be a day of sadness mixed with great excitement about the future," CMDR Zilko said.

"The LPAs served us extremely well. The lessons learnt will help in the future when the LHDs come online. Because of the nature of *Kanimbla's* service and contribution to disaster relief operations, we have formed a great relationship with 817 Squadron, so it's only fitting that we decommission within a couple of weeks of each other.

"If the 'old girl' could speak, she would say heaps about her time in the RAN. If her bulkheads could speak, as they say, we would be hearing stories about her proud service for decades. She would have words of praise for her decommissioning crew, who have worked very hard this year amid great uncertainty about her future. But, to the credit of the ship's company, they have really dug deep and done a fantastic job."

*Kanimbla's* operational milestones include two Operation Slipper deployments – the Persian Gulf in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 – for which she was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation, and operations Sumatra Assist I and II, Resolute, Padang Assist and Astute.

But without doubt *Kanimbla's* finest hour was Operation Sumatra Assist I and II, when she crash sailed to areas devastated by a tsunami and an earthquake to deliver vital assistance to thousands of people in need.

However, the ship's achievements have sometimes required great sacrifice and she bares the scars of two tragedies, which nonetheless speak volumes of the courage and commitment of her personnel.

*Kanimbla* lost nine ADF personnel when the Sea King helicopter Shark 02 crashed on Nias Island during Sumatra Assist II in 2005, and another two soldiers when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed on her flight deck and sank during Operation Quick Step.

During her long and distinguished career, *Kanimbla* also helped the ADF develop its amphibious doctrine and multinational engagement by supporting exercises such as RIMPAC, Talisman Sabre, Sea Lion, Sea Eagle, Singaroo, Kakadu, Croix Du Sud and Swift Eagle.

The decommissioning of the RAN's last LPA, although a sad and sentimental occasion for her former shipmates, will usher in a new age of the Canberra-class Landing Helicopter Dock ships that will give the ADF a truly expeditionary capability.

*Kanimbla* was the second RAN warship to carry this name and uphold the traditions set by her namesake in World War II, which earned her the motto 'Cry Havoc'.

**Editor's note:** Full coverage of HMAS *Kanimbla's* November 25 decommissioning ceremony will feature in the December 8 edition of *Navy News*.



**FACES OF KANIMBLA:** Above, SMNET Tim Mason conducts flight deck communications during 'Procedure Bravo' as HMAS *Kanimbla* leaves Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during Exercise RIMPAC 2010. Left, SMNBM Tara Riley prepares for a stern door marriage with a landing craft in the lead up to the amphibious phase of Exercise Olgeta Warrior 2009. Below, *Kanimbla's* crew conducts a jackstay with HMAS *Adelaide* in 2001.

Photos: ABIS Dove Smithett, ABIS James Whittle and LSIS Darren Yates





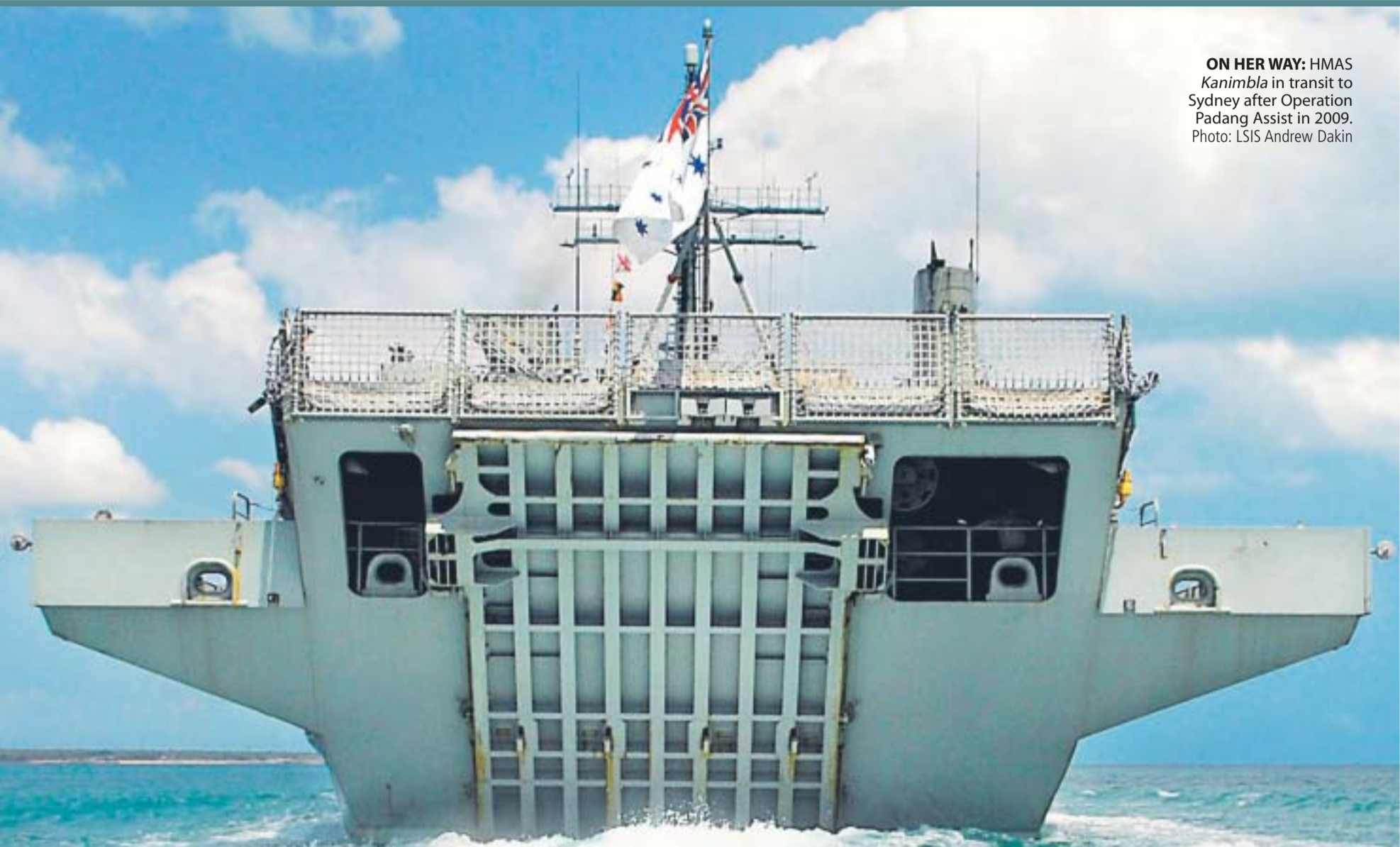
# HMAS KANIMBLA 1994 - 2011



HMAS *Kanimbla* is a great old ship and it will be sad to bid her farewell. But she has done herself proud. The whole country should be proud of what this ship has delivered. It's been a privilege and an honour to actually serve in her.

- LEUT RICHARD CLASSON, 2009-11

**ON HER WAY:** HMAS *Kanimbla* in transit to Sydney after Operation Padang Assist in 2009. Photo: LSIS Andrew Dakin



## If Kanimbla could speak...

"She would say 'I've done my best with the resources available and I'm happy to be paying off after such distinguished service'. There's not much more the old girl could have done."

- LSMT Michael Chaffer, 2003-11

"She would say 'thank you' to the men and women who have kept her going all these years."

- CPL Tom Hickey, SAD, 2009-11

"She would say 'job done, the 'fat lady is singing' and 'I'm going home'. I would expect to see *Kanimbla* sitting back, sipping a sherry, with a smile on her face, knowing that the job is done."

- LEUT Richard Classon, 2009-11

"She would say that she was very proud of her achievements. She would also say that she was very impressed with the personnel posted to her during her 16 years in the RAN. The way in which they kept such an old girl going and able to support the ADF over a number of years was nothing short of outstanding. Equally as impressive was their attitude - the crew generally went about their work happily, striving to achieve the very best they could."

- LCDR Graeme Wong, 2005-09

"She would say 'thank you' to the crew and 'it's time I said goodbye. Thanks for the memories!'"

- TPR Issac Harris, SAD, 2009-11

"She would say how proud she is of the service she has given, as well as the people who have served in her. She has given invaluable service to the Navy and the ADF. She has had a pretty hard life, spanning 40 years in two navies. She deserves to swallow the anchor after such distinguished service."

- ABCIS Mitchell Stubbs, 2010-11

"She would say 'put me to rest, my time has come!'"

- PO Brad Mills, 2009-11

"She would say that while the body of the ship is made of steel, the heart and spirit is made up of the people who crewed her and they were magnificent."

- CAPT David McCourt, 2001-03