

# NAVY NEWS

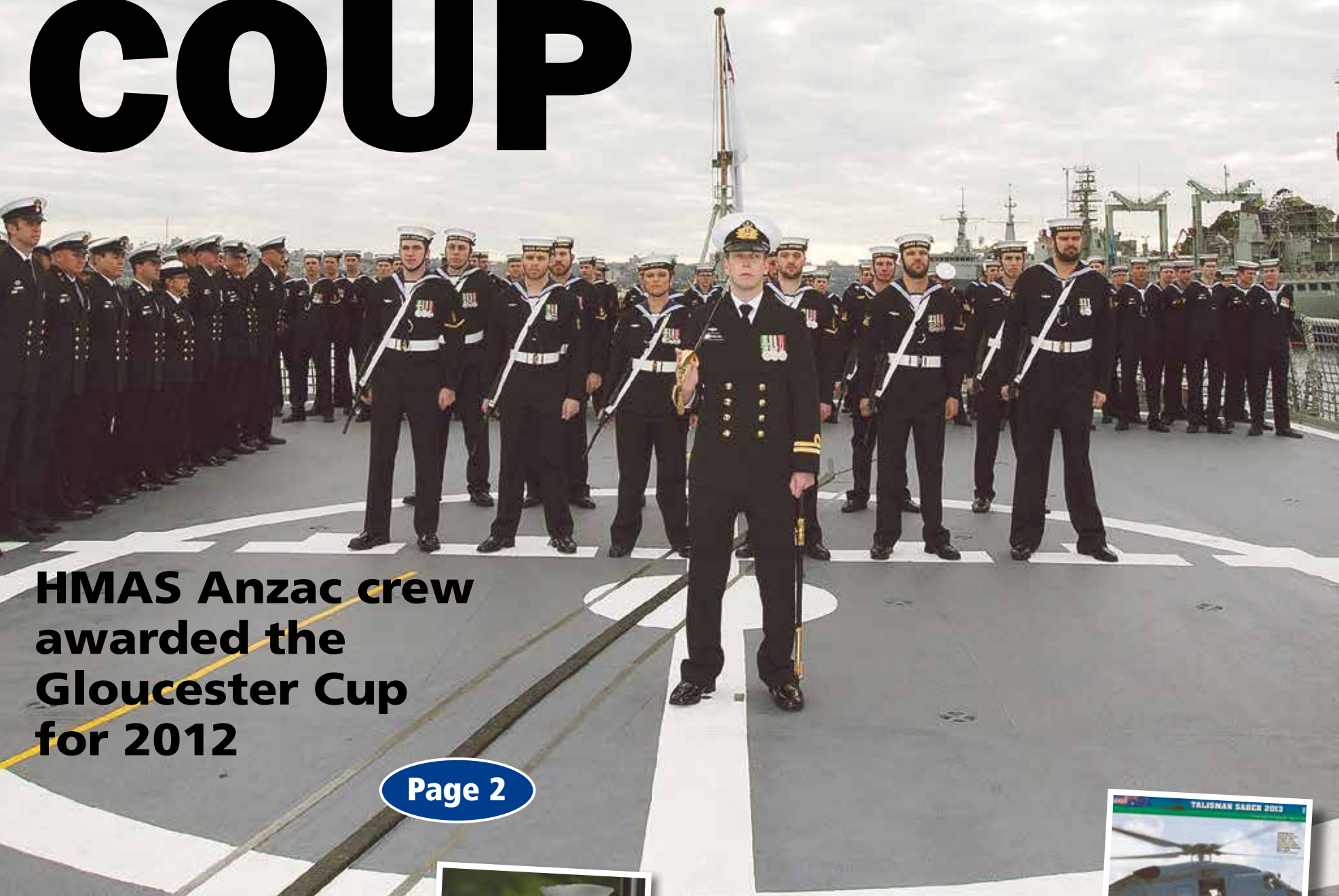


Volume 56, No. 15, August 15, 2013

The official newspaper of the Royal Australian Navy

# ANZAC CUP COUP

**WINNING STAND:** Members of the ship's company of HMAS Stuart (formerly HMAS Anzac) stand at ease on the flight deck as they await the arrival of NSW Governor Marie Bashir for the Gloucester Cup presentation at Fleet Base East, Sydney.  
Photo: ABIS Nicolas Gonzalez



**HMAS Anzac crew  
awarded the  
Gloucester Cup  
for 2012**

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**Korea on show**

Veterans and AFG remember the 'forgotten' war

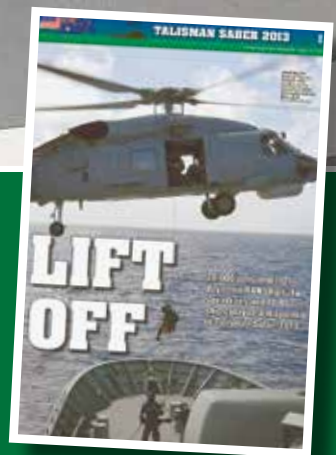
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**It's a wrap**

Talisman Saber 2013 declared a success

**SPECIAL LIFTOUT**





# Collection of awards for Anzac

HMAS *Anzac's* Gloucester Cup winning crew has finally been honoured with the Navy's most prestigious award after they were involved in a hull-swap from HMAS *Anzac* to HMAS *Stuart*.

*Anzac* was announced as the winner of the Gloucester Cup and five other 2012 Fleet Commander awards when she returned to Fleet Base East on Australia Day after a highly successful deployment to Operation Slipper.

The Gloucester Cup for the most efficient fleet unit was presented by NSW Governor Marie Bashir at a ceremony at Fleet Base East on August 2.

The Gloucester Cup was accepted on behalf of *Anzac's* former CO CMDR John Stavridis by CMDR Jason Hunter.

CMDR Hunter said while he was not CO at the time, he had seen and experienced the exemplary attitude and professionalism of the crew.

"It is a great honour to be selected as the recipient for the 2012 Gloucester Cup," CMDR Hunter said.

COMAUSFLT RADM Tim Barrett said the *Anzac* crew hit some remarkable milestones, working tirelessly to prepare the ship for operational deployment, while demonstrating a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

"During *Anzac's* busy deploy-

ment she conducted maritime security and interception operations from the Red and Arabian Seas to the Gulfs of Aden, Oman, Aqaba and the Straits of Hormuz and Bab-Al-Mandeb," he said.

"While deployed, *Anzac* demonstrated the spirit of pride and determination we have come to associate with her name."

Since news of their Gloucester Cup achievement, the crew of *Anzac* have conducted a hull swap with *Stuart* and are well advanced towards ensuring the ship is prepared for future operations.

The Gloucester Cup was implemented by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and was first presented in 1947.

*Anzac's* ship's company was also recognised with the following awards for 2012:

- SPADA Shield – awarded to the Surface Force unit which had been foremost in all areas of Major Fleet Unit operations, safety, reliability, warfare and unit level training;
- Commodore Wardle Cup – awarded to the unit that achieved the highest standard in fleet communications;
- Supply Excellence Award – awarded to the fleet unit that achieved the highest standard of supply excellence;
- Electronic Warfare Proficiency

Shield – awarded to the fleet unit that achieved the highest standard in electronic warfare;

• Wormald Shield – awarded to the fleet unit that achieved the best results in the area of combat survivability;

• Commander Joint Operations Commendation: Catering Department for its work while deployed to MEAO.



**HANDS ON:** NSW Governor Marie Bashir inspects the guard on board HMAS *Stuart* (above) before presenting the Gloucester Cup (inset) to CO HMAS *Stuart* CMDR Jason Hunter.  
Photos: ABIS Nicolas Gonzalez

## Milestone for Ballarat before Operation Resolute



**READINESS:** Berthing lines are slipped by port services personnel in preparation for HMAS *Ballarat's* departure from Fleet Base East.

Photo: ABIS Sarah Ebsworth

### LCDR Simon Franklin

HMAS *Ballarat* departed Fleet Base East early on August 5 to conduct some additional warfare training before a three-month South East Asian and Operation Resolute deployment.

The deployment follows a month of intense unit readiness workups and is a milestone for a number of the 180 members of the ship's company. Twenty per cent of the crew are undertaking their first deployment, while for others it is the first time they have left Australia.

CO *Ballarat* CMDR Matthew Doornbos said the ship's company has worked hard to prepare for the deployment.

"It has been a busy period leading up to this deployment, with unit readiness workups testing the crew's ability to come together as a team and

show the Navy what she is capable of," CMDR Doornbos said.

"A final training assessment is all that remains and I am looking forward to a successful deployment that will strengthen our ties within the region.

"It will also provide new experiences to members of the ship's company."

*Ballarat* is scheduled to undertake a number of important international engagements during her deployment to South East Asia.

She will visit Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, Singapore and Langkawi in Malaysia, to participate in the Malaysian and Australian Training Exercise with the Royal Malaysian Navy.

*Ballarat* will also take part in Operation Resolute as part of the ADF's commitment to border protection before returning to Sydney in late October.

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# Perth ready for action

LEUT Andrew Herring

HMAS *Perth* is ready for action after completing a successful unit readiness evaluation (URE) that tested the crew's competency across all aspects of operations.

Navy's Sea Training Group embarked in *Perth* on July 13, just before Exercise Talisman Saber 13, to train and mentor the crew as they worked toward this important training milestone.

CO *Perth* CAPT Lee Goddard described the achievement of a URE as a vote of confidence in the ship and its crew.

"The evaluation is about demonstrating to ourselves and to COMAUSFLT that our training has reached a point that we are 'ready for action'," he said.

"It's a formal recognition that we have demonstrated we know our jobs individually, as teams within the ship and that the whole ship's company is working together to make *Perth* a formidable fighting ship."

Achieving unit readiness is something all ships must do.

It's not an easy process and can take several months, beginning with a program of low-level training designed to establish or refresh skills in individual crew members and ship departments, and then developing those skills until the whole ship works together as an effective fighting unit.

It includes warfighting – defending against airborne, surface and sub-surface threats – using the ship's torpedoes, missiles and 5-inch gun, along with damage control, fire fighting and responding to toxic hazards and other emergencies.

Traditional seamanship skills including navigation, manoeuvring, ship handling and small boat operations were tested, as were the ship's communications, weapons and sensor maintenance and engineering teams.



**PASSING WITH FLYING COLOURS:** HMAS *Perth* transits toward the Talisman Saber rendezvous point to meet with a detachment of the US Navy's 7th Fleet. Inset, LSET Cristy Hareman forms up with other members of HMAS *Perth*'s ship's company.  
Photos: LSIS Yuri Ramsey

The vital support people such as cooks, stewards, medics, and administrators were also evaluated.

*Perth*'s ability to operate in close proximity with other ships, and to safely embark and operate a helicopter have also been tested and proven.

"Our training effort to achieve this result on the evaluation has been a four-month journey," CAPT Goddard said.

"It has been interspersed with an intensive trials program on data link and combat system components

associated with the anti-ship missile Defence upgrade.

"A lot of high-end trials and training milestones have been set for this ship and they've all been met because of the goodwill and focus of the ship's company."

"They have engaged external contractors and stakeholders and all have worked together well."

"The crew has worked extremely hard and I was very proud of them when we were told we had achieved the standard required of us."

“Our training effort to achieve this evaluation has been a four-month journey, interspersed with an intensive trials program.”

— CAPT Lee Goddard,  
CO HMAS *Perth*

## Hammerhead crane to be dismantled at Garden Island

Michael Brooke

FOR more than 60 years the hammerhead crane has towered above the sailors and warships that have inhabited the Navy's busiest naval base at Garden Island in Sydney.

But the hammerhead crane will live on only in memory and as museum pieces after it was announced on August 8 that it would be dismantled to allow Defence to use Garden Island to its best possible advantage.

The decision was announced at Fleet Base East by Parliamentary Secretary David Feeney after approval was granted by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for its removal.

Assistant Secretary Environment and Engineering, Defence Support and Reform Group, Michael Healy, said removing the crane would mitigate a safety risk to sailors of falling debris and save Defence around \$700,000 a year in costs.

"The crane hasn't been used for 16 years, its functions being taken over by mobile cranes," Mr Healy said.

"It is rusted and corroded, and is more than 60 years old."

Mr Healy also said the crane added a layer of complexity when maintaining and repairing ships.

The removal of the crane will her-



**MAKING ROOM:** The hammerhead crane at Fleet Base East is to be dismantled.  
Photo: ABIS Sarah Ebsworth

ald a new era for Garden Island as it becomes home to the new Hobart-class air warfare destroyers (AWDs) and Canberra-class landing helicopter docks (LHD), the first of which is due to arrive in early 2014.

The decision to remove the crane comes after a thorough environmental impact assessment which considered heritage impacts and included public consultation.

The conditions of approval

require the high heritage value components of the crane to be identified and salvaged.

An archival record will be made of the crane and its history will be documented by Defence and these records will be available to the public.

Defence is committed to maintaining both the operational effectiveness of Garden Island in supporting the Fleet and also managing Garden Island's historic heritage values.

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# Clearance divers go on show

LEUT Ryan Kelly

MEMBERS of AUSCDT-1 showcased their new maritime counter terrorism-explosive ordnance disposal (MCT-EOD) capability to Fleet Command on July 18.

COMAUSFLT RADM Tim Barrett and Commander Mine Warfare Clearance Diving, Hydrographic, Meteorological and Patrol Forces CAPT Bob Plath attended HMAS *Waterhen* for the demonstration.

The MCT-EOD element was stood up recently to provide explosive ordnance (EOD) and improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) mobility support to ADF units.

To achieve this mission, personnel undertake extensive training which includes specialist insertion techniques including diving, fast roping and parachuting.

The teams are trained to conduct EOD and IEDD at a rapid speed to maintain the momentum of a direct

assault mission. The implementation of the element follows a restructure of the clearance diving teams at the end of last year.

The remodelled teams have been reshaped into five force elements to best suit ADF mission requirements.

This includes maritime tactical operations, mine countermeasures, underwater damage repair, task group explosive ordnance disposal and MCT-EOD.

CO AUSCDT-1 LCDR Sean Logan said the introduction of MCT-EOD capability was progressing well.

"The guys were keen to develop these specialist skills from the start," LCDR Logan said.

"This has been very evident in their commitment to the training."

"While we are yet to realise the full level of capability that we're aiming for, the team has done an exceptional job in a short period of time."

Mine warfare and clearance diving officers are the ADF's maritime EOD/IEDD specialists.



**EXPLANATION:** CPOCD Darren Smith explains to RADM Tim Barrett what the divers are doing as they prepare to enter HMAS *Hawkesbury* as part of a scenario.  
Photo: ABIS Richard Cordell

## Death of a WWII legend

LEUT Andrew Herring

AUSTRALIA lost a legend when Arthur Bancroft, a veteran of *Perth I*, died on July 28.

Arthur was born in Fremantle in Western Australia in 1921. At 19, he left his job in a bank to join the Navy, eager to do his bit for the war.

After joining to become a signalman, he changed category and accepted a demotion to ordinary seaman in order to be posted to a fighting ship as soon as possible.

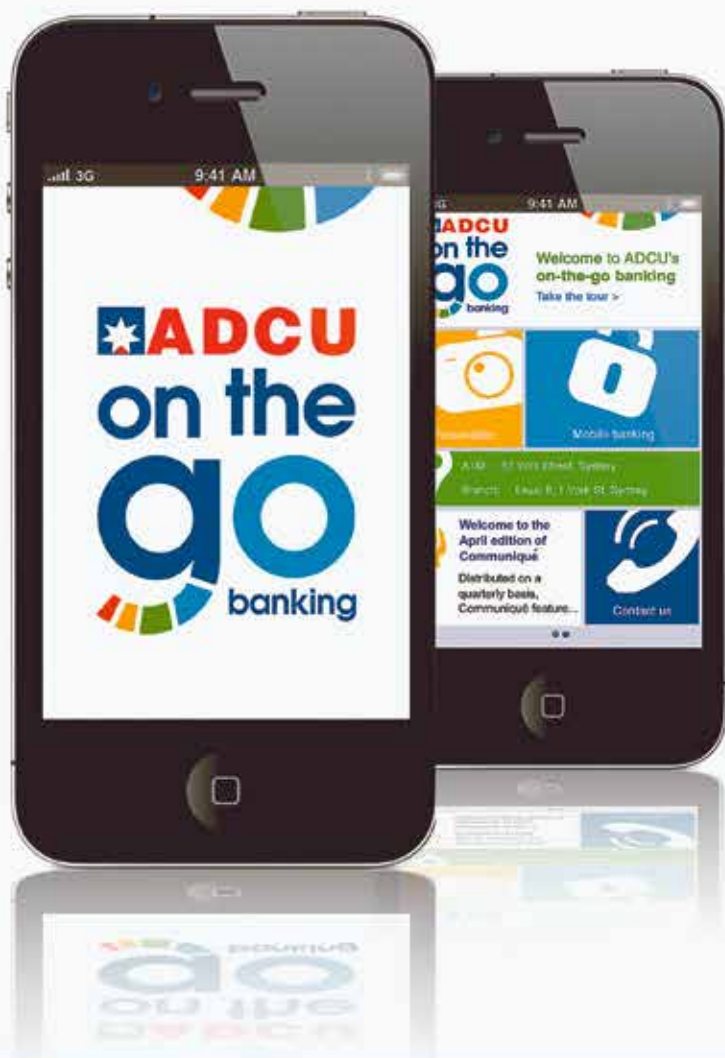
He was posted to the light cruiser HMAS *Perth I* in October 1941,

After surviving a fierce battle as part of the American, British, Dutch and Australian task force defending Java, HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* encountered a Japanese invasion force in the Sunda Strait on February 28, 1941. Overwhelmingly outgunned, outnumbered and surrounded, *Perth* and *Houston* fought valiantly until both ships were sunk.

Arthur, a strong swimmer, was among the survivors.

He spent the next two years as a Japanese prisoner of war, working on the Burma-Thailand Railway before being sent to Japan, only to be torpedoed en route and spending six days clinging to debris at sea before being rescued by a US submarine.

In an email to CO HMAS *Perth* CAPT Lee Goddard, Arthur's son, Colin Bancroft said his father was "a great man who has been an inspiration to many. He may be physically gone but will be remembered by so many."



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# Going for top drop

CPL Nick Wiseman

THE 2013 Defence Blood Challenge was launched by VCDF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin at the Canberra Donor Centre on August 2.

The challenge marks an important time for the Red Cross with a third of all donations throughout the year coming during the challenge period from September 2 to November 30.

As a donor himself, AIRMSHL Binskin said he would look to this year's ambassadors to increase donations to 4000.

"I ask everyone who can donate to help achieve this goal," he said.

"If I can give blood, anyone can."

This will be the fifth Defence challenge.

Anyone, including friends and families, can donate blood or plasma by making an appointment at a donor centre or mobile donor centres nationally and then nominate their chosen service to make their donation count for the challenge.

Donating his 50th plasma donation on the day of the launch was LCDR Stuart Hillam, of the Directorate of Technical Regulation – Navy, who said donating was important and something everyone should do if given the opportunity.

"I take the opportunity as often as I can to give something back," he said.



ON THE WAY: Blood ambassador PO Cartrena Skinner chats with LCDR Stewart Hillam as he makes his first donation for the 2013 Defence Blood Challenge.

Photo: David McClenaghan

"I'd encourage everyone, Navy members particularly, to get behind the blood challenge.

"Get in there and do it now."

This year's blood ambassadors are PO Cartrena Skinner, WO2 Graeme

Reynolds, SQNLDR Andrew Greaves and public servant Joe Guarnieri.

At the launch, Army and Air Force were presented their awards for their results in last year's challenge with Army placing first and Air Force win-

ning in a new category based on per capita donations.

To find out more about this year's challenge, visit [www.donateblood.com.au/defence](http://www.donateblood.com.au/defence)

## Support for women top of agenda

NAVY personnel have helped raise funds and awareness of the issue of violence against women at a number of events.

HMAS *Kuttabul* personnel collected gold coins at the entrance to the base and later hosted a fundraising and awareness morning tea, while HMAS *Harman* supported the White Ribbon Night In, raising money at the Christmas in July function.

White Ribbon Ambassador LEUT Josh Watkin said challenging discriminatory or violence-supporting attitudes was critical to breaking the cycle of gender violence.

"Navy is a big supporter of the White Ribbon campaign," LEUT Watkin said.

"White Ribbon is fundamentally connected to NGN – it is about shaping attitudes and behaviours which respect and promote the wellbeing of every person.

"Across all ranks, we're showing that gender discrimination, sexual misconduct and violence-supporting attitudes are issues we cannot ignore, and we're demonstrating that daily through the efforts of the largest group of ambassadors of any Service."

More information on hosting a White Ribbon Night event can be found at [www.whiteribbon.org.au/night](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/night)



ON SITE: A landing craft vehicle from HMAS *Choules* leaves to collect more Manus Island Regional Processing Centre staff. Photo: SGT William Guthrie

## Choules plays role on Manus Island

HMAS *Choules* has arrived at Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, to support Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) activities as part of Operation Landscape.

Approximately 60 ADF personnel assigned to Joint Task Force 638 have been deployed or have already directly supported Operation Landscape after an announcement by the Australian Government on July 19 to increase the capacity of accommodation facilities on Manus Island.

Commander Joint Task Force 638 WGCDR Kirrily Dearing said the operation had initially utilised specialist logistic, survey and engineering personnel from Army and Air Force.

"What we have seen so far is our ability to stand up a very professional and capable response to important tasks at very short notice to a distant location," WGCDR Dearing said.

"The personnel were predominantly Air Force and Army logisticians, engineers and surveyors undertaking detailed survey and remediation of sites for construction of living and working accommodation by DIAC contractors.

WGCDR Dearing said Air Force had moved more than 104 tonnes of cargo into PNG with C-130J and King Air moving 49.5 tonnes of cargo directly into Manus Island since the first of five flights on July 22.

"Our main works focused on the Manus Island site with trade and survey tasks, however, other personnel were utilised for the logistics task at Port Moresby airport and other jobs.

"At one stage we had 49 personnel deployed to PNG working in quite arduous conditions."

*Choules* has now arrived with 132 crew members on board to provide afloat accommodation, ship-shore transport capability along with logistic and general operational support.

Acting Chief of Joint Operations CDRE Aaron Ingram commended the efforts of all personnel who he said showcased the capabilities of the ADF.

"We have a lot of very smart, talented and hard-working people in the ADF and this is another example of how we can assist other agencies in achieving important tasks as part of a wider team," CDRE Ingram said.

"The ADF has now completed all construction and remediation works requests on Manus Island and handed over the delegated projects to DIAC.

"Planning will commence shortly to return personnel and equipment back to Australia while continuing to support our people who remain working in PNG, our aviators in Port Moresby and our sailors at Manus Island in HMAS *Choules*."

Defence will not be responsible for managing or providing security to the DIAC facilities.



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# Star for a secret mission

After more than 70 years, a retired captain receives the last campaign medal of WWII, **SGT Dave Morley** reports.

**A** SECRET mission up a Russian river in 1941 has earned the oldest surviving graduate of the RAN class of 1934 a belated campaign medal for service north of the Arctic Circle.

CAPT Graham Wright (retd), 93, received the Arctic Star at a ceremony at the British High Commission in Canberra on June 28.

He said he was pleasantly surprised to receive the medal 71 years and seven months after the event.

"I'd never seriously considered the Russian offer of a medal for my service," he said.

"But when the Arctic Star came out and I saw the Archangel trip qualified me, I thought, 'I've earned it – navigating a ship at 32 knots at night'."

The Arctic Star is the last campaign medal of WWII.

Mr Wright was navigator in the destroyer HMAS *Norman* when she was tasked with taking Sir Winston Churchill's representative, Sir Walter Citrine, and five other Trade Union Congress members, to Archangel in North Russia.

Mr Wright said the delegation's task was to travel to Moscow to meet Stalin and ascertain whether the Russians could hold

out against the Germans until Christmas 1941.

"They flew in to Iceland aboard a flying boat and we picked them up there," he said.

"*Norman* was given the job at short notice because the British A-class destroyer detailed had her bow blown off when she hit one of her own mines.

"Then we took them to Archangel after having to navigate up the Dvina River and moor at an old wooden wharf guarded by female Russian soldiers.

"Three weeks later we collected them and took them back to Scotland."

Mr Wright previously served in the old cruiser HMAS *Adelaide* in 1940 when she went to Noumea to take New Caledonia from the Vichy French and hand the country over to the Free French.

After the war, he was CO of the River-class frigate HMAS *Culgoa* during the first British atomic bomb test at Monte Bello Islands.

He said his father encouraged him to join the Navy in 1933.

"He told me I'd always have a shower and three meals a day, and never have to clamber for advancement like in the Army," he said.

Mr Wright received the Naval General Service Medal with



**STAR SERVICE:** CAPT Graham Wright (retd) at home in Canberra with his medals, right, and receiving the Arctic Star from VCDP AIRMSHL Mark Binskin, above, at the British High Commission.  
Photos: SGT Dave Morley and Barbara Samuel-Pope

Palestine clasp in 1938, for leading a platoon of Royal Marines during the Arab Revolt while serving in the battleship HMS *Malaya*.

He completed his active Navy career as NOIC Western Australia in October 1962.



## Are you relocating soon?

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**If you are a Member with Dependants (MWD) and relocating soon, visit DHA Online Services to view available Service Residences on HomeFind.**

**I haven't submitted my removal paperwork yet. What is the next step?**

If you have not yet completed your removal paperwork, DHA can provide you with HomeFind 'Preview Access'. Before 'Preview Access' can be given you will need to nominate a date that your current property will be vacated. This will allow other members and their families a chance to view your property.

**What activities can I perform on HomeFind with 'Preview Access'?**

'Preview Access' provides the flexibility to change your arrival details and then displays properties that meet your housing entitlement and requirements. It also allows you to reserve a property for up to 10 days. During this period, you must submit your removal paperwork to Toll Transitions in order to secure the property.

The property must be available two weeks before and four weeks after your nominated arrival date. Your DHA Housing Consultant will then contact you to discuss your relocation arrangements.

**I have submitted my removal paperwork. What is the next step?**

Once you have submitted your removal paperwork you will be given full access to HomeFind. You can then view and lock down properties that meet your housing entitlement.

The property must be available two weeks before and four weeks after your nominated arrival date. Your DHA Housing Consultant will then contact you to discuss your relocation arrangements.



**SHARING STORIES:** AB Kirsten Wilson with Kevin Daly, right, and LS Simon Fitzgerald with Stanley Starcevic, far right, at the National Korean War Memorial in Seoul.



**TOGETHER:** ACW Katherine Hare, LS Simon Fitzgerald and AB Zoe Tibos form part of the catafalque party at the Australian commemorative service at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea. Right, veterans pay their respects at the service. Photos: LSIS Helen Frank



# Memories honoured in Korea

LSIS Helen Frank

FROM laughter to tears, the members of Australia's Federation Guard (AFG) felt a range of emotions while taking part in memorial services in the Republic of Korea.

July 27 marked the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice that brought the hostilities of the Korean War to an end.

To mark the occasion, the AFG provided catafalque parties and conducted other ceremonial duties at memorial ceremonies around Korea.

A group of 13 guardsmen made the trip with 15 Korean War veterans from Navy, Army and Air Force.

Principal Chaplain Army CHAP Geoff Webb, RSM Ceremonial – Army WO1 David Lehr and MUSN Kaid Normington, of Army Band – Melbourne, also supported the mission.

Members of the AFG spent time sharing stories with the veterans.

The generation gap was bridged as ex-servicemen and women spoke to current personnel.

Guard ABWTR Zoe Tibos said she felt humbled speaking to the veterans and learnt more about what they endured.

"It was really nice to speak with them and hear their stories," AB Tibos said.

"I could really feel the veterans' emotions as they spoke about their experiences, the hard conditions and losing their mates."

The contingent visited the sites of the historical battles of Kapyong and Maryang San where Australian troops played vital roles in the outcome of the war.

The group also visited the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea. The cemetery is in Busan, south of Seoul and is the only UN cemetery in the world.

"I was helping a veteran look for his fallen mate and when we found him we laid a poppy on the grave," AB Tibos said.

"It was very emotional. Standing among all the graves I felt like I was among heroes."

In 1950, the Australian government answered the call from the UN and committed about 18,000 troops including sailors and airmen.

From the beginning of the war on June 25, 1950, until the Armistice on July 27, 1953, Australia suffered about 1600 casualties, including 340 killed in action.

During the war, 30 personnel were captured. Twenty-nine of these were repatriated and one died in captivity.

There are still 43 personnel registered as missing in action.

"I didn't learn much about the Korean War at school, I really had no idea how many Australian troops were involved," AB Tibos said.

"Going to Korea has taught me so much more about the war and how valiantly our troops fought for a country they also didn't know much about."

## Pilot's new perspective

SGT Dave Morley

A FORMER Navy fighter pilot who saw service in the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney during the Korean War recently returned to Korea on a DVA-sponsored tour.

Norman Lee, 83, flew a Fairey Firefly fighter in a ground-attack role against North Korean and Communist Chinese forces during 1951-52.

He said he had always wanted to join the Navy and always wanted to fly.

"I saw an advertisement in the Melbourne Sun in 1947 asking for Navy pilots, so I applied and 33 years later I resigned," he said.

On October 25-26, 1951, three of Sydney's aircraft were shot down and a fourth badly damaged.

An 817SQN Firefly piloted by SBLT Neil MacMillan and CPO Phillip Hancox was forced down in a frozen rice paddy 80km behind enemy lines.

The downed airmen used an Owen sub-machine gun to resist capture by Communist soldiers.

A protective overhead umbrella was provided by Sydney's Sea Furies and Meteor jet fighters from RAAF's 77SQN.

The two airmen were later rescued by Sydney's Dragonfly helicopter, which had flown 172km, the limit of its endurance, to carry out the rescue.

It returned to Sydney with its



**NEW FRIENDS:** WO1 David Lehr and Norman Lee visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea. Photo: LSIS Helen Frank

passengers the following day. But the Communists weren't the only enemy then-SBLT Lee had to contend with.

Bad weather, including Typhoon Ruth, played a big part in Sydney's operations.

Mr Lee said water came into the ship everywhere, which started electrical fires.

"The young aircrew lived above the bomb room in what was called 'the Kasbah'," he said.

"We were playing pontoon when 'fire in the bomb room' was piped. All we could do was deal another card, because what else could we do?"

"The cold didn't affect us much, but the aircraft handlers on the flight deck had to lie on the snow-

covered deck to pull the chocks away and that wasn't fun."

Mr Lee said he flew 25 different types of aircraft during his three decades in the Navy.

"I did a two-year exchange with the Royal Navy where I flew the Seahawk fighter and the Scimitar," he said.

"The Seahawk was a beautiful aeroplane to fly – it was the highlight of my flying career."

For Mr Lee, the most fulfilling part of returning to Korea was seeing the war from the Army's perspective.

"The Army had a totally different war from Navy," he said.

"To see where they fought and the conditions they endured was emotional."



**MEET THE FLEET**

## SAIL OF THE CENTURY

Sydney Heritage Fleet invites you to apply to join the crew of the 1874 barque *James Craig* for a 'Sail of the Century' voyage! Be amongst the flotilla of Tall Ships from around the world as they sail into Sydney Harbour on Thursday 3rd October, marking the start of International Fleet Review celebrations.

Sailing from Sydney on September 26th, *James Craig* will rendezvous with Warships and Tall Ships along the New South Wales south coast, spending a planned 8 days at sea.

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**FIRST IMPRESSIONS:** ABCSOs Jayo Stenz, Chris Carrick and Andrew Johns pose in front of NUSHIP Canberra after visiting the ship on July 23. Photo: Mary-Anne Lane

# 'Big' ship visit opens eyes

LEUT Emily Kennedy

A GROUP of NUSHIP Canberra personnel laid eyes on the ship they will soon call home during their first visit to Williamstown Dockyard in Victoria on July 23.

Most were surprised at the size of Canberra and appreciated the opportunity to explore the ship for the first time.

At 230m long, 32m wide (beam), and the tallest mast going close to touching the base of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Canberra is an awe-inspiring sight.

ABCSO Chris Carrick said the NUSHIP was a lot bigger than he imagined.

"It's massive on the inside as well," he said. "It's incredible – you could get lost quite easily."

ABCSO Jayo Stenz said he was looking forward to seeing the

Operations Room and junior sailors' living spaces. "It's pretty exciting seeing the ship for the first time," AB Stenz said.

"It's bigger than I expected. The Operations Room is closed off at the moment while work continues but I'm looking forward to seeing our workspace when it's finished."

Canberra, the first of two Landing Helicopter Dock ships, is being completed by BAE Systems – Maritime, under a Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) Project.

Significant progress has been made with many living and catering compartments from two deck and below already completed.

Most of the work now underway is within the superstructure above the flight deck (referred to as the 'island') including the Operations Room, Bridge and the Flight Control Room.

There are about 400 contractors on board working to a timeline that will see delivery of Canberra to the Navy from DMO in the first quarter of 2014.

Initial sea trials are due to start in the last quarter of this year.

Canberra is rotating the ship's company through so that the team can familiarise itself with the new ship, the workspaces and equipment.

All personnel are required to undertake a comprehensive safety induction which allows them access to the ship.

More information on Canberra and the LHD project is at [www.navy.gov.au/fleet/ships-boats-craft/lhd](http://www.navy.gov.au/fleet/ships-boats-craft/lhd). Take a tour of NUSHIP Canberra at [http://intranet.defence.gov.au/navyweb/sites/\\_home/ComWeb.asp?page=115170#TourOfNUSHIPCanberra](http://intranet.defence.gov.au/navyweb/sites/_home/ComWeb.asp?page=115170#TourOfNUSHIPCanberra)

## Sailors land chance at craft training

NUSHIP Canberra amphibious department sailors were among the first to attend a dedicated Navy landing craft (LCM-8) advanced marine specialist course held at Army's Ross Island Barracks in Townsville.

POB Shane Bellingham, LSBM Andrew Downey, LSBM Michael Hines and LSBM Clint Murphy completed the two-and-a-half-month course which was the first LCM-8 specialist course held for the RAN.

The course was run by the Australian Army's Maritime Wing, (ALTC-MW), and consisted of 56 training days, the final eight of which were in the form of a 'sailaway'.

The aim of the course was to provide personnel with the skills needed to be licensed to drive Army watercraft.

LS Downey said the course was crucial for Navy personnel who would be operating the future LCM1Es which will be embarked in Canberra.

"One of the things that became apparent on the course was the fact that when you are coxswain of these craft, the buck stops with you," LS Downey said.

"As a LS you have three other people to lead away from the ship and other command support – so it's a lot

of responsibility particularly in rough weather or an operational situation.

"The guys on course found ship handling challenging at times.

"The LCM-8s have a flat bottom, twin screws and no keel so they are susceptible to the elements.

"A lot of skill was required to reverse park the craft into 'pens' which were in the vicinity of a tidal creek which ran quite fast."

The initial two weeks were a familiarisation on the LCM-8 and involved several days on the water around Magnetic Island conducting man overboard, fire, emergency and towing drills.

During this time Canberra personnel were among the first to drive an Army landing craft into a Navy ship, (HMAS Choules), which along with the sailaway and the night beachings was among the highlights of the course.

"I cannot thank Army enough for the way we were made welcome and also the degree to which they were willing to assist us in the training," LS Downey said.

Apart from the four Canberra personnel, the two other Navy personnel on the course were LCDR John Howells and CPO James Dimmick who are working towards establishing a training school for future landing craft coxswains and crews.



**STRAIGHT AHEAD:** LSBM Michael Hines from NUSHIP Canberra stands on the LCM-8 directing the vessel master as they approach the dock of HMAS Choules during landing craft training. Photo: LSBM Andrew Downey

## Back to classroom for Gascoyne

HMAS Gascoyne sailed into Port Vila in Vanuatu on July 29 where the crew was able to go ashore to sample the tropical paradise, receiving a warm reception from locals.

During the visit, Gascoyne hosted Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Edward Nipake Natapei, for a CO's luncheon.

Accompanying Mr Natapei was Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Jeremy Bruer, and several other local dignitaries.

The visit was a good opportunity for Command to speak about the Australian-Vanuatu relationship, common security initiatives, and the role of the Defence Cooperation Program in supporting the Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing through the Pacific Patrol Boat Program.

CO Gascoyne LCDR Aaron Cox said the ship's chefs and steward put on a wonderful lunch receiving a warm thank you from guests.



**HANDS UP:** Students from Kawenu Primary School wave to the camera with Navy personnel from Gascoyne.

"The Deputy Prime Minister was most appreciative and very interested in the capabilities of a mine hunter," LCDR Cox said.

"Vanuatu has had long ties with Australia in enhancing the Police Maritime Wing's surveillance capability and Gascoyne is contributing to this effort while transiting the Vanuatu exclusive economic zone."

In between visiting attractions,

11 members of Gascoyne's ships' company conducted a goodwill visit to Kawenu Primary School where they entertained the schoolchildren with tales from the high seas, song and dance, culminating in a friendly game of soccer.

Gascoyne has now travelled to Nuku'alofa in Tonga, with the ship using the opportunity to conduct collective and individual training during passage.

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# Milestone moments in MH60R training

THE latest group of aircrew from NUSQN725 have completed their Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardisation (NATOPS) checks in Florida, US.

It is another milestone for the squadron which is introducing into service the ADF's most technologically advanced helicopter, the MH60R – or Romeos as they are also known.

In other major highlights ahead of a busy time:

➤ The first of the basic course students are due to arrive from Australia this month to start their 12-month flying training.

➤ NUSQN725 XO LCDR Todd Glynn successfully completed Deck Landing Qualifications on board the guided missile cruiser, USS *Philippine Sea*.

➤ The first pilots, aviation warfare officers and sensor operators are expected to graduate from their advanced training this month, after which they will reinforce their skills with several months of structured on-the-job training by flying with US Navy squadrons.

➤ On July 30, the squadron took pos-

session of a new hangar at 1122 Jacksonville Air Base, a space it will have to vacate when it leaves for home in December 2014.

The airmen who completed their NATOPS in June include two instructors and the first cadre of aircrew for the inaugural MH60R flight to sea.

Now they have grasped flying the Romeo, they have advanced to the tactical stage of the course and are learning to master the aircraft's multi-faceted mission and weapons suite to fight the Romeo.

The students will continue the tactical phase including employing the imposing dipping sonar.

For the new kids on the block, the Romeo will be their first taste of flying the Seahawk helicopter.

The pace will be brisk as they come to terms with cutting-edge systems and learn to exploit the vast amounts of information the Romeo delivers.

Once graduated and on return to Australia they will form part of the first RAN Romeo ship's flight.

With the first aircraft arriving in early December the capability is quickly starting to take shape.



**TOUCH DOWN:** Above, LCDR Todd Glynn who completed deck landing qualifications in the helicopter.



**ON THEIR WAY:** Left, trainees, from left, LEUT Aaron Abbott, LCDR Michael Robertson, LEUT John Flynn and LEUT Warren Oates who completed Naval Air Training and Operation Procedures Standardisation.



**BABY BOOM:** CMDR David Frost, with NUSQN725's new mothers and babies.

Photo: LEUT Mark Flowerdew

## Boosting the population in Jacksonville

NUSQN725 continues to grow in Jacksonville, Florida, but it's not the arrival of new sailors – it's a baby boom.

Over the past five months, five new babies have joined the NUSQN725 family.

CO CMDR David Frost said this

represented a baby for every month the squadron has been formed.

"If we keep this rate up, we'll return home with more US passports than Australian," CMDR Frost joked. "We're in a unique situation here with the squadron forming in the US. It has certainly brought us

all closer together and the entire squadron celebrates the arrival of a newborn.

"I'm very happy for the new mums and dads and I look forward to seeing some of these kids maintaining and flying the Romeo helicopter in 18 years."



**INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW**

## SAIL OF THE CENTURY

The International Fleet Review (IFR), taking place in Sydney Harbour from October 3 to 11, commemorates the centenary of the arrival of the Royal Australian Navy's first seven ships on October 4, 1913.

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## Engineering challenge heats up

**WO Anthony Wills**

STAGE one of the engineering challenge for aviation technicians was fought out between seven teams from July 22-26 at HMAS *Albatross*.

This stage of the challenge required two teams from each squadron and a team from the Navy Aviation System Program Office (NASPO) to compete inhouse to represent their squadron in the next round.

Teams had to repair a section of simulated aircraft structure after damage that mimicked small arms fire or minor impact.

The test required teams to assess the damage, plan the repairs, complete all documentation requirements and then effect the actual repairs.

Competition organiser WO Gerry Eastgate said the competition was designed to be as realistic as possible.

"We ensured that the documentation and administration that would normally be required was included in the competition process," WO Eastgate said.

"The simulated damage had been sustained to both the airframe as well as electrical and communication cabling for avionic systems.

"While it was not a race between the two teams, a time limit was imposed that would be expected in real life scenarios," he said.



**SIMULATING REALITY:** ABATA Matthew Bowker makes repairs during the Engineering Challenge competition. Photo: WO Anthony Wills

723SQN teams were led by POATAs Philip Barrett and Tim McNamara and had quite different approaches to the challenge.

While the damaged structure and cabling appeared simple, the teams quickly found it to be a healthy challenge to ensure the repairs were made in full accordance with relevant instructions and procedures.

ABATA Nathan Edwards, of 816SQN's winning team is hoping for more competition in the future.

"It was a great idea and I think that more people should get involved in next year's challenge," AB Edwards said.

"The idea of winning an overseas trip to an engineering conference makes it even better," he said.

The four winning teams have qualified for the second of the three

rounds to be held September 24-25 at *Albatross*. The overall winning team will qualify to wear a cuff-rate on ceremonial uniforms identifying them as champion technicians and will be afforded an opportunity for overseas travel for an industry exhibition or defence equipment exposition.

Winning teams: **723SQN:** PO McNamara, LSATA Brett Channon, LSATV David Timmers, ABATA Michael Cameron and ABATV Justin Macey. **816SQN:** POATA Troy Stanners, LSATA Tim Bennett, LSATV Gian Archer, ABATA Edwards and ABATV Ryan Bagshaw. **808SQN:** POATA Martin Partridge, LSATA Mark Struber, LSATV David Broadhurst, ABATA Matthew Moore and ABATV Jeffrey Kimmel. **NASPO/HQ-FAA:** POATA David Dillon, LSATA Henry Whitfield, LSATV Shane Gibbon, ABATA Sam Dever and ABATV Quinten Clements.





AFGHANISTAN EXHIBITS: From left, a Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle, artwork, a mural and a damaged Bushmaster storage bin.

Photos: CPL Nick Wiseman

# Telling stories first-hand

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

THE Australian War Memorial's latest tribute is to ADF personnel who served in Afghanistan and the Middle East Area of Operations.

The exhibition, 'Afghanistan: the Australian Story', was opened by CDF GEN David Hurley on August 6.

GEN Hurley said the exhibition told the stories of ADF personnel through their own eyes and in their own voices.

"It captures all aspects of Australia's Afghanistan campaign; the equipment and the evolution of our tasks; the humour and sadness; and, most importantly, our people and their families," GEN Hurley said.

"The exhibition, like the conflict itself, will evoke a range of opinions and emotions.

"It speaks to our successes without ignoring the challenges, particularly those that lie ahead."

The exhibition features body armour, an IED blast damaged Bushmaster side stowage bin, a Scan Eagle UAV, a Black Hawk engine cowl from the aircraft in which PTEs Tim Aplin, Ben Chuck and Scott Palmer were killed in during a mission in Afghanistan on June 21, 2010. There are uniforms, artwork and an audio visual display telling the stories of more than 30 ADF personnel and their families explaining what their Afghanistan and MEAO experience meant to them.

The initial idea for the exhibition and its name came from Director AWM Brendan Nelson.

In October last year Dr Nelson was visiting Afghanistan as Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO.

"During my visit a soldier there said to me 'I go to the war memorial quite a bit and I take my son and I can show him what his great grandfather and grandfather did in the wars, but I can't show him what I'm doing here in Afghanistan'."



AT WORK: A painting of Stoker Emma Conway in the engine room of HMAS Kanimbla in 2003 is one of the exhibits.

Dr Nelson said the exhibition aimed to educate Australians on what had been done there and to understand the price that had been paid by ADF personnel.

More than 30 AWM personnel, led by co-curator Rebecca Britt, worked tirelessly to piece together the exhibition in five-and-a-half months – less than half the time it usually takes.

"It was an enormous challenge for us, but also a privilege to work on" Ms Britt said.

Although there are not a large number of objects or artefacts on display, Ms Britt said they were not intended to be the focal point of the exhibition.

"The main focus is the multimedia audio visual production featuring the interviews and images of the Afghanistan veterans and their families telling their story," Ms Britt said.

"We also have interviews of Afghans living in Afghanistan, giving their impressions of Australians."

The exhibition will stay in its current location in the AWM for up to five years and it will likely move to a larger memorial space as more artefacts become available.



BIGGER PICTURE: CAPT Michele Miller at the Afghanistan exhibition.

Photo: CPL Nick Wiseman

## 'Real words from real people'

CPL Nick Wiseman

"REAL words from the real people," is how Chief of Staff, Navy Strategic Command, CAPT Michele Miller described the new exhibit.

CAPT Miller was the XO of HMAS Stuart in 2004, patrolling Iraqi waters, and was on the scene of suicide bomb boat blasts against oil terminals.

"We were the on-scene commander for that event," CAPT Miller said. "We dispatched a RHIB and helicopter to rescue sailors from the USN patrol boat who were critically injured in the attacks, and then we stayed on to

help reinforce the security of the oil terminals and the waters surrounding them."

CAPT Miller said that although the exhibit was titled Afghanistan it was actually the story about the wider Middle East area of operations going back as far as 2001.

"It shows the bigger picture beyond the headline stories about soldiers on the ground, and includes the Navy counter piracy operations and the RAAF's role in surveillance and airlift in the theatre," she said.

"Seeing photos and hearing the voices of people I know made me smile, but then the photos of wounded ADF members and

Afghan children gave me a very real sense of the physicality and violence on the ground, and this was very striking for me.

"I think the timing of the exhibit is great, and I understand that it will be updated with new stories every three months or so.

"My father served in Vietnam and said that the Australian public didn't understand what was happening, on the ground both in terms of the fighting and the reconstruction efforts. The timing of this exhibit is important as it means regular Australians can come and see what is happening now and hear the stories of those who may even be their neighbours."

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**MAKING FRIENDS:** MIDN Matthew Godwin finds a new recruit among the local children on the beach at Maluu in September 2003. MIDN Godwin was part of a contingent of personnel from HMAS *Manoora* who participated in the activities to celebrate the official opening of the Police post in the town of Maluu. Photo: CPO David Connolly

# HELPING HAND

As Operation Anode draws to a close, **MAJ Cameron Jamieson** researches the ADF's role in Solomons Islands over the past decade.

**T**EN years of helping friends in the south-west Pacific has come to a close with the completion of the mission originally called Operation Helpem Fren (Pidgin for "Helping Friend") but more recently known as Operation Anode.

Combined Task Force 635 (CTF 635), known to the people of the Solomon Islands as RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands), was born from a request by Solomon Islands Government after five years of ethnic tensions and a coup in 2000.

The troubles in Solomon Islands were serious and varied. Law and order had broken down, government officials and civilians alike were subject to intimidation and violence against a backdrop of widespread corruption.

Public finances were in ruin and many of the most basic services such as health and education were not being delivered to the people.

The request for help was answered by the united governments of the Pacific region, and plans were made for CTF 635

to be created, made up of soldiers, police and civilians from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

On July 22, 2003, the Solomon Islands National Parliament unanimously passed the *Facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003*, which provides authority under Solomon Islands domestic law for RAMSI's activities.

The initial force of 2000 personnel then began arriving two days later.

For the ADF it was a true joint effort. RAAF Hercules transport aircraft ferried the military contingent commander LTCOL John Frewen and 2RAR infantrymen to Solomon Islands.

Offshore was HMAS *Manoora*, using Army LCM8s to move cargo over the grey sandy beaches known to earlier generations as Red Beach during the famous WWII battle.

Within eight months much of the success needed to turn the country around was achieved.

The first issue was disarming militants, many of whom had armed themselves with high-pow-

ered weapons taken from police armouries.

With the support of the Solomon Islands Government, a nationwide gun amnesty was announced, supported by the presence of RAMSI personnel and a national public information campaign.

All firearms were to be handed in, without exception, including police weapons. More than 3700 guns, including about 700 high-powered military-style weapons, were ultimately collected.

Another early key success was the surrender of the Weathercoast militant leader Harold Keke, whose Guadalcanal Liberation Front had failed to sign the Townsville Peace Agreement in 2000.

According to reports at the time, Keke's behaviour was erratic and unpredictable.

Just before RAMSI's arrival seven Anglican brothers from the Melanesian order, who were taken hostage by Keke's followers in May, were killed.

Key leadership engagement from RAMSI officials led to Keke and his three key commanders surrendering to RAMSI.

They were flown to a secure location in Honiara where they were charged with a series of murders, including the deaths of the Melanesian Brothers.

The detaining of Keke and his commanders created a much-needed ripple effect. Other militants and police had used Keke's belligerency as a justification for holding onto weapons. After his arrest, there were no more excuses.

A third area of success was dealing with the former militants, many of whom had turned to criminal activities to support their powerbase.

Through official engagement and arrests the militants lost their ability to reign through terror. This, combined with the reformation of the Solomon Islands police force, gave the people the sign that democracy and peace were returning to the troubled nation.

The continued presence of RAMSI forces maintained the people's confidence in their newfound security, but as so often happens, major trouble was only a spark away from igniting.

On April 18, 2006, Snyder Rini was elected Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, which sparked rioting in Honiara amid allegations

that the election was fixed with the aid of money from a Chinese businessman.

Parts of Honiara were razed and looted, with Chinese-owned property particularly targeted. RAMSI forces were rapidly bolstered through the short-notice deployment of ADF troops, including soldiers from 1RAR, RAAF 2AFDS personnel and the RAN patrol boats *Armidale* and *Townsville*, along with extra New Zealand troops and more police to re-establish security and stability.

Now the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force is responsible for law and order, and the role of RAMSI has come to an end.

In his recent visit to CTF 635, CDF GEN David Hurley told the last contingent of ADF personnel that the people of Solomon Islands had embraced RAMSI.

"RAMSI has established a new model to work through complex security situations with our regional partners and across government," GEN Hurley said.

"The 10th anniversary of RAMSI operations shows the Pacific Island region that Australia and its neighbours are committed to long-term stability in the region."

Australia and its neighbours are committed to long-term stability in the region.

— CDF GEN David Hurley



**WITH THANKS:** Rita Koro, the granddaughter of Solomon Islands Scout and Coastwatcher Geoffrey Cooper, with the medallion recognising her grandfather's service to the ADF. Photo: CPL Amanda Campbell

## Recognising service

**SGT Dave Morley**

THE service to Australia by the Solomon Islands Scouts and Coastwatchers during WWII was finally recognised at a ceremony at the Honiara War Memorial on July 25.

Descendants of these gallant volunteers were presented with a medallion acknowledging their previously unrecognised service.

Rita Koro received a medallion on behalf of her grandfather Geoffrey Kuper.

She said she remembered hearing his stories until he died when she was 14.

"I thought his job was just to report by radio when they saw a plane fly over — I didn't know all about the guerrilla warfare

they did until I read about it later," Mrs Koro said.

"He took my grandmother Linda with him — they got married a week before the Japanese invaded, when she was only 17.

"She stayed with him all during the war and they were known as the 'coastwatcher family'."

Mrs Koro said she was grateful Australia had finally acknowledged the efforts of the Solomon Islands Scouts and Coastwatchers.

"For a while my grandfather thought he was only Australia's friend when they needed him," she said.

One of the few remaining Solomon Islands Scouts died in hospital just a week before the ceremony but his son attended and received a medallion.



**AIR LIFT:** A Sea King carrying a land rover approaches the small town of Avu Avu on the remote weathercoast of Guadalcanal in August 2003.

## Awarded for border protection

**SGT Dave Morley**

A HONIARA-based officer received an unexpected surprise when he was awarded the Operational Service Medal (OSM), clasp Border Protection on July 25.

LCDR Gary List, Maritime Surveillance Adviser to Solomon Islands, received the medal on the deck of a Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) patrol boat.

He was awarded the medal for his service as an ACPB commander on Operations Ralex 2 and Resolute.

"This called for strong leadership while

undertaking hazardous duties involving rescuing people at sea," he said. "You were undertaking your country's duties as a mariner."

LCDR List said the medal presentation was unexpected due to being so far from home.

"It was both a pleasure and a surprise to be presented with the OSM," he said.

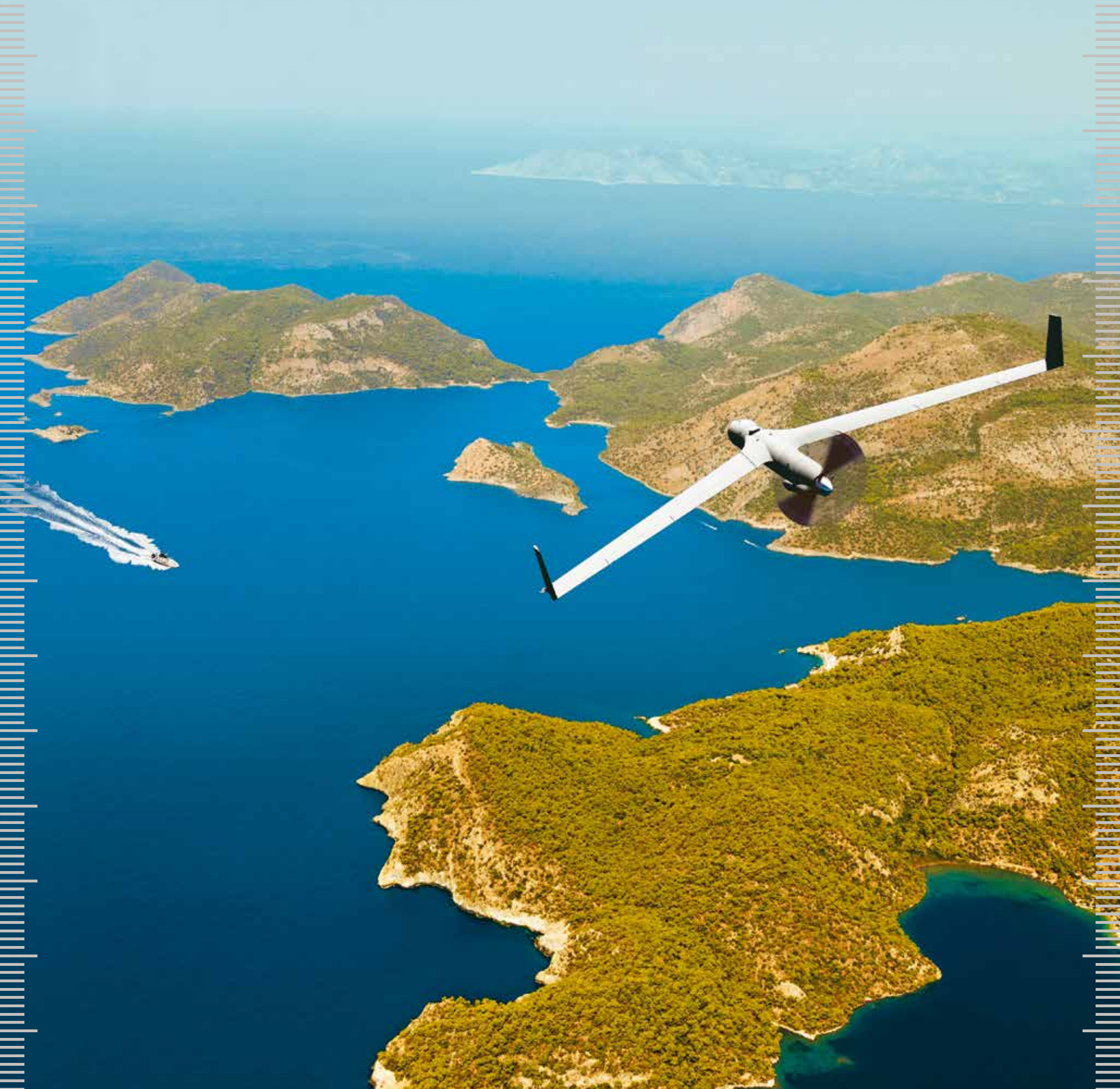
LCDR List served with Attack 2 commanding HMA Ships *Armidale* and *Bathurst*.

BRIG John Frewen, Commander 1 Brigade, and CMDR Geoff Turner, Defence Advisor South-West Pacific, as well as a number of senior RSIPF officers also attended the presentation.



**HONOURED:** LCDR Gary List talks about his experiences after being awarded an OSM clasp Border Protection. Photo: CPL Amanda Campbell





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**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Almost 2000 passengers on board *Dawn Princess* paused to remember the sinking of HMAS *Sydney* on a recent cruise from Fremantle to Indonesia. The ship conducted a special memorial service directly above the remains of HMAS *Sydney* off the Western Australian coast.



**ON THE BRIDGE:** LSNPC Jackie Peck on the helm of HMAS *Sydney* during a whole ship damage control exercise. Photo: LS Peter Thompson



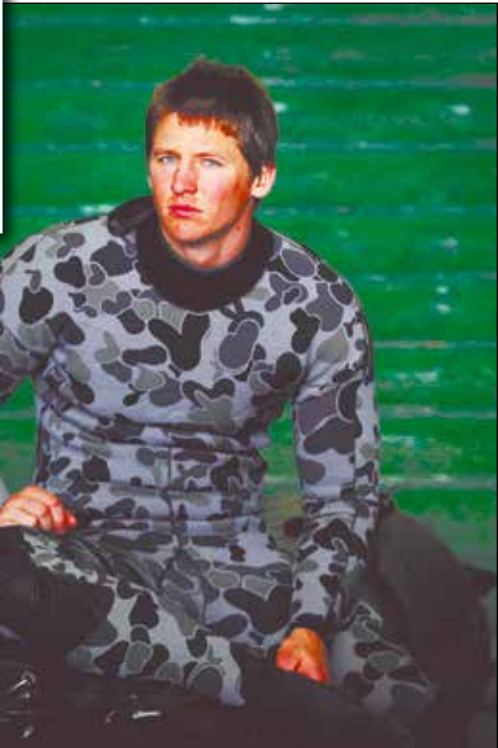
**JOB DONE:** ABCD Matthew Deloraine, from Dive Team One, in HMAS *Choules* after a dive during Exercise Sea Lion 2013. Photo: ABIS Chantell Bianchi



**GENES FUNDRAISER:** ABC Jade Lancaster promotes a Jeans for Genes Day fundraiser at Fleet HQ, Garden Island. Photo: ABIS Chantell Bianchi



**MAINTENANCE:** ABMT Darren Brandt conducts maintenance on a ridged hulled inflatable boat in HMAS *Choules* during Exercise Sea Line 2013. Photo: ABIS Chantell Bianchi



**STANDING BY:** ABCD Joel Boothman, from Dive Team One, relaxes before unloading zodiacs from the LCM-8 on to HMAS *Choules* during Exercise Sea Lion 2013. Photo: ABIS Chantell Bianchi



**RESERVES TRIBUTE:** Above, CMDR John Goss leads a uniformed contingent for the Reserve Forces Day March at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Photo: ABIS Dove Smithett

**BUSHFIRES RECOGNITION:** Rural Fire Service volunteer CMDR Lewis Gaha, right, is awarded the National Emergency Medal in recognition of his service during the Victorian Bushfires in 2009 by Brian Murphy, manager membership for the ACT. CMDR Gaha has been a volunteer firefighter in the ACT since 2004. Photo: Sean Lang



**SHOWER POWER:** LS Brooke Oram during refurbishment of the Clifton Beach Surf Lifesaving Club in Tasmania. Photo: Daryl Peebles



# Opening minds to close gap

Navy's first Islamic cultural adviser is excited about her new role, **Natalie Staples** reports.

**E**NSURING that Navy remains focused on all aspects of diversity is a key priority for CN VADM Ray Griggs, which is why he has appointed a strategic adviser on Islamic cultural affairs.

CAPT Mona Shindy, who heads up the Guided Missile Frigate System Program Office, accepted the position in March and has welcomed the opportunity to create better understanding among Defence members and the wider Islamic community.

"This is an exciting time for Navy and I think we have a real chance to open a lot of people's eyes and encourage discussion on issues from different lenses of view," she says.

"Throughout my life I've often felt like a bridge straddling communities. I hope this new position will help close this divide for the good of all."

Fifteen Muslims serve in Navy and 88 are employed across the ADF, figures that CAPT Shindy aims to increase.

"These numbers are quite small, which shows that perhaps a career in the ADF is not part of the thinking of the Australian Islamic community."

VADM Griggs says he is "pleased that CAPT Shindy has agreed to work directly for me on this critical issue."

"It is not just about recruitment, but about enhancing the diversity and capability of the Navy and gaining a much deeper understanding of many of the navies we work with on a regular basis," VADM Griggs said.

While the reasons for the lower representation of Muslims within Navy are yet to be identified, CAPT Shindy says misunderstandings and misconceptions on both sides are probably playing a part.

"There may be a lack of confidence from members of the Islamic community in relation to whether or not they would be accepted, as media reports on apparent 'Muslim' activities are generally more negative than positive," she says.

"My role will be to explore and dispel the myth that the behaviours of a few unsavoury characters operating on the fringes of a community somehow represent the values and principles of the whole.

"By starting the conversation, Navy will get a better understanding about Muslims' attitudes and beliefs and about their compatibility with the ADF. Likewise, the Australian Muslim community will have greater opportunities to see the Navy in particular, and the ADF more broadly, as an employer



**ENGINEER TO ADVISER:** CAPT Mona Shindy inspects work being carried out in auxiliary machine room two on board HMAS Melbourne at Fleet Base East.

Photo: ABIS Jayson Tufrey

of choice. From there we can see what can be done to tap into some of the talent that might be out there."

It's not all about recruitment though with education firmly on the agenda.

"As a Navy we frequently work with other navies that are predominantly Muslim," CAPT Shindy says.

"This is a chance to educate our people a little more about the way Muslims think about life in general. This will help us to engage and operate together better and form stronger ties."

CAPT Shindy says the Navy is already well positioned to improve

cultural sensitivity and has been embracing change for years.

"As a woman, as a Muslim and as an engineer I have had a box seat to seeing Navy evolve," she says.

"During my 24 years in Defence there's been a lot of change. Have there been challenges – yes absolutely. Has there been resistance by some individuals with certain views, yes but we are getting there.

"Navy today is much more inclusive and we're moving in a much more positive direction day by day."

While the ADF already has broad policies which are inclusive of religious

difference, there are some new initiatives already in train which will pull down some of the barriers. An example of this is the recent approval of Islamic attire as an option for Navy uniform.

"The introduction of the hijab and looser fitting uniforms as an option removes one barrier that could prevent a female of Islamic faith considering a career in Navy," CAPT Shindy says.

"This is a good example of Navy actively pursuing change and opening the door to people who may not have previously thought about joining the organisation because of perceived restrictions on dress."

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## Appreciating rich cultures

### CAPT Sean Childs

CULTURAL awareness training for Australian personnel deployed on Operation Slipper in Afghanistan is crucial to force protection and mission success.

All Australian personnel deploying to Afghanistan undergo pre-deployment cultural training.

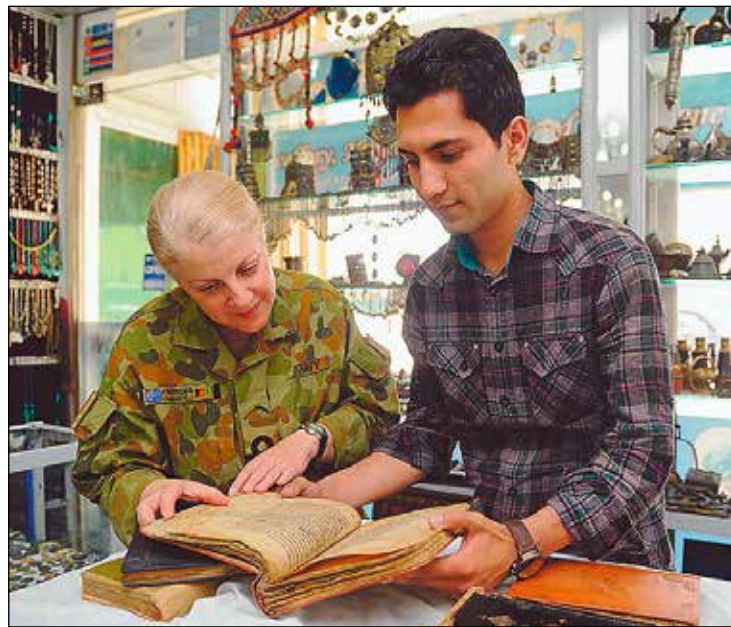
Cultural awareness enhances the trust and respect shared between Australians and their Afghan National Security Force partners.

LCDR Andrea Argirides' role at Australia's Afghanistan Headquarters in Kabul is to conduct regular in-country cultural seminars.

LCDR Argirides, who is undertaking post-graduate studies in cultural heritage and archaeology, said ensuring Australian personnel understood and appreciated the ancient cultural ways of Afghanistan significantly contributed to Australia's mission.

"We regularly conduct cultural briefings for all our people, for example examining the customs and ways of the rich ethnic and tribal diversity of Afghanistan, including the appreciation of a rich cultural heritage and archaeological landscape," LCDR Argirides said.

"Briefings encapsulate the complexity of Afghanistan's culture,



**RICH CULTURE:** LCDR Andrea Argirides looks at antique books with a local merchant at Kabul International Airport.

Photo: POIS Phil Cullinan

examining concepts ranging from nationality and social class to ideology and gender norms."

Australia's cultural engagement and diplomacy plays an important role in strengthening Australia's ongoing relationship with Afghanistan.

As part of Australia's whole-of-government effort in Afghanistan,

the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is sponsoring an Afghan cultural exhibition in Australia. *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures of the National Museum, Kabul* is touring Australia's major museums, providing a unique insight into Afghanistan's beauty, as opposed to their recent pervasive history of conflict.



# Unblocking pipeline

LEUT Kelli Lunt

THE sea-training backlog has been reduced by 70 per cent since 2011, according to Training Force figures.

There are now fewer than 400 officers and sailors waiting for initial sea training – this is down from 1350 people in January 2011 and about 950 at the beginning of last year.

Training Force is aiming to clear the entire sea-training backlog by August next year.

One of the more challenging categories to move through the pipeline, marine technicians, have still shown improvements, with the waiting list reduced from more than 350 in January last year to less than 200.

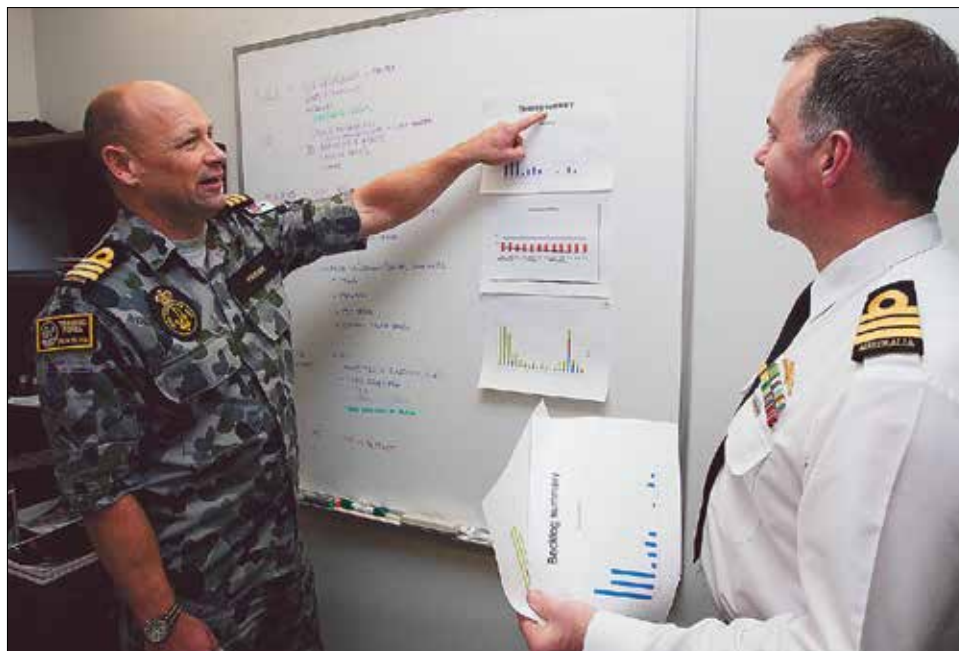
The figure for electrical technicians is now less than 40, reduced from 170 in January 2011, with full recovery of the training pipeline expected before the end of the year.

Commodore Training CDRE Mike Noonan said Training Force had developed and implemented numerous strategies to assist in delivering trained people.

“In order for us to build the Navy of 2017, it is vital we continue to improve our training throughput,” CDRE Noonan said.

Commander Individual Training CMDR Marc Pavillard is responsible for overseeing improvements to trainee throughput and said the implementation of several initiatives had helped increase the size and efficiency of training processes.

“We’ve worked hard with our part-



**IN TRAINING:** Commander Individual Training (CIT) CMDR Marc Pavillard, right, discusses the training pipeline with incoming CIT CMDR Andrew Fraser at Fleet Headquarters in Sydney. Photo: ABIS Nicolas Gonzalez

ners, Directorate of Navy Category Management and Navy Personnel and Career Management Authority, to improve coordination and better control of the training pipeline. This is leading to significant improvement in trainee throughput,” CMDR Pavillard said.

“Success has also come from the progressive implementation and maturing of a number of initiatives embedded in various reform activities, which were encapsulated in the Sea Training Campaign Plan.”

These key initiatives include prioritised training positions at sea, rationalisation of the requirement for and duration of sea training for each category, and the establishment of the Competency Management Agency (CMA).

CMA was established in 2012 and is responsible and accountable to COMTRAIN for ensuring personnel achieve their initial qualifications and transition to the Trained Force as soon as possible.

The agency is also responsible for

the posting management and movement of most sailors through on-the-job training phases and for the oversight of competency management across all ranks.

CMA is supported by the Fleet Training Liaison Authority, which optimises the ad-hoc and short-term sea training opportunities that arise.

“All of these initiatives, combined with measured reductions in recruiting, have provided us with the capacity to catch up quickly,” CMDR Pavillard said.

## Refresh skills with course now online

LCDR Amanda Howard

DMO’s Maritime Systems Division Directorate of Maritime Sustainment Support (DMARSS) has produced an online refresher course for Assessment Management and Planning Systems (AMPS) User (35). This course can now be accessed on Campus.

A similar course for the AMPS Supervisor (80) level training is also close to completion. Standalone CDs will be available for those units with limited access to the intranet.

One of the course developers, LEUT Michelle Sheeky, said both courses catered for everyone.

“The courses have full navigational freedom so users can either start from the beginning and continue through every screen to gain a solid understanding of the entire course content, or they can use the course more like an aide-memoire and go directly to an area of interest,” LEUT Sheeky said.

“At this stage the courses will not replace the instructor-led training for PMKeyS proficiencies, however, this potential exists for future iterations.”

The courses provide three levels of learning with a ‘watch’ option for a quick review of a specific process, a ‘learn’ option to carry out the steps with assistance and a ‘practise’ option where the user is required to undertake the steps of a process independently to reinforce the learning outcome.

For more information, email [AMPSSuranceCell.DMARSS@defence.gov.au](mailto:AMPSSuranceCell.DMARSS@defence.gov.au)



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### Introducing the Whole of Relocation Cost (WORC) Model

From August 2013, all ADF members undergoing a domestic removal will have their goods uplifted on any day within the week of their preferred uplift date. This new approach does not involve a change to your entitlements.

Members will submit their AFR in the usual manner nominating a preferred uplift date. Toll will determine the removal cost, taking into consideration all relocation costs, and select the best value for money uplift date within the week of your preferred uplift date.

If there is an operational requirement or extenuating personal circumstance that requires your uplift to be on a specific date, you will require your unit approval prior to submitting your AFR.

You are encouraged to submit your AFR early in your relocation process. Your case manager will then be able to confirm your uplift date well in advance of your actual move date, which will minimise any impact of this change on you.

**So don't delay, submit your AFR online today.**

# TOLL

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# Jurisdiction options

**CAPT Scott Ritchie**  
Director Military Discipline Law

WHEN a member is alleged to have breached the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 (DFDA), he or she will usually be dealt with by a service tribunal, although sometimes the matter will be dealt with by civilian authorities.

Which service tribunal will try a charge will depend on a variety of factors.

The trial of serious service offences is conducted through formal legal proceedings by a court martial or Defence Force Magistrate (DFM).

In certain circumstances, members may elect to have less serious offences heard by these tribunals.

Court martial or DFM trials are usually conducted in public. They predominately deal with acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences, and fraud offences.

Punishment includes imprisonment or dismissal from the Defence Force.

The DFDA also provides for matters to be heard by the more expedient and flexible, less legalistic approach of summary authority proceedings, conducted by commanding officers, superior summary authorities or subordinate summary authorities.

These proceedings are generally held in private. As a general rule, the jurisdiction of a summary authority to try a member will depend on



several factors, such as the rank of the summary authority and the accused, and the type of service offence.

A further option available is the Discipline Officer (DO) Scheme, which is an efficient and quick disciplinary process relating to

infringements, which are minor breaches of the DFDA. The DO Scheme is limited in jurisdiction and punishments.

Only members at or above NCO and who are authorised as a 'relevant officer', can issue infringements.

Members of, or below the rank of, LEUT may be dealt with by a DO for issued infringements such as absence without leave.

Regardless of the service tribunal, all matters are heard in accordance with the relevant provisions of the DFDA.

## JULY TRIAL RESULTS

Note: All Court Martial and Defence Force Magistrate trial results are subject to command review and appeal. The results indicated are of trials across the ADF.

### NCO

#### Defence Force Magistrate

**One charge of using insubordinate language – DFDA s 26(2)**

**One charge of creating a disturbance on service land – DFDA s 33(b)**

The member was accused of using insubordinate language in the presence of a superior, and grabbing the superior by the shirt. The member pleaded guilty to both charges and was found guilty of both. The member forfeited seniority, was fined \$1000 (to be paid in fortnightly instalments of \$100), and was severely reprimanded.

#### Defence Force Magistrate

**One charge of using insulting or provocative words on service land – DFDA s 33(d)**

The member was accused of using insulting words against another member while on service land. The member pleaded not guilty to the charge and was found guilty. The member was severely reprimanded.



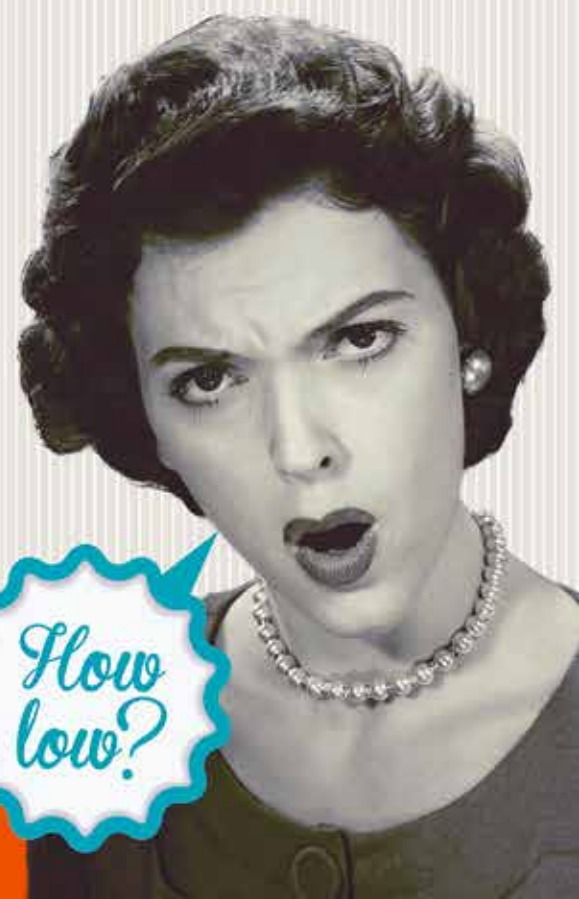
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Step 2: Identify and receive credit

Step 3: Apply for certificate

Step 4: Take out a DHOAS loan

Step 5: Meet conditions

Step 6: Call your subsidy

Step 7: Start payments

Step 8: Action of changes

### Impacts of SEPARATING

If you separate or are deemed separated, you can access only one more certificate and your subsidy may reduce.

[Click for more info](#)

#### Welcome to DHOAS

The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) assists current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families to achieve home ownership.

The Scheme rewards you for your loyalty to the ADF and is aimed at improving retention and recruitment rates. The longer you have served the greater your benefits under DHOAS and the longer you can receive assistance.

To be eligible, you must have served within the last two years of applying for DHOAS. Completed a qualifying period of service and accrued a service credit.

You will need to take out a DHOAS home loan and meet the Scheme conditions, including occupancy requirements, to receive the monthly subsidy payments.

#### Subsidy tiers for 2013-14

Subsidy tier	Minimum Permanent Service	Minimum Reserve Service	Subsidised loan amount	Maximum monthly subsidy*
1	4 years	8 years	\$208,108	Up to \$230
2	8 years	12 years	\$312,163	Up to \$346
3	12 years	16 years	\$416,217	Up to \$461

\* Monthly subsidy amounts set fortnightly and subject to change to reflect cost

#### Latest News

New DHOAS website June 24-2013

Welcome to the new DHOAS website. It provides information in easy-to-follow steps, to assist visitors to learn more about the Scheme, and includes additional search options on the home page, such as the key issues highlighted in the rolling banners and the "I want to..." feature.

**MAKING IT EASIER:** The new Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme home page.

# Website will help ADF home buyers

DEFENCE marked the fifth birthday of the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) by launching the Department of Veterans' Affairs' new DHOAS website on July 1.

The site provides information in easy-to-follow steps.

It also includes additional search options on the home page, such as key issues highlighted in the rolling banners and other features.

The DHOAS has helped more than 24,000 current and former ADF members and their families buy a home.

Defence launched the scheme in 2008 as a recruitment and retention initiative.

It pays a monthly subsidy into eligible members' DHOAS home loans and is designed to reward members' loyalty to the ADF, offering higher subsidy payments the longer they have served.

Senior contracts manager in the Directorate of Relocations and Housing Tony Job said the scheme had proved very popular and when DHOAS turned five, it had issued more than 40,000 subsidy certificates.

In June 2013, subsidy payments were made into more than 17,500 DHOAS home loans provided by one of three Defence-nominated home loan providers – ADCU, Defence Bank or NAB.

"Members who have taken up DHOAS are from across all the services and ranks, and from throughout Australia," Mr Job said. "The most popular locations for DHOAS home loans are Queensland and NSW."

DHOAS keeps pace with housing costs by paying subsidy on loan limits that are reviewed every year in line with changes in Australia's median house price.

This financial year, the median house price increased to \$520,271, a substantial increase from \$483,440 last financial year, and a low of \$429,073 in 2009.

Mr Job said that Defence had confirmed the continued appointment of the DVA as scheme administrator. DVA assisted members with their applications for subsidy certificates and paid their monthly subsidies.

For enquiries, call DHOAS on 1300 434 627 or email [dhoas@dva.gov.au](mailto:dhoas@dva.gov.au)

# End of an era for graduates

**SBLT Katherine Mulheron**

HUNDREDS of family and friends gathered on July 26 to watch as 63 of Navy's newest sailors graduated from the Recruit School at HMAS Cerberus, ending the first stage of their training.

General Entry Intake 313, Getting Division, will be remembered as the last Getting Division to graduate from RAN Recruit School.

CN VADM Ray Griggs announced last September that Recruit School divisions Waller, Rankin, Getting and Moran would be renamed in honour of sailors, rather than officers, who were lost in the service to their country.

Getting Division was established

in 1961 and named in honour of CAPT Frank Edmond Getting, who was captain of HMAS Canberra (I) which came under long-range torpedo fire from several Japanese cruisers on August 9, 1942.

CAPT Getting was severely wounded yet remained at his post, refusing medical treatment.

He was later evacuated to an American hospital ship, but died of his wounds and was buried at sea.

Reviewing officer for the parade DCN RADM Michael van Balen said it was a privilege to share the occasion with guests.

"Many have travelled long distances to be here today and the Navy greatly values the support you provide," RADM van Balen said.

RADM van Balen congratulated the graduates and encouraged them on their journey to pursue their training and service to Navy, taking them another step closer to serving at sea and defending Australia and its people.

Getting Division will be succeeded by Emms Division in honour of LS Francis Bassett Emms, a leading cook who served aboard HMAS Kara Kara (I) during the Japanese air raids on Darwin on February 19, 1942.

Despite a severe stomach wound, Emms manned a machine gun throughout the raid and it was only at the end of the battle that the extent of his injuries was realised. He was transported to the hospital ship Manunda but died en route.



**SPECIAL DAY:** Reviewing officer DCN RADM Michael van Balen stops to speak to a graduate of Getting Division (above) as General Entry 313, Getting Division parade (below). Photos: ABIS Dove Smithett



# Defence effort on suicide recognised

DEFENCE's efforts in raising community awareness of suicide prevention have been recognised at Suicide Prevention Australia's Living is For Everyone (LiFE) awards.

Defence received a LiFE Public Sector Award for its ongoing commitment to promote and develop suicide prevention practices, aligned with the Australian suicide prevention sector.

Commander Joint Health Command RADM Robyn Walker said the issue of suicidal behav-

iour and death by suicide was a major concern to Defence and the Australian community.

"Suicide prevention has been an important focal point in the ADF since 2002 and Defence has developed a program – the Defence Suicide Prevention Program – that incorporates policy guidance for individuals, commanders and health providers as well as specific suicide awareness and skills training," RADM Walker said.

"This is an important area of

work for Defence and the LiFE award also recognises the Defence Suicide Prevention Program."

Defence members requiring further information or support with suicide prevention can access their on-base health facility, or call 1800 IM SICK (1800 467 425), a national 24-hour health support call service for Defence personnel within Australia. Members and their families can also call the 24-hour confidential counselling support service All-hour Support Line (ASL) on 1800 628 036.

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**SAMPLE:** This is what you will be presented with under the Prohibited Substances Testing Program, which allows for testing of ADF members anywhere and any time.  
Photo LSIS Helen Frank

# Testing times for personnel

In the third and final part of our supplements series, **LSIS Helen Frank** looks at ADF policy and what you need to know if you are tested.

**T**HE ADF has a zero-tolerance policy on the use of banned substances.

Personnel can be tested through the Prohibited Substances Testing Program (PSTP), and if results are positive, administrative action will be taken.

Personnel may also be subject to civilian charges if the substance is not legal within Australia.

Military Personnel Policy Staff Officer SGNLDR Shane Moloney said the PSTP allowed for testing of ADF members anywhere and any time.

“Testing, which may be either random or targeted, is based on a minimum of 25 per cent of the ADF with 100 per cent of initial trainees annually,” SGNLDR Moloney said.

Testing for steroids is targeted within all three services. Targeted members are selected through the identification of the signs and symptoms of steroid use.

Those tested for steroids count towards the annual minimum 25 per cent of ADF members tested under the PSTP.

Supplements purchased overseas or over the internet are likely to be more risky.

– Dr Mathew Klein,  
Senior Medical Adviser  
for Occupational and  
Environmental Medicine

Between July 1, 2010, and January 31, 2013, 54,896 prohibited substance tests were conducted, which produced 307 positive tests (0.56 per cent).

SGNLDR Moloney said this result was favourable when compared with the 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

“The survey reported that within the wider Australian community, 14.70 per cent of the Australian population had used an illicit drug in the previous 12 months,” he said.

Defence’s Senior Medical Adviser for Occupational and Environmental Medicine Mathew Klein said the best way ADF personnel could avoid prohibited substances was not to take any supplements and concentrate on a well-rounded diet.

“Supplements purchased overseas or over the internet are likely to be more risky,” Dr Klein said.

“Products that are not well-known branded products are also likely to be risky.”

“Consuming any product where you are not fully aware of what is contained in the product is dangerous.”

He said by purchasing supplements of low quality or containing unknown ingredients you were not only risking your health, but your career.

Further information on the PSTP is available in DI(G) PERS 15-5.



## Commanders & Planners – are you using all our capability talent?

The purpose of Civil Skills Data (CSD) is to improve visibility of the full range of member skills and experience, so as to increase opportunities for both the ADF and the individual.

- CSD reporting now extended to **all** uniformed members - permanent and reserve. (CDF Directive 18/2012 provides policy guidance re use of CSD).
- The new aspect of CSD is that 'self-claimed' skills & experience can be recorded (ie not only formal qualifications) so your hobbies/skills or language skills can now be included (if potentially of use to the ADF eg carpentry).
- CSD includes:
  - Self-claimed skills (a wide range of skills are listed from which to choose)
  - Self-claimed language skills (languages acquired without examinations)
  - Professional Registrations and Licences
  - Membership of Professional Organisations
  - Civil Education Qualifications
  - Civilian Employment Details/History (reservists and regulars)
- Access CSD data via PMKeyS (usual authorisations required)

For more information: go to DGRES-AF website, CSD section.

For questions or help: email the CSD helpline (include your PMKeyS number): [ADO.CivilSkillsData@defence.gov.au](mailto:ADO.CivilSkillsData@defence.gov.au)





# Cross country for Petras

LSIS Jo Dilozenzo

MIDN Lara Carr, of Headquarters Northern Command, made the most of being away from her desk when she won the female division of the Petras Memorial Trophy cross country run at HMAS Coonawarra on July 18.

Physical training instructors at Coonawarra CPO Donna Edge and LS Ben Knight reinvigorated the race after a four-year hiatus.

More than 70 personnel posted to HMAS Coonawarra, Larrakeyah Barracks and various patrol boats took part, with Defence Health providing prizes to the winners.

The course, which historically ran from the Shoal Bay Receiving Station to the Defence Establishment – Berrimah, had been reduced to 5kms within the confines of Larrakeyah Barracks.

The new track made full use of the Barracks' undulating terrain and with a final 200m uphill sprint to the finish, runners were completely exhausted by the end.

MIDN Carr said she found the hills provided a good challenge.

"I really enjoyed the course

and participating in the event also gave me the opportunity to get out of the office and see the base," she said.

First in the men's division open category was LT Sam Taylor, of Norforce, while Assail 5, led by LEUT Michael Kerrisk, won the team prize.

PTI LS Ben Cain was impressed with the turnout of triservice personnel.

"It was a very challenging course and clearly the runners were conditioned to the heat, but the hills were very demanding," LS Cain said.

CO HMAS Coonawarra CMDR Ben Favelle was supportive of the activity.

"This event is a good indication of the community spirit and the esprit de corps which is building now, with Single LEAP opened and the refurbished married quarters at Larrakeyah Barracks.

"I am keen to build on the success of this year and reinstate it as an annual event."

The cross county trophy was named in honour of two former sailors, Garry and Sharyn Petras (husband and wife) who tragically died in a car accident while posted to the former Coonawarra in 1989.



**FAB FINISH:** MIDN Lara Carr (left) tackles the last hill to take first place in the open women's division and (above) crossing the finish line together at the Top End cross country race are, from left, LEUTs Nicole Ward, Nikola Ford and LCDR Chris Jones from HMAS Coonawarra.

Photos LSIS Jo Dilozenzo



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**BADMINTON TO THE BONE:** From left, Plate runners-up from the Albatross Badminton Cup Laura Gill and LEUT Paul Coxell, with winners SMN Hayley MacDonald and Max Wharton.

## Good times for badminton

Bill Eales

THE Albatross Badminton Club is on the rise having just hosted a knockout doubles tournament.

Nine teams selected from ADF and APS players took part.

The Cup was won by Robert Forsterlee and Glen Millburn, from runners-up CPOATA Eric McDonald and SMN Tim Lovejoy.

The Consolation Plate was taken out by SMN Hayley MacDonald and Max Wharton, while runners-up were LEUT Paul Coxell and Laura Gill.

Club president CPOATA Eric McDonald is looking to increase participation in badminton and said he would like to see a regular competition formed.

"Albatross Badminton Club would like to issue a challenge to other Naval bases and establishments, so get your teams together and let's work towards getting an inter-base competition up

and running," CPO McDonald said. "Badminton is recognised as being the world's fastest racquet sport, with the highest projectile speed recorded at 414km/hr, compared to squash at 279km/hr and tennis at 249km/hr.

"It is a sport which is played indoors and is therefore playable all year round."

In 2012 some members of the newly-formed club took part in the open championships at Wollongong University.

The Albatross Badminton Club was established and was officially recognised in August 2012 by COMFAA CDRE Vince Di Pietro, the club patron.

However, a small group of enthusiastic players have been enjoying social badminton at the HMAS Albatross Fitness Centre since 2003.

Albatross Badminton Club points of contact are: President – CPOATA Eric McDonald, (02) 4424 3067, eric.mcdonald@defence.gov.au; Secretary – William Eales, (02) 4424 3144, william.eales@defence.gov.au.





**EYES ON THE PRIZE:** ABATA Travis Chamberlin, of HMAS *Albatross*, keeps his eye on the football during the Father Macdonald Cup at Randwick Army Barracks, Sydney.

Photo: ABIS Chantell Bianchi

## Father Mac Cup at home at Albatross

**LEUT Tony White**

HMAS *Albatross* could well start claiming parentage of the Father Macdonald Cup after winning the annual Australian football competition for the 22<sup>nd</sup> time.

HMAS *Albatross* won the final against HMAS *Waterhen* at Randwick Barracks in Sydney on July 24. It first won the Father Mac Cup in 1976.

Three teams representing HMAS *Albatross*, *Kuttubul* and *Waterhen* played off for the trophy, named after a colourful former Navy chaplain.

Father Macdonald, whose passion for the game ensured he was almost certainly the only priest who had to front a tribunal for his over-enthusiastic barracking, would certainly have relished the commitment shown.

While *Kuttubul* performed admirably during the course of the day, it was *Albatross* and *Waterhen* who made it to the grand final of the round robin competition, overseen this year by LSPTI Darin Trudgett of HMAS *Kuttubul*.

*Albatross* went into the final as favourite, although some informed commentators may

have fancied *Waterhen*'s chances after SMNCD Adrian Hewson, of HMAS *Penguin*, took his place in the *Waterhen* side.

*Albatross* continued its winning streak, however and came out eventual victors against *Waterhen* 38 to 26.

SMN Hewson won the best and fairest Father Dempsey trophy, named after another Chaplain and former President of the HMAS *Cerberus* Australian Rules Club.

SMN Hewson said it was still a great effort for *Waterhen* to get to the final considering the vast majority of the team comprised players with a rugby league background.

"It was the first time I have played in the Father Mac Cup and for Navy, so it was good to be rewarded for my efforts," SMN Hewson said.

"I have trained with Navy footy down in *Cerberus*, but due to training requirements I have never actually played for Navy."

He regularly plays for the Manly-Warringah Wolves on weekends and said that with competitions such as the Father Mac Cup, Navy would be in good stead to wrest the ADF interservice trophy from Army next year.

# Memorial win in WA

**LEUT Samantha Dudley**

BEFORE the West Coast Eagles and Sydney Swans took to the field at Patersons Stadium for the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial Match on July 21, Navy and Air Force enjoyed the opportunity of playing the curtain-raiser.

Navy dominated Air Force 16.15 (111) to 2.2 (14).

Navy coach CPO Brent Irving said it was a genuine privilege to play at Patersons Stadium and an honour to be involved in a day that served to remember fallen heroes.

"A number of the ADF players were involved in the 2012 curtain-raiser to the *Sydney II* memorial match.

"To be involved two years running and play both years at Patersons Stadium is an incredible opportunity," CPO Irving said.

Despite the score, Air Force coach FSGT Luke Stevens said the Air Force players still had a great day.

"We will definitely have to improve our form for next year," he said.

"But, at the end of the day, we were just happy to be there

and honour the memory of *Sydney II*."

AB Matthew Kennewell was named best and fairest and LS Daniel Conlin, whose dominating performance saw him kick six goals, was named best on ground.

The two services also worked hand in hand outside the stadium to raise funds for Legacy. Thirty-five Navy and Air Force members rattled tins and buckets at the gate entrances and collected \$9866. Funds will go towards caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated veterans.



**TAP OUT:** PO Sam Sheppard leaps high to contest the ball for Navy during the curtain-raiser between Navy and Air Force at Patersons Stadium in Western Australia.

Photo: CPOIS David Connolly

## Jervis Division starts life in Navy with a big win

**SBLT Joshua Armstrong**

ONE WEEK in the Navy culminated in victory for members of Jervis Division, New Entry Officers' Course 49, as the team snatched the honours in the historic Pixley Cup.

The Pixley Cup has been run for more than 40 years and emphasises teamwork, a core Navy attribute.

The most recent competition was held in perfect conditions on the quarterdeck of HMAS *Creswell* and allowed a break from the regimented schedule of drill, physical training and rounds – staples of the first week of officer training.

The divisions are encouraged to compose team songs, daub 'war' paint and don fancy dress, with events replicating naval tasks such

as transfer of stores, kit muster and casualty evacuation.

Jervis Division came out on top, however the results of the day were not determined by strength and speed alone, but rather by those who showed attention to detail and followed instructions to the letter.

Jervis Division excelled and their efforts will contribute towards the overall Cockerel Trophy, awarded to the best division of the intake at graduation.

This was the last time that Flinders, Jervis and Phillip Divisions were in line for the honours, with the Royal Australian Naval College divisions being renamed Clarkson, Moran, Getting, Rankin and Waller from January 2014.

The Cup is named after Sir Neville Pixley, a Naval officer of WWII.



**PROUD AS PIXLEY:** SBLT Christian Gonzalez, left, and SBLT Phillip Qin of Jervis Division, accept the Pixley Cup from LCDR Luke Weston, Acting Head of Officers' Initial Training Faculty at HMAS *Creswell*.

Photo: LEUT Kasey Cox



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# Sport



**HIGH FLYER:** LSPTI James Miller, of HMAS *Albatross*, takes a mark in front of his opponent from HMAS *Waterhen* during the annual Father Macdonald Cup at Randwick Barracks, Sydney.  
Photo ABIS Sarah Ebsworth

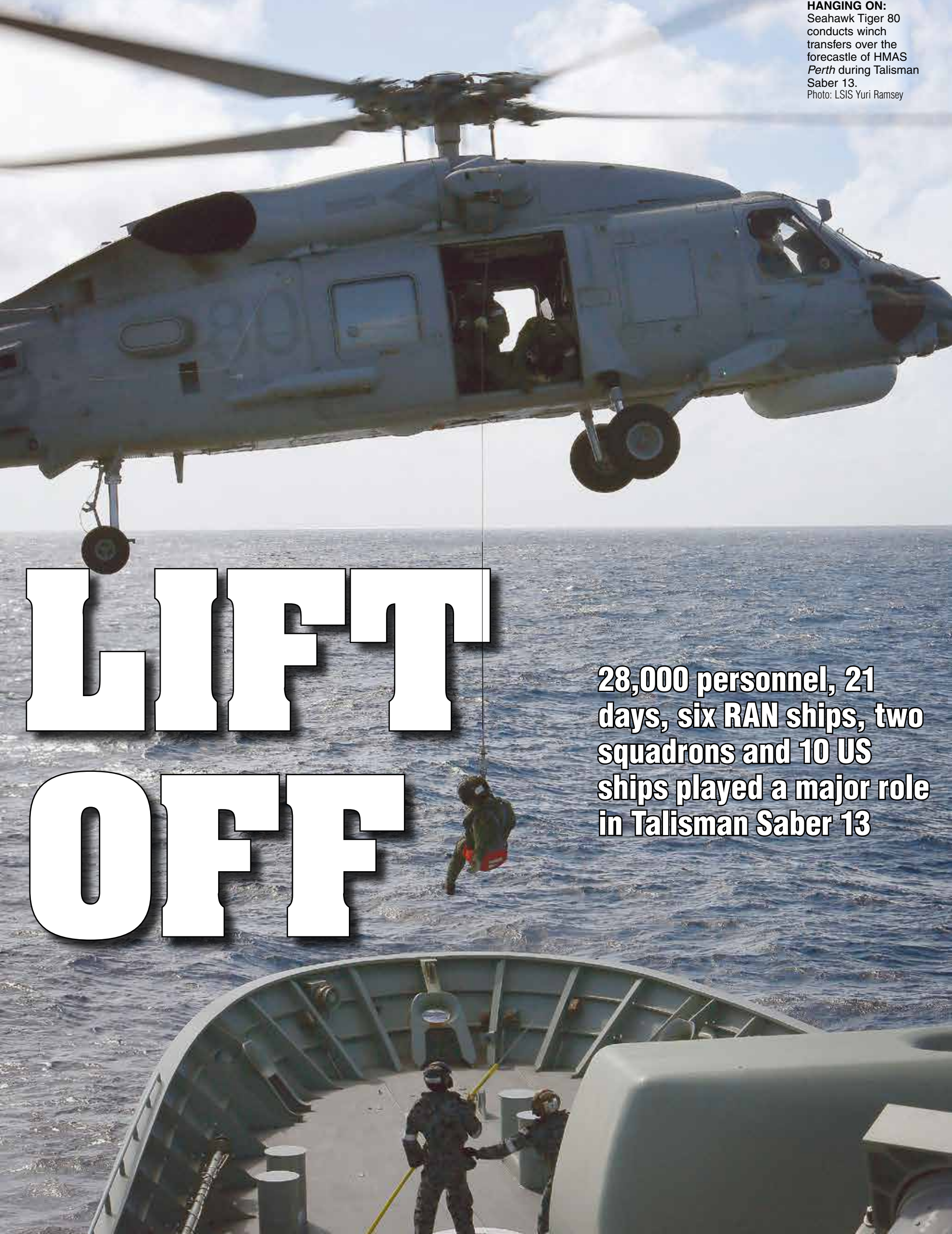
# ON THE MARK

**Albatross  
notches another  
win in Father  
Mac Cup**





**HANGING ON:**  
Seahawk Tiger 80  
conducts winch  
transfers over the  
forecastle of HMAS  
*Perth* during Talisman  
Saber 13.  
Photo: LSIS Yuri Ramsey



# LIFT OFF

**28,000 personnel, 21  
days, six RAN ships, two  
squadrons and 10 US  
ships played a major role  
in Talisman Saber 13**



# ONE UNITED FORCE

Exercise Talisman Saber gave Navy a unique opportunity to develop capability, gain experience and work alongside a close ally.

**N**AVY gained invaluable experience in amphibious and strike group operations during Exercise Talisman Saber (TS13) in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area from July 15 to August 5.

The exercise saw the US Navy's 7th Fleet and amphibious ships USS *Bonhomme Richard* and HMAS *Choules* disembark 3000 US Marines at Freshwater Beach and 200 soldiers at Sabina Point.

As *Choules* disembarked elements of 2RAR via MRH-90 helicopters and LCM8s at Sabina Point on July 20, HMAS *Sydney* provided a defensive screen for the ADF's expeditionary capability.

It was the first time *Choules* and 2RAR had conducted an amphibious operation on this scale.

Commander Australian Amphibious Task Group CAPT Ray Leggatt said TS13 provided a great platform to further develop the ADF's expedition-

ary capability. "Training outcomes from TS13 will contribute toward the establishment of the standard operating procedures for the amphibious ready element within 2RAR and amphibious ready elements and landing force elements from across all three services," he said.

CAPT Leggatt said the ADF's capacity for expeditionary warfare would be enhanced with the delivery of new Canberra-class LHDs and the Hobart-class DDGs.

*Choules* participated in TS13 along with HMA Ships *Perth*, *Sydney*, *Waller* and *Tarakan* and ESPS *Cantabria*, as well as helicopters from 816 and 808SQNS.

*Cantabria's* crew of 168 sailors and officers, including a RAN contingent, demonstrated the logistic capabilities of the ship and her ability to operate with ships of different navies by conducting replenishments at sea with US Ships *Momsen*, *Chung Hoon* and *Preble*.

The scenario for TS13 challenged the ADF and the US military to restore sovereignty to a fictitious country after unprovoked aggression by a fictional nation.

As the scenario unfolded, warships from the RAN and US Navy conducted high-level free-play combat exercises against 'enemy' warships and submarines.

The joint training included anti-submarine and anti-air warfare, under way replenishments and manoeuvres with multiple ships steaming in formation.

Attacks by RAAF F/A-18 Hornets tested *Perth's* upgraded sensors and combat systems while members of *Perth's* 5-inch gun crew conducted live firing exercises against towed airborne targets.

*Perth* worked in close company with US Navy Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, and *Sydney* at the start of the exercise.

CO *Perth* CAPT Lee Goddard said this initial phase was invaluable, as it

set the scene for the next stage of the combined training.

"It gave us the opportunity to establish command and control relationships, refine operating procedures and learn how we can best use the capabilities each ship brings to the task force," he said.

"Once this solid foundation was established, we could safely move into higher level training in a free-play exercise environment where we responded to a rapidly unfolding exercise scenario."

The free-play phase was followed by a live fire exercise, which was the prelude to a peace restoration operation involving key international agencies to restore law and order as well as civil infrastructure.

Exercise spokesman BRIG Bob Brown said it was important for Navy to work with about 20 ships from the US 7th Fleet.

"You can imagine the whole range of activities that can be practised at sea

when you're working with a huge navy like the US Navy," he said.

BRIG Brown said the Ospreys from *Bonhomme Richard* also turned a few heads as they came through Rockhampton.

"To be able to morph a helicopter with its vertical take-off characteristics into a fixed wing aircraft with all the advantages of speed and range is just incredible," BRIG Brown said.

"I think everyone's been a little bit in awe of that."

He said it was essential for regional security to have the US participate.

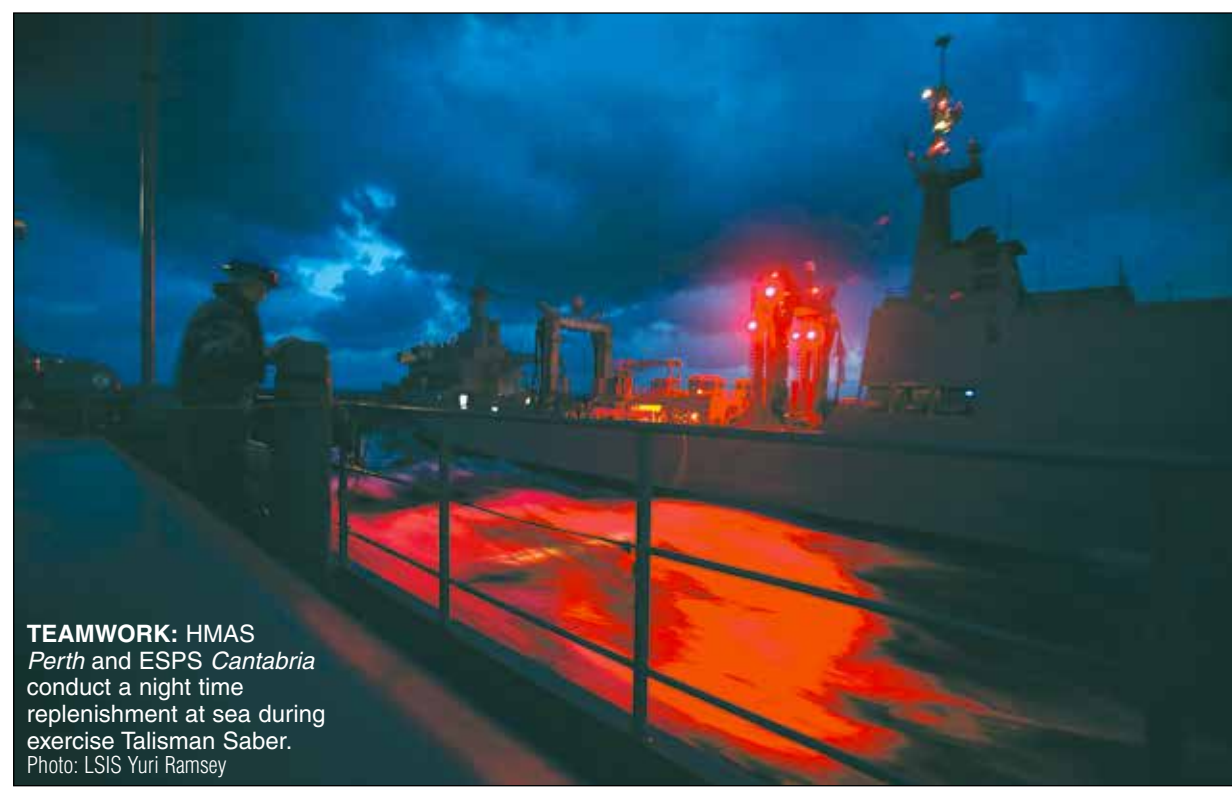
"They're our closest military to military alliance," he said.

"They've already said they regard the Pacific as incredibly important for security."

"To manoeuvre a force of this size around the battlefield; we just wouldn't be able to do that without bringing the US to the table."



**SWEET TOOTH:** THE ship's company of HMAS *Choules* had their cake and ate it too on July 18 as they celebrated the 10th anniversary of the ship's launch in the United Kingdom. Seven different cakes were pieced together to make up a puzzle, symbolising the ADF force elements that make up the ship's amphibious capability. A big thanks went to *Choules* night cook ABML-C Keely Finn who was the key designer and creator of the cakes, pictured right cutting the cakes with SMNML-SC Jake Higgins. Photo: ABIS Cassie McBride



**TEAMWORK:** HMAS *Perth* and ESPS *Cantabria* conduct a night time replenishment at sea during exercise Talisman Saber. Photo: LSIS Yuri Ramsey

## Old friends catch up on Choules

IT WAS July 1987 when 21-year-old David Farrugia and 23-year-old Peter Genders joined Waller Division, Romeo Class, General Entry 36 at HMAS *Cerberus*.

They remember their 6km morning runs in Defence-issued Dunlop Volleys or worse and more often, their boiler boots or 3km mud runs in the cool climate of Victoria.

Then-RCT Farrugia quickly gained the nickname "Eddie Murphy" for the moustache he sported, which immediately had to be removed, while RCT Genders was simply known as "Big Pete".

Big Pete put himself on the radar of their instructor from day one.

Having just finished a short career as a lumberjack, his dirty hands did not impress the instructor quarter master gunner.

More than a quarter-century later, CPOML-C Farrugia and CPOCD



**CATCHING UP:** CPOML-C David Farrugia, left, and CPOCD Peter Genders have a piece of cake to celebrate their 26th anniversary as sailors in the RAN while in HMAS *Choules* for Exercise Talisman Saber 2013. Photo: ABIS Cassie McBride

Genders crossed paths on board HMAS *Choules* for Exercise Talisman Saber 2013.

"We seem to cross paths about every 10 years," CPO Farrugia said.

"Last time was at HMAS *Stirling* and it is always great to see how the other is doing, we both have quite a few stories to tell."

The chiefs believe they may be two of three remaining recruits from their division. — LEUT Bek Williamson

## Women at work

**LEUT Bek Williamson**

IT WAS an inspiring visit for the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, when she joined HMAS *Choules* for a short visit during Talisman Saber.

Following the release of the second part of the report by the Australian Human Rights Commission into the treatment of serving women, which makes 21 recommendations to improve women's standing in the armed forces, Ms Broderick spent 24 hours on board to get a more hands-on experience and broader insight into women at sea.

"My experience on *Choules* reinforces my belief that both men and women play a vital role in the ADF," she said.

"From my observations, there is a culture that supports both men and women to work effectively as a team."

While there is still a way to go, Ms Broderick said she believed there would be a day when women would flourish in all parts of the ADF.

While on board, Ms Broderick and her team toured each department where she was able to talk with both men and women of the ship's company and 2RAR in the various roles they performed on board *Choules*.

Ms Broderick was up bright and early for the amphibious landing activity as the ship's crew worked solidly through the night and day to load assets in the well dock on to the LCM-8 and the mexeflote.

"I found observing women participating in a wide variety of roles, including engineering and driving amphibious vehicles, was very inspirational and the people I spoke to were very positive about their work experiences living and working in the ship," she said.



**FRIENDLY VISIT:** Elizabeth Broderick talks with LSMEDU Samone Black during her visit to HMAS *Choules*. Photo: ABIS Cassie McBride

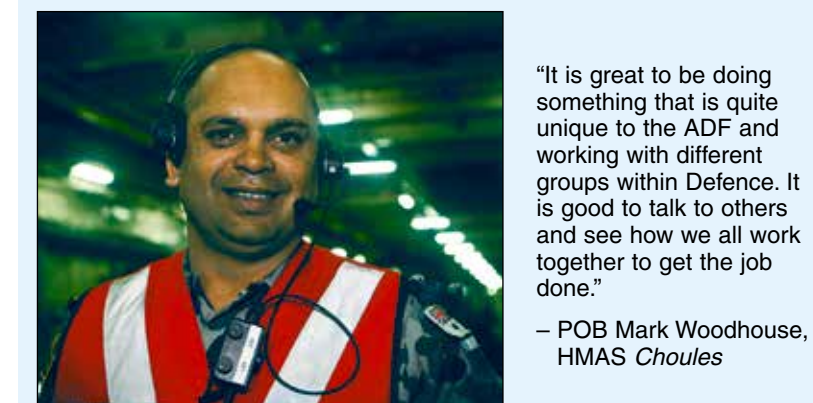
## WHAT THE SAILORS SAID



"I felt nervous and excited about the chance to come to sea. It's different working and eating while the ship is moving but you get used to it. I haven't been seasick yet. It was also impressive to see the aircraft landing on the deck while the ship was moving around."

— CPOATA Michael Wratten, 816SQN in HMAS *Perth*

— ABATV Barry Cruikshank, 816SQN in HMAS *Perth*



"It is great to be doing something that is quite unique to the ADF and working with different groups within Defence. It is good to talk to others and see how we all work together to get the job done."

— POB Mark Woodhouse, HMAS *Choules*



**COMING ABOARD:** An ADF special forces operator scales a ladder to the flight deck of HMAS *Sirius* off the coast of Yeppoon, Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Saber 2013. Photo: CPL Jake Sims





# Desk to deck

LEUT Andrew Herring

DRIVING jet-powered speed boats, diving into the ocean and giving emergency first-aid aren't in the job descriptions of most office workers, but for one Navy administrator aboard HMAS *Perth*, it's all in a day's work.

LSML-P Simon Von-Limont spends most of his days work looking after personnel administration, accounts payable, correspondence and record keeping – much like any other administrator.

But for LS Von-Limont, getting out of the office doesn't mean grabbing a quick coffee.

Instead it can involve getting behind the wheel of a 7.24m jet powered RHIB, capable of speeds over 55km/hr.

"It is good fun and a good change after being in an office for hours," LS Von-Limont said.

"I've always been into fishing and liked the water before I joined the Navy but I could never afford a boat of my own.

"These jet boats are so fast and manoeuvrable – they can do a 360 in the water. You don't get to do that in a normal admin job."

When the opportunity arose to learn how to be boat coxswain, LS Von-Limont jumped at the chance.

After completing an initial course at HMAS *Cerberus* to become qualified to operate conventional propeller-driven RHIBs, LS Von-Limont did further training to learn to drive the faster, more powerful jet RHIBs.

He joined *Perth* early this year and received his endorsement before Talisman Saber, which means he can now be called on to operate one of *Perth's* two jet RHIBs when required to transport passengers, conduct boardings or save lives.

Not that saving lives is anything new for this 26-year-old, who is also part of the ship's medical emergency team, which provides first aid and assists the ship's full-time medical team in an emergency.

As if that wasn't enough, he is also a member of *Perth's* flight deck team, responsible for guiding the ship's Seahawk onto the moving deck, and *Perth's* team of qualified scuba divers who dive under the ship to do hull inspections or repairs.

LS Von-Limont also gets involved in other seamanship tasks including replenishments at sea as well as keeping busy



below decks, responsible for the ship's garbage room and the accommodation space he shares with his crewmates. All the skills were well tested during TS13.

"In the Navy, I get to have a mix of both the office work and outdoor tasks," he said. "It's a nice mix."

In his spare time, he is also studying Higher School Certificate-level maths and physics as a precursor to university studies in engineering.

"I like to keep busy, I enjoy the challenge and it will open up future opportunities for me in the Navy," LS Von-Limont said.



**GOOD MIX:** LSML-P Simon Von-Limont works in his office, inset, and drives a jet RHIB with LSBM Glynn Parry during Talisman Saber.

Photos: LSIS Yuri Ramsey



**MIGHT AT SEA:** HMAS *Perth* encounters heavy seas during Talisman Saber.



**RECYCLING:** ABML-SC Veronica Bromfield removes shredded and compressed cardboard from HMAS *Perth's* waste processing unit.

## Talisman protects the seas

LEUT Andrew Herring

WHILE HMAS *Perth* protected troops aboard the Talisman Saber amphibious ships, her crew was also busy protecting the pristine environment of the Coral Sea and Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

A small floating community of 182 people creates plenty of daily waste, but *Perth's* sailors and officers worked together to manage this and protect the environment.

All recyclables were cleaned and sorted into six categories, before being shredded for space-efficient storage until disposal during the ship's next port visit.

When *Perth* was outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and well out to sea, the ship's state-of-the-art

sewerage system treated waste water to ensure all solids or bacteria that could damage the environment were removed.

Food scraps were processed in a macerator affectionately known as "Egor", which chopped them into small pieces and mixed them with water before disposal in the ocean, much like berley from a commercial fishing trawler.

When *Perth* was closer to shore or within the marine park, treated water was held in storage tanks on board.

There was also added vigilance on the bridge while inside this area.

When piloting through the marine park, additional lookouts were posted and all sightings of marine mammals were reported to exercise control and other ships in the vicinity.

CO *Perth* CAPT Lee Goddard oversaw the transit from the bridge and said environmental protection measures were well established in Navy's operating procedures.

"Navy understands the importance of protecting the marine environment and all ships in the Talisman Saber fleet are doing whatever needs to be done to achieve our desired training outcomes without damaging the environment," CAPT Goddard said.

Preparations for Talisman Saber included a public consultation period and preparation of an environmental report by a specialist consultancy.

The environmental report is available at [www.defence.gov.au/opex/exercises/ts13](http://www.defence.gov.au/opex/exercises/ts13)