

HMAS CRESWELL MAGAZINE | 2003

HONOUR - HONESTY - COURAGE - INTEGRITY - LOYALTY

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL COLLEGE





CRESWELL MAGAZINE 2003

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Captain's Foreword

By Captain Andrew Cawley, RAN



The handover to the new Captain is occurring as I write this foreword to the Royal Australian Naval College year book for 2003. In the three years I have been in command at HMAS CRESWELL a great many things have occurred and people can be proud of what has been achieved. We have seen a record number of Midshipmen join and graduate from the College and we have endured serious bushfires. Today, the Naval College and HMAS CRESWELL are busy, vibrant places, very much at the forefront of supporting an increasingly busy operational Navy.

Since the new officer training system was implemented in 2000, the Naval College has gone from strength to strength. Student numbers continue to rise and we are having to expand our staff numbers and our office space. The courses are forever being updated to keep pace with the change that surrounds us. In 2003 we also merged two RANC courses to bring a sharper focus to the junior officer

program, to make it easier for them to complete the training before promotion and to redirect resources to new entry officer training. The importance and impact of Leadership, Management and Personal Development training is more widely recognised across Navy today than five years ago. Perhaps not so widely recognised is it is not easy to do well. It takes knowledge, experience, careful design and very good people to deliver courses that will have a real impact on people. The staff at the Naval College very clearly recognise our courses must make that difference and there is the commitment there to achieve that difference.

In December, we were honoured with the presence of the newly appointed Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia as the reviewing officer for the Passing Out Parade of New entry Officer Course #29. It has been many years since the Governor-General came to the College and His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffrey AC was very impressed with all that he saw. He had never been to the Naval College before and remarked to the Midshipman that had he known what it was like, he might not have spent 35 years in the Army. Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ritchie RAN also attended the graduation ceremonies, which reflects his views on the importance of what we do here.

Admiral Ritchie also took the opportunity to open the new Replenishment at Sea (RAS) training facility at the waterfront. There are more details about this later in the year book explaining how it was constructed using the RAS

Kingposts from HMAS BRISBANE. From my perspective, taking the opportunity to preserve naval heritage in a very useful way like this has a very powerful meaning for the Midshipmen.

This past Christmas, the bushfires came right up to the door of CRESWELL. Just before Christmas Day, we had a very serious bushfire burn through the airfield and circle right up to the back fence of the houses on Benson Road. The fire also burnt up to the gangway and all along the lower sports ground. It could not have come closer. The fire crews and other people at CRESWELL responded professionally and, with all the other agencies involved such as the Rural Fire Service, Booderee National Park and police, we dealt with the danger with no injuries nor loss of property. The fire burnt out half of Booderee National Park, about 2500 hectares. From another perspective, the Camp Quality children in residence at the time thought it was all part of the scheduled excitement. It is a great privilege for CRESWELL to be able to help these people and they are most welcome each summer holidays.

In conclusion, I leave CRESWELL vibrant and ready for new challenges and development. It has been an honour to command and lead in contributing to the development of Navy people—the best of Navy's wealth.

The Year at a Glance

By Lieutenant Tom Lewis

The Establishment began the year with a Warrant Officer/Senior Sailor Entry course, which graduated 15 trainees at the end of three weeks. An RMITEOC course also began the year early, and the first of the five-week JOLC courses also commenced. The New Entry Officer Course – the first intake of the two each year – was the second largest intake the College has seen, with 102 entries.

The School of Ship Survivability and Safety went to double shifts to cope with the increased need for their courses as war in Iraq loomed. Indeed, the war and the operational tempo of the Navy had an effect on all of CRESWELL throughout the year.

CRESWELL not only is the home of five separate departments, but is also a focus for many visits and conferences. To many of us these go by unnoticed, unless they impact directly on one's area. But for the record, in 2003, we hosted:

- 39 Conferences/Meetings and Workshops,
- 75 Operational & Training Visits,
- 48 Training Visits, and
- 60 Civilian Organisation Visits.

In May Warrant Officer Lindsay Perryman posted out after three years at the College, working in the SSASSC2 billet. Lindsay paid off after more than 20 years in the Navy to settle in Brisbane. At the same time Librarian Julia Birmingham finished up after several years working in both the ALBATROSS and CRESWELL



Rear left: Brian Courtier, Keith Forsey. 3rd row: John Gunn, Jim Dickson, David Clinch, Dennis Rose, Bob Swanson, Peter Hardy, James Buchanan, Adrian Cummins. 2nd row: Barney Bambrick, Marty Salmon, Geoff Furlong, Orm Cooper, John Perrett, Bill Willcox, Ian Holmes, John McAlister. Front: John McDermott, Jack Ferrier, Commanding Officer of the College Capt. Andrew Cawley, Gus Murray, Reviewing Officer Rear Admiral Rowan Moffitt, John Foster, Ken Langford, Wally Rothwell, Matt Taylor.

libraries. She retired locally to Cambawarra.

Anzac Day saw our Gunnery staff attending the armoury at 0230 to issue weapons for guards as far afield as Hill Top, in the Highlands. All around the Shoalhaven, naval contingents were deployed, often travelling through the night to provide guards and parties for Dawn Services.

The rain prevented an outside Service at CRESWELL and many visitors were disappointed to be turned away from our small chapel when it reached maximum capacity. Ironically, a beautiful sunrise occurred a few minutes later. The Iraq war was on the minds of many.

The final exercise of the NEOC saw a mighty effort made by the College. Any observer might well sympathise with the New Entry Officer trainees during the current Exercise Matapan. Unless, of

course, they were on the staff of the RAN College. For the Exercise is designed to test, stress and call upon the hidden physical and mental reserves of the trainees over five days – and the Staff of the College must see the trainees are indeed challenged and tested. The three days of role-playing by staff and the evolutions carried out by the trainees are indeed an ordeal, but one that benefits its participants greatly in their leadership and teamwork development.

The first of the year's Passing Out Parades was held at the end of June, and good weather saw a number of helicopters in the flyover, and a good time had by all. The parade was attended by a number of "50 year graduates" and addressed by Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Rowan Moffitt.

To finish off the financial year, Warrant Officer Darren Jeffs arrived at the College, to complete the



CPO Gareth Bexton, Lieutenant John De Leeuwen, RAN, CPO Kathy Videon; the Commanding Officer of HMAS Creswell, Captain Andrew Cawley, RAN, and PO David Mulholland.

team which presents the Senior Sailors Advanced Staff Skills Course 2.

NEOC 29 began a few weeks later, with 68 trainees, of which 62 were to graduate. New Midshipman Aaron Scott was given a unique way of celebrating his 18th birthday. Two weeks into Course he was "nominated" as Flag Hand for the daily ceremony of Colours, and duly featured in the local newspaper.

Navy members' service was recognised at a Captain's Table. Petty Officer Kathy Videon was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and six other members were given long-service awards.

Petty Officer Tim Badger also was promoted around this time.

October saw Commodore Lou Rago addressing the NEOC Training Dinner, and the NEOC trainees proceeding to sea for their Training Cruise, which included a visit to SE-Asia.

A disappointment in late November was the cancellation of the Open Day, which had been under planning for six months. Rain began on the Friday, continued all day Sunday, and was falling steadily on Sunday morning, when the event was cancelled. Another try is planned for 2004. A further sad moment was the closure of the Base Shop, due to its unfinancial position.

The NEOC 29 graduation of 62 trainees was marked with even greater distinction than usual with the attendance as Reviewing Officer of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.



Accompanied by the Chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie AO, RAN – a 1968 graduate of the College – the Governor-General presented prizes, and made a speech of congratulation to the graduates.

CN also opened the “BRISBANE Kingposts” training facility at the waterfront. These large steel structures will now be available for use as a training device for the seamanship evolution of transfer of supplies and personnel, in this case, across the old swimming pool of the Establishment. The kingposts were taken from HMAS BRISBANE, the last of the Navy’s Guided Missile Destroyers. CN described how the project had grown from a casual discussion as to how best to use parts of the old ships, and how that had become a project largely overseen by David Dalli, from the Fleet Intermediate Maintenance Authority in Sydney.

CN was followed by Chief Petty Officer Jock McQueen, the last

“Buffer” of BRISBANE: the senior sailor responsible for seamanship evolutions. Chief McQueen explained the mechanics of the system and the mysteries of “tea-bagging” a transferred person – a process best left to the imagination.

Even then training was not finished. CRESWELL held a Maritime Environment Hazard spill prevention exercise in Jervis Bay. With SEAHORSE HORIZON simulating the release of an environmental hazard, booms were laid at speed; absorbent materials contained the “spill”, and the exercise concluded with the hazardous substances “recovered” as much as possible for proper disposal.

But just as Creswell was settling into its Xmas break fire broke out in Booderee National Park. For many it must have seemed like the Christmas month was going to be one of the busiest of the year. The fires quickly moved towards the front gates, and were met by

a comprehensive set of resources, including the on-board fire tenders and Navy helicopters in a water-bombing role. As the fire threatened the camping grounds at Greenpatch and then Jervis Bay Village, campers and residents were evacuated to the safety of the Quarterdeck. For the children of Camp Quality, enjoying their annual program within the base, the huge smoke clouds dominating the skyline must have



looked ominous. But they continued their program undaunted.

The Operations Centre was activated, and a program devised with the experience of the 2001 Christmas crisis was put smoothly into action. While the fires were fought, staff who lived on board were briefed, and 450 people were fed and offered shelter. Although the fires burnt up to the front gate of the base, successful back-burning operations and a determined effort against the threat saw the fires extinguished without major damage.

With a steady increase planned in the numbers of NEOC trainees coming through the College, CRESWELL looks set for expansion and an even busier time in 2004. ■



A fire-damaged sign outside HMAS Creswell.



CDRE Lou Rago at the Training Dinner, with Gunroom Mess President Midshipman Joe Francis (right) and Vice President Paul Gapes.



Exercise Matapan challenges.



CRESWELL wins ALBATROSS-NIRIMBA Soccer Cup Carnival

By Warrant Officer Ned Sparkes



Seven of the CRESWELL team members who won the recent Albatross-Nirimba Plate: (Front row l/r) Andrew Cawley, Chito Irlandez, Ned Sparkes, Luke Marthick, (Rear row l/r) Colin Mott, Tom Power, Amber Hall. Also shown are Dave Parks and Gary Lawrence.

HMAS CRESWELL competed in the Navy's annual Soccer cup carnival on Wednesday, 24 Sep 03 at Randwick Barracks. The team was coached by the larger than life Jock Cunningham and led on the field by Ned Sparkes.

The Albatross/Nirimba Cup started some thirty odd years ago with the order of the day being if you were a winner of your first game then you participated in the Cup whilst losers of their first game participated in the Plate. From there on in it was a knockout format to produce the winner of both the Cup and Plate.

The 2003 competition was held at Randwick Army Barracks on a sunny but windy day. Games were of 30 minutes duration, with 15 minutes each way. If the teams were tied at full time (ie 1-1) then the team that scored first was considered the winner. If teams were tied at full time (ie 0-0) then the winner would be decided by a sudden death penalty shootout. Some 20 teams participated which was well represented by ships, establishments, fire brigade & golden oldies. Teams from as far a field as Canberra, Jervis Bay and Nowra participated.

The day for CRESWELL personnel started early, to avoid city traffic in Sydney, with transport departing HMAS CRESWELL at 0400.

Our first game saw us drawn against a HYDRO team from Wollongong that was full of cohesion and that got out of the blocks early. A strike on goal by HYDRO took a deflection off a CRESWELL defender and we

were down 0-1. This meant that we needed to score at least two goals to win. Fortune played its part and Kylie Terry scored the equaliser for CRESWELL. End to end play nearly saw CRESWELL go ahead but this wasn't to be. A couple of lapses in defence and Hydro were eventual winners 3-1.

We were now in Plate competition and endured three straight games with little rest in between. Our next game saw a few forced positional changes and was played against a determined FIMA outfit from HMAS KUTTABUL. End to end soccer was the order of the day with some fine goalkeeping from Tom Power. The game finished 0-0. A decision was made to change goal keepers for the sudden death penalty shootout to Kylie Terry who was a recognised goal keeper. FIMA missed their first penalty, and so did CRESWELL. FIMA missed their second penalty and Ned Sparkes scored to win the match.

Off the field we came delighted with our performance only to be told to return to the field of play for our next game against HMAS WATERHEN. A dour struggle was the order of the day with both teams having opportunities to win the match. CRESWELL's defence of Colin Mott, Ian Parkes & Luke Marthick having strong performances. Final result was 0-0 and a penalty showdown.

There would be no changing of GK on this occasion only the order of the penalty taker and Tom Power anticipated where WATERHEN would place the penalty kick and saved

the shot to the delight of CRESWELL players. It was now down to Ned Sparkes to replicate his earlier feat and he calmly netted the ball into the back of the goal. The down side of the match was Jason Rombouts incurring a knee injury and he was now out for the rest of the tournament and that left CRESWELL with only one substitution. CRESWELL was now into the final of the plate against HMAS NORMAN. It was now time for the coach Jock Cunningham to provide some tactical advice and Ned Sparkes to lead by example. The final was played in howling winds with CRESWELL using the wind to its advantage in the first half. Mid way through the first half and in the twinkle of an eye Kylie Terry pounced on a loose ball and scored. Half time saw CRESWELL leading 1-0 but were now in a battle of the wits against a team that had nothing to lose and was throw caution to the wind. This meant that our midfield of Amber Hall, Andy Garven, Gary Lawrence & Kylie Terry would have to play a lot more defensively into the wind and if opportunities arose then to use the prowess of our rotating strikeforce of Chito Irlandez, Scott Smith, Chris Whittaker & Andrew Cawley.

Defence held strong and some fine goal keeping by Tom Power saw us victorious in 2003 Plate final 1-0.

This is the first team trophy that CRESWELL has won for a number of years. The Cup was won by HMAS HARMAN defeating GOLDEN OLDIES (2-2 at full time) on a penalty shootout 6-5. ■

A Word from the X – Executive Officer's Report

By Commander Henry Pearce



A busy year for CRESWELL with visits, throughout the year CRESWELL facilitated in excess of 250 visits, ranging from conferences, exercises and adventure training by all facets of ADF, to civilian organisations utilising CRESWELL's varied array of amenities and unique surroundings.

CRESWELL's conferencing facilities were utilised by Aerospace

Development Branch Conference, TA-MW, Defence Industry Advisory Council Workshop, COMAUSNAVAIRGRP on numerous occasions, Defence Legal, CSIG Regional Managers, Environmental Stewardship Infrastructure & Planning Group and Army White Water Association to name a few.

This year proved to be a popular overseas destination for the





Japanese Defence force visiting CRESWELL approximately four times for training purposes – one of the visits included the Japanese Defence Attaché. Other overseas visitors included a Malaysian Officer Cadet Contingent, the Chilean Defence Attache, the Vietnamese Military and the Thai Pre-Military Cadets. Many military exercises and ships' work-ups were supported by CRESWELL. These included the RAN Diving School Airborne Mine Disposal Training; a RAAF School of Technical Training Equipment Familiarisation Course, PTS Parachute Jump Masters Course and 8 Brigade Force Protection Unit EX STEEL DOOR to name a few.

HMA Ships included HAWKESBURY, GASCOYNE, HUON, SUCCESS, NEWCASTLE AND PARRAMATTA.

CRESWELL provided assistance to the community by hosting and supporting Civilian agencies such as Macquarie University Marine Research Group, Sutherland and Springwood Historical Society, various groups of the NSW and Australian Federal Police Force and the NSW Rugby Union team (WARATAHS). CRESWELL was used as the backdrop of two documentaries, the MELBOURNE/VOYAGER documentary by the Becker Group Film Company, and a nature documentary by the Sushi Film Company. CRESWELL also

of course supported the Camp Quality Organisation for their annual summer camp for terminally ill children.

The year ended spectacularly with the rather dangerous fires that came right up to CRESWELL's front gates, but a determined team effort saw them forced back in quick order. And speaking of teams, especial thanks are extended to the Ship's Company of the Establishment: your labours of the year have seen us all rewarded. ■

From the Training Commander

By Commander Chris Baldwin

Taking the opportunity to look back at 2003, we have seen the steady but continuous evolution of the Naval College as a professional and prestigious training and education institution for both officers and sailors. The level of activity of 2002 has been replicated in 2003 and we now have the promise of well over 100 New Entry Officers arriving at RANC in January 2004. This increasing level of activity, whilst exciting and symptomatic of the capability requirement of Navy for the future, naturally places more pressure on not only the training and support staff of RANC, but also the facilities and staff of CRESWELL. The Naval College simply could not do its important job without the support of the staff of CRESWELL, both civilian and service.

The Naval College has just completed its first year as a single unified organisation under the Training Commander, who reports to the Captain of the College. The year has tested the new organisational arrangements and collegiate approach to delivery of training, and particularly the integrity and viability of the Curriculum Study Group (CSG) concept within the present staffing level of RANC. There will be further refinements to CSG concept implementation over 2004 as we seek to optimise the functional structure of the Naval College in order to ensure that the institution can continue to provide the very best training and research in the fields of officer and sailor Leadership, Management and Personal Development.



As usual each year we are to lose a number of key staff. Lieutenant Commander Craig Powell has performed the duties of Director of Leadership and Military Studies in a most exemplary manner and he has made significant improvements to the conduct of NEOC training during his time here. He brought to the faculty both command and current operational experience, which proved invaluable in terms of his role in front of new entry officer trainees as an exemplar of Navy values and culture, and his oversight of course content development. He moves on to the ACSC to undertake

command and staff course. Lieutenant Commander John Wearne has been a stalwart of, first the training support organisation and then managing the junior officer professional development and senior sailor training department. He has injected much valuable training expertise into these departments, especially in the area of flexible delivery and the evolution of 'Learning Content Management Systems' and his absence will be keenly felt. He also is to go to ACSC to undertake command and staff course. Lieutenants Alex Gillett, Rod Norsworthy, Jason Cameron,



Sea Training staff: (Back row L to R) LSCK 'Chipper' Bryant, LSMT 'Jimmy' Mcleod, LEUT 'Boss' Marthick (front row L to R) ABBM 'Hoges' Hogan, POB 'Bungy' Williamson, ABBM 'Scottie' Tye. Absent- LSMT 'Shultz' Schultz, LSBMSE 'Shelley' Batten.

Ben Peck and Chris Jones are all posting to further specialisation training and/or career progression. They have contributed much effort and energy to their respective areas in the College and we wish them well.

The new staff joining us in 2004 include Lieutenant Commander John Cowan from Young Endeavour, who takes over as DLMS; Lieutenant Commander Mark Burton from DTA takes over as DMSS and Lieutenant Commander Rebecca Virgona comes from TA-AVN to be the new Head of Training Support. Lieutenant Commander Steve Heppenstall moves from his position as Head of Training Support to the

position of DTA Policy officer. We warmly welcome these staff to the College fraternity.

There are many people who have been at the College for varying periods of time throughout 2003 and have contributed much to the conduct of training and are not mentioned here, but their contribution is nevertheless highly valued and recognised. Perhaps, in conclusion, one person more than any other should be recognised for his vital and important influence in shaping and influencing the conduct of RANC training and the wider importance of officer and sailor Leadership, Management and Personal Development training

in the Navy, and that is Captain Andrew Cawley, Captain of the College. His powerful influence and ideas has pervaded all aspects of College life and activity and his contribution is immeasurable. His steadfast desire to see the College raised in prominence within the profession of arms and the wider Naval community has seen the firm foundation set for what will come thereafter. The College wishes both him and his wife, Anna Glynn, all the best for the future and what will no doubt continue to be a distinguished career. ■

DTA Year 2003

By Commander Richard Rowan

DTA is the policy area for TA ITLM. Besides that the area also looks after items such as OHS, E&D, Drugs and Alcohol, CISM, Sail Training, Adventure Training, ANC and any other item that may be required as an awareness at initial entry. The range of topics increases yearly and sometimes we are referred to as TA Etc.

The year that was 2003 saw an increase and then a gradual decline in the staffing situation. The year opened on a high note with the posting of WO Michael Grischeff as OHS National Coordinator, followed closely by CPO Norm Sweeney as CPO Policy Officer and then the arrival of LCDR Mark Burton as SO Projects from PNG.

Then the departures: CPO Tim Badger to Parade Ground Training,

LCDR Ian Weekley to ANC Canberra and LCDR Mark Burton to RANC. The quick summary is Jan 03, 6 billets, 5 filled, Dec 03, 4 billets 3 filled. The outgoings provided Navy with better options and capability in times of personnel shortages.

LCDR Mark Burton, although only with DTA for a dogwatch, made some major contributions in the area of high ropes, induction programs and cadets. WO Michael Grischeff has taken OHS and given it a real push. His redesign of the original courses to now include risk is a major step in the right direction. Providing expert advice on risk in outdoor activities has just added to the value of his contribution to Navy. CPO Norm Sweeney has provided the focus in CISM, E&D, Drugs and Alcohol.

The year has been fairly busy if not frantic at times. Collectively we have completed a review of ANR initial entry, developed web sites for Recruit School and RANC, made some headway with Instructor allowance, Instructor Badge, a fourth watch and Sea Familiarisation Crew for Recruit School, conducted a study of behavioural requirements for instructors, been immersed in the ongoing direction of sailing policy, random drug testing, review of DI(N)s, CISM and various other projects including some minor dabbles into research. It has been a full year and 2004 also looks full before we start. ■



Royal Australian Navy School of Survivability and Ship Safety

By Lieutenant Andrew Nicholls

The RAN School of Survivability and Ship Safety at HMAS CRESWELL consists of the Management Cell (MC) and Training Facility East (TF East). The MC is housed in CRESWELL whilst TF East is situated within the boundaries of Jervis Bay Air Field, overlooking the picturesque Jervis Bay and surrounding Booderee National Park. Both were again very busy throughout 2003 meeting the Combat Survivability (CS) training requirements for the RAN.

TF East supported the RAN's high operational tempo by conducting 98 CS related courses throughout 2003, resulting in over 1900 ADF personnel being trained and deployed in operational units. Of particular note to TA-ITLM, were the Standard CS courses conducted for New Entry Officers incorporating direct, reserve, medical specialist, and Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) entry schemes. In addition, due to the high training throughput across all three RANSSSS Training Facilities (TF), it has been necessary for selected classes from Recruit School, at HMAS CERBERUS, to undertake CS Training at TF East.

The professionalism and dedication of the TF East staff, combined with the unique practical training facilities, has also resulted in requests to provide ad hoc CS training to many different organisations from within and external to Defence. An example of this style of training has been Teamwork and Leadership training for Junior Officers conducting Exercise MATAPAN or CONFLUX, and opportunities for Naval Cadet



units to experience live CS training first hand. TF East also provided training and facilities, in support of Defence's commitment to assist the Civil Community, to the NSW Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Department and the NSW Rural Fire Service for live Fire Fighting training.

This year also saw TF East conducted a modified tandard CS Course for 10 Foreign Naval Officers from Vietnam. This was the second course for the Vietnamese Navy and this time TF East was more prepared to tackle the language barrier. Lingual support came from Sergeant PT "Charlie" Tran from the School of Military Engineering (SME) at Holsworthy Army Base. SGT Tran worked as the conduit between TF East instructors and trainees and was instrumental in the success of the course.

Additionally, TF East also found time, in their busy schedule, to fit

in 25 Ships' Pre Work-up Training (PWT) courses and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence (CBRND) training in support of RAN and ADF units deployments such as OP RELEX, SLIPPER, and FALCONER. Total trainee throughput for PWT training for 2003 at TF East was 2008 ADF personnel.

The RANSSSS has the overarching responsibility for delivery of CS training across Australia. To this end the MC implemented the centralisation of all CS course coordination and programming to the MC. The centralisation process, combined with the reduction in operational activities, has facilitated a more balanced approach to the overall training load of over 5000 core CS course trainees this year. Other initiatives include central coordination of the Quality Control (QC) process, billet restructure for TF South, development of a CS training continuum, and taking the training

to the coal face by conducting Damage Control Instructor (DCI) courses in both Darwin and Cairns.

The RANSSSS sent two personnel (LEUT Nicholls and CPO Galt) to the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) Damage Control School at HMNZS TAMAKI to conduct the RNZN DCI course. The visit was designed to facilitate benchmarking of CS training, equipment and facilities with the additional aim of fostering a closer relationship with our closest neighbours. The visit achieved the aim and the lines of communication have now been opened ensuring both navies now benefit from common information flow.

"All work and no play leads to an unmotivated team" hence the reason both the MC and TF East organised and paid for their own Adventurous Training (AT) expeditions. Both expeditions achieved their aims ensuring RANSSSS personnel were challenged in a foreign environment well away from their normal workplace.

In July this year the staff from TF-East conducted a three-day, team building, expedition to Wisemans Ferry, NSW. Activities for the expedition included a series of teamwork and leadership challenge exercises, which culminated in the use of maps, compasses, canoes and mountain bikes to successfully navigate each team around the local area.

These activities provided the staff with an opportunity to sharpen their leadership abilities and work together as a team in unfamiliar environments or situations; as well as allowing lungs, accustomed to choking down smoke and tear gas,



the opportunity to breathe fresh air once again.

An enjoyable time was had by all, with the break from the grinding schedule of the training facility coming as a welcome respite and allowed all personnel to re-focus and energise their batteries for the remainder of the year.

The MC expedition was a three-day long open ocean sailing odyssey conducted in the Defence Maritime Services (DMS) vessel SALTHORSE HORIZON mastered by Mr Kea Malpas. The expedition departed from the CRESWELL wharf and commenced with general sailing familiarisation within Jervis Bay culminating in a Steel Deck BBQ at the overnight anchorage off Hole in the Wall.

Day two began early and saw SALTHORSE leave Jervis Bay heading for Port Jackson (Sydney) with a two-metre swell and southerly winds at 10-15 knots. By 1600 h of that day the swell had increased to 2-3 m with gust of up to 30 - 35

knots. The original plan was to enter Wollongong harbour for over night anchorage, however a decision was made to hoist the storm jib, drop the main sail and continue onto Sydney, as it was too dangerous to enter Wollongong harbour at that time. SALTHORSE continued up the coast throughout the night battling 3-4 m swells and wind up to 45 knots, finally entering Sydney harbour at 0700h and heading for anchorage at HMAS PENGUIN.

After personnel had squared away the vessel, freshened themselves up, and ate a hearty meal, (as most people lost the contents of their stomachs over the side) SALTHORSE conducted a harbour cruise before berthing at Garden Island. The sailing expedition was a first for many of the participants and proved to be both physically and mentally demanding for all concerned. The teamwork and determination demonstrated by individuals ensured all training outcomes were realised. ■

Alan's Angle

By Chaplain Alan Asplin

Another year gone, another two NEOCs! Time has 'whizzed' by. Looking back through my diary I'm amazed at how full it has been and almost feel tired just looking at what has been done. A highlight for me has been the recent NEOC29 Sea Training Deployment on TOBRUK, which took us to Singapore, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). It was certainly a challenge to instruct the NEOCs in a warship environment, as compared to the College facilities.

My stint at CRESWELL is coming to an end. I've had another great year here but now it's time to move on. In January I'll be moving to KUTTABUL as 'Fleet Pool Chaplain', i.e., going to sea, as required, on ships that are deployed. It has been a privilege as well as a pleasure to have served here. My replacement is Chaplain Graeme Watkinson (ex-CERBERUS). He will, I'm sure, enjoy his time at CRESWELL, just as I have.

CDF has stated that, 'Leadership must spring from an inner core of integrity and morality. You can only build leaders from a good foundation of character.' Part of the RANC's role is help trainees to develop their leadership potential. Our effectiveness, or power, as leaders is determined by our growth in character. We enhance our effectiveness as leaders by working on who we are.

Leaders in the Navy have to make decisions that impact on the lives of others. They need to fully understand how their values and beliefs guide the decision making process, and are affected in turn by the outcome of their decisions. Navy expects its leaders to make sound



judgements and decisions based on sound values and ethical principles; especially Navy's Values of Honour, Honesty, Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

This challenge is increasingly difficult in today's society. One commentator recently said, 'Rightness is very often about doing the right thing even when it is not necessarily in your own interest to do so. This is an increasingly foreign notion. This (Australia) is no longer an ethical society. We have almost lost our inclination and our power to ask: Is this right?' The writer was commenting on the lack of ethical behaviour displayed by CEOs and Board members in the context of several major corporate collapses. Their poor example,

in terms of character, values and ethics, was observed to have filtered down and 'infected' the lives of ordinary Australians; such that the commentator could say: "Is this right?" is not a question that is asked much at all these days."

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14.34). Let us pray that our graduates will rise to the challenge, for their own well-being and the for the benefit of the nation and the RAN in which they serve as Naval Officers. ■



Kalkara Flight – Unmanned Aerial Target System

By CMDR IR Payne RANR

Kalkara Flight commenced the year with an early deployment across to WA to provide targets for HMAS WARRAMUNGA firing her first Evolved Sea Sparrow missile in January. After a few weeks back on the east coast for HMAS NEWCASTLE in February, bags and aircraft were packed up again for further flight trials in WA in March and April and a target presentation for HMAS ARUNTA at the end of May.

Three flight members took time out at the end of the WA deployments to do some adventurous training by riding their motor bikes back across the Nullarbor supported by an enthusiastic Midshipman driving a well-stocked 4WD-recovery vehicle.

Kalkara launched from Jervis Bay airfield on 4 August for the first time since February 2001, marking the end of operations from Beecroft Weapons Range. The Flight

conducted more low-level flight trials and target presentations for HMNZS TE KAHA and RAAF ARDU and 3 Squadron to the end of November. The year ended on a high note when 3 Squadron successfully fired four missiles simultaneously at a towed target. ■

Beecroft Weapons Range

By LEUT Larry Cook

Beecroft Weapons Range (BWR) has had a busy year in fleet support with Naval Gunfire Support (NGS) serials being conducted with HMA ships STUART, MELBOURNE, NEWCASTLE, ADELAIDE, SYDNEY, DARWIN, PARRAMATTA and HMNZS CANTERBURY and TEKAHA.

Other users of BWR included 3 RAR and 4RAR from the Army, RAAF representatives from ADFHQ and 78 Wing, Macquarie University on a whale research program, CEA and LOTUS with new design radar trials and supersonic target systems, Kalkara Flight and 816 and 723 Squadrons.

In September/October 2003 the OIC – LEUT Larry Cook – CPOB Glenn Peck and ABMM Chris Opperman deployed to Exercise Crocodile 03 at Townsend Island in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Central Queensland. Their duty was calling NGS onto Townsend Island targets for HMAS STUART, MELBOURNE, CANBERRA and USS CURTIS WILBUR and O'BRIEN. The BWR party received praise from COMFLOT for their assistance at Exercise Crocodile. The OIC also deployed aboard USS CURTIS WILBUR working in the Combat Information Centre and then to HMAS MELBOURNE AND KANIMBLA employed on Commander Amphibious Task Group Staff before flying to Townsend Island.

During Exercise Crocodile the remainder of the BWR staff, LSET Tom Shaw, ABMM 'Taz' Edwards, ABMM Wenzel, ABCSO Carter, ABMM 'Spud' Murphy were employed in



range maintenance and assistance to junior officer firearms training both in CRESWELL and Madura Range in the ACT.

In February 03 the BWR fire crew, led by CPOB Peck, successfully fought and back burned large areas of BWR saving many thousands of hectares of vegetation from destruction. The BWR staff are all fully trained firefighters under New South Wales Rural Fire Service training programs with CPOB Peck a qualified Crew Leader. BWR has its own fire appliances and, with illuminant firings, is called to put

their acquired skills into practice on a regular basis.

Beecroft Weapons Range, whilst rarely visited by Naval personnel in general, performs a highly specialised role in the operational readiness of Australian and New Zealand warships. In the recent Iraq campaign when ANZAC engaged shore target with its 5" gun, being the first Australian warship to engage a shore target since the Vietnam war, it was pleasing to know that BWR played a role in assisting that ship in its NGS proficiency. ■

Corporate Services & Infrastructure Group (CSIG)

By Steve Ryan

CSIG is a vital part of the Australian Defence Organisation and CSIG people are vital in supporting Defence personnel where they work, train and live.

Here at CRESWELL, CSIG is a very small group of dedicated personal that is led by the ever-cheerful Base Manager, Steve Ryan. Working directly for the Base Manager is the Contract Management section that consists of the office clown, John Cross and his not so loud counterpart PO Dave Mulholland. Recently joining this team is CPOCK Gareth Bexton who will play an integral part in Hospitality Services.

The Informations Systems section is headed by Darryl Ward (Don't call me, report it to the DRN Support number) assisted by Lucy Bell and Wally Lendrem.

Working in Registry and providing the rest of the office with lollies from their magical never empty jars are Dawn Brown and (Soon to Depart) Kathy Swanson.

Looking after the most important area, that being money is the ever-tight Finance Officer Mr Jorge Valdivia. Make sure you are nice to this person and your wishes may come true.

PONPC "Boris" Carloff assisted by LSNPC Colin Mott and the apprentice Coxswain Mick Coleman control leave and movements, with LSNPC Mick Pool looking after discipline. You will normally find Mick Poole reminiscing about the good old days when there were Dockie Coppers and Colin Mott telling him to get over it. All jokes aside, they will ensure that your



leave and movements are up to date and correct.

Dee O'Shea who has recently taken over from John Pratt runs the Shopfront for Pay and Allowances. Also new to the front and learning as much as she can is AB Mira Mucha.

A couple of services that just continue to go unnoticed are the Library and Publishing services both ably provided by Sandra Turner and Jennifer Leahy in the library and Rob (let's talk about my racing HQ) East in Publishing.

Ensuring that all the buildings do not fall apart is the always

chuckling, Chris Lawrence, with his non-existent bucket of money. He also has the ability to make Ray Hannett's life hectic without much effort at all.

Last, but not least is the Naval Stores Section that is left in the capable hands of Ian Cook (Cookie) and assisted by the youthful mother, Cheryl Peck. If it is a stores item you can be assured they will get it one or another if it is in stock.

CSI is a customer-focussed group and are always willing to respond to any positive or negative comments. ■



DMS Shoalhaven

By Andrew Dunlop

2003 has been an interesting and busy year for the DMS Shoalhaven business unit, based at the Waterfront at CRESWELL. With a permanent staff of eight and a number of casual staff DMS Shoalhaven is responsible for providing a wide range of maritime support services to a range of Defence customers. These include Fleet Units, Helicopter Squadrons,

CRESWELL and other bases, specific Army and RAAF units, the Naval College, Beecroft Range, Diving Teams and so on.

The range of services includes passenger and stores transfers, support for diving teams, recovery of students parachuting into the Bay, Range Clearance during Naval Gunfire Support firings, support for

helicopter training, the provision of vessels for boatwork training, oil spill containment etc

DMS Shoalhaven maintains a fleet of vessels to meet these requirements. The fleet consists of three major support craft, 7.2m rigid inflatable, 8m Sharkcat, 5.8m centre console runabout, a 5.1m runabout, a 10 man inflatable boat,

two remotely controlled surface targets and an RAN Mark 1 surface target.

Operationally 1300 services were requested, 800 were provided, with customers cancelling 500. This resulted in 3100 hours on task and 3400 hours underway. From an Engineering perspective 800 planned maintenance routines were completed while 260 defects were repaired.

Other DMS business units worked in the area throughout the year supporting various activities. Jervis Bay Offshore Vessels (SEAHORSE HORIZON and TRV Tuna) supported Sea Familiarisation Training, Mine Warfare activities, target towing and consort work. DMS Sailing Centre Sydney provided dinghy and yacht courses and adventure training activities using the sail training vessel SALTHORSE.

The end of 2003 also saw an end of an era as the last of the 40' timber workboats was "retired" and replaced with a 12m aluminium workboat. As the year draws to a close DMS Shoalhaven hopes for a safe and happy Christmas for all our customers and a successful 2004. ■

Initial Entry Officer Training RANC 2003

By LCDR Craig Powell

The year 2003 has been another busy year of the training of initial entry officers at the RANC. In all there has been a total of 349 Officers attend initial entry training in one of its many forms during the year. This number consists of 37 Warrant Officer and Senior Sailor changeovers, 46 RMIT students, 39 University Undergraduates, 6 Officers attending a Lateral Entry Program and 47 Officers undertaking the Reserve Entry Officer's Course.

In addition to these smaller courses the year has been dominated by the conduct of the New Entry Officer Course. In all, 174 trainees commenced this course through the year with 159 ultimately graduating from RANC as Officers in the RAN.

The first of these courses, NEOC 28, conducted from Jan – Jun 2003, had an intake of 103 and produced 97 graduates, the second largest graduating class in the history of RANC. Significantly this was the first time that Officers of

the Medical, Dental and Chaplaincy qualifications attended NEOC. As a result the graduating class had representatives of all bar two Officer PQ's on parade.

The second course, NEOC 29, had a smaller intake of 71 and produced 62 graduates. A clear highlight of the course was the deployment of 75 staff and trainees to HMAS TOBRUK for a sea training deployment to South East Asia, where the delights of port visits to Singapore, Bangkok (Thailand) and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam were enjoyed by all. The passing out parade for NEOC 29 on 05 Dec 2003 was also a highlight due to the attendance of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, as the reviewing officer, in what were on the day, poor weather conditions.

In all it has been a busy year for all staff involved in the training of new entry officers in the RAN. The high standard produced in this

important role is largely due to the efforts of the dedicated staff who as always have had an extremely busy year. The efforts of staff were publicly recognised and praised by both the Governor General and the Commander Australian Navy Systems Command at the NEOC 29 passing out parade. RANC now looks ahead to further busy years with recruiting targets indicating that course sizes will continue to grow in the short term, with the intake numbers for NEOC 30 in Jan 04 indicating that there will be the largest class to graduate in the history of RANC. ■

Advanced courses in the Royal Australian Naval College

By Lieutenant Commander John Wearne

2003 was a year of changes for RANC. As part of the reorganisation of RANC at the end of 2002 the Advanced Leadership and Management Faculty was merged with the other part of the College to provide more flexibility for resourcing New Entry courses. Gone were the organisation, structure and esprit de corps of the Faculty to be replaced a matrix organisation where instructors were organised into subject related groups and responsibilities for courses were assigned separately. The advanced courses conducted were the:

- Senior Sailor Advanced Service Skills Course (Phase 1),
- Senior Sailor Advanced Service Skills Course (Phase 2),
- Junior Officer Leadership Course,
- Junior Officer Management Course, and
- Junior Officer Strategic Studies Course.

The group that conducted these courses became known as the Junior Officer Professional Development (JOPD) department. It was a busy year – the heightened operational tempo impacting on course delivery and attendance on the senior courses. For the RAN the impact on the budget for the financial year 2003/2004 was such that the Director General Naval Personnel and Training was looking to make savings. So it was no surprise that during September we were directed to reduce the number of courses in the respective officer and sailor Leadership, Management, and Personal

Development Continuums by one in time for 2004.

Sailor courses. As a result the Sailor Leadership and Management Faculty (SLMF) were now to conduct a single course for junior sailors targeted at junior Leading Seamen, titled the Junior Sailor Leadership and Management Course. The existing Senior Sailor Advanced Service Skills Course – phase 1 will be expanded to incorporate training as a divisional senior sailor in addition to writing skills and will be renamed the Senior Sailor Management Course. It will continue to be conducted as a distance learning course. The existing Senior Sailor Advanced Service Skills Course – phase 2 will be focused on the leadership skills that Chief Petty Officers need and the course will be renamed the Chief Petty Officer Leadership Development Program.

Officer courses. The Junior Officer Leadership Course will continue, but the Junior Officer Management Course will be combined with the Junior Officer Strategic Studies Course to form the Junior Officer Management and Strategic Studies Course (JOMSSC).

The people who made it possible. But for all the uncertainty it was the people and their approach to things that made things memorable. LEUT Mark Bunnett left us early in the year to make his mark on sailor leadership and management training as the CIO of SLMF. After life in a big city Mark is leaving the Navy at the end of 2003 and returning to

teaching in Darwin. LEUT Desmond Woods continued to manage JOLC and WOSSEOC during the year and organised a memorable series of interesting speakers throughout the year; he takes over the new JOMSSC for 2004. LEUTs Mark Skinner and Chris Jones became the “spare wheels” in the College becoming NEOC Divisional Officers at short notice before returning to their day jobs in the second half of the year. Mark took over JOLC from Desmond towards the end of the year and will continue with that role in 2004. Chris returned to his role as the JOMC course officer and leaves the College to start a new career as a Supply Officer. LEUT Lucito Irlandez took over as the course officer for JOSSC from LEUT Tom Lewis and after development work on the new JOMSSC will go onto life as the CIO JOPD for 2004. LEUT Ben Peck, LEUT Richard Adams and CPO Jason Rombouts were the stalwarts of NEOC instruction. While Richard and Jason remain in RANC for more of the same, Ben is heading west to join the submarine training world; quite a change after over three years in CRESWELL.

LEUT Tess Cunningham and CPO Gareth Bexton continued to deliver training in Service writing to senior sailors by any means they could, including a trial involving online delivery. Tess also coordinated much of JOPD training throughout the year – she really did know what was happening! Gareth handed over to PO Bill Middleton in September and went over to work with the garrison support contract

management group and our prayers went with him.

WOs Gary Bromley and Lindsay Perryman continued to conduct SSASSC2 creating Warrant Officers of the future. Gary had big high-heeled shoes to fill when he took over from WO Angella Hillis who returned to Navy HQ. Lindsay paid-off early in the year and moved to the Brisbane area handing over to WO Darren Jeffs who returned to RANC after an absence of 16 years. Gary and Darren provided an air of calm organisation during the highs and lows of a busy training year. Lastly, LCDR John Wearne is handing over to LCDR Mark Burton

before heading off to Canberra as a student on the Australian Command and Staff Course.

Whatever happens in 2004 – it won't be boring! ■



The CRESWELL Wardroom

By Lieutenant Tom Lewis

After a quiet start to the year, with many new members joining, Wardroom social activities got under way in April with the commencement of regular Raffles Nights. The year also saw a return to the old tradition of fortnightly morning teas which have proved a good opportunity to catch up with other officers who one rarely sees, particularly noting the size of CRESWELL and its distributed departments.

The annual partners Dining In Night saw a good turn up with a pleasant time had by all of the members and their invited guests

June saw Social Secretary SBLT John Dokon pay off from the Navy for a new job overseas. SBLT Nikki Wong was left to carry the load, but she had other things to think about with the birth of her

second child and soon LEUT Luke Marthick stepped forward to take up the challenge.

'Christmas in July' proved a positive event, except for this writer's imitation of Santa complete with the suit and a pillow for a little additional padding. August saw once again a representative of Southcorp provide some excellent wines for a 'Wine Appreciation' dinner.

October's highlight was the annual Mess Members' Dinner, and the galley staff rose to the occasion with a great meal.

Christmas was soon upon us and the final Raffles saw unusually just about all of the prizes going to departing members.

The year's ending was a little down however, given the news that

Wardroom manager Lorraine Lewis was leaving, along with her husband CPO Dave Lewis, for his new job with the NSW Police at their training academy in Goulburn. Lorraine's efforts and unflinching enthusiasm have lifted the standard of mess functions (and life in general) to a new level. We wish her and her family well and thank Lorraine for her great work during the year.

Next year's program will hopefully include the long-awaited renovations in the Bar area, which would see members able to enjoy views from the windows, with the bar relocated behind the fireplace in that part of the Wardroom known as "the black hole". We are also planning for the snooker table to return in a new location of the ground floor of the northern wing. ■

Senior Sailors' Mess Report

By WO Gary Bromley

A short notice posting at the beginning of 2003, meant that Angella Hillis was replaced by Gary Bromley as the President of the Senior Sailors Mess. The RAN band was on deck, to provide the entertainment for a Partners Dine In night on Valentines Day.

The State of Origin series drew a good crowd, and a very homely atmosphere was provided by those members who live-in when they turned up for the game wearing their dressing gowns and slippers. There were far too many Queenslanders in attendance, but at least they all went home with their tails between their legs! The Mess also hosted the AFL Grand Final, which was well attended.

A Mess Dinner was held in October. Guests included the CO, the XO, and all the Leading Hands. The Leading Hands were introduced to the rest of the diners by their designated host. There were some classic

introductions, but none better than the welcome to our 'extinguished' guest! Dr. Stuart Randell was the guest speaker.

A Halloween party for around 70 children was held in October, where the kids were terrorised by Darren 'Jason' Dyball and Tom 'Freddie' Power. A survey taken shortly after the party revealed that Darren and Tom are far less scary when they are dressed up!

Melbourne Cup activities saw a big turnout for Race Day; however, the real money was spent on the previous Saturday at the Almost Melbourne Cup Night. Apart from the Calcutta, four 'dog' races were held and the sight of grown-ups cheering for battery operated animals is a sight to behold. If you missed it in 2003, then make sure you plan for it in 2004.

Christmas Raffles was the final event for the year, with over \$2000

worth of prizes. There were some big winners, and most people went home happy, even if it was only because they'd had a good feed.

A number of long-term members departed the RAN during 2003, and we acknowledge the support of Lindsay Perryman, Tom Koslosko, and June Cunningham to the Navy throughout their careers. Another long-term member is departing in the first week of 2004, and we wish David 'Yog' Lewis (a previous Mess President), and his family well in their future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mess Committee: Don Waples (Vice President), Scott Revell (Secretary), Mick Grisceff (Social Secretary), Jeff Bament, Jock Campbell, Bungy Williamson, Tom Power, Walter Baumhammer, and Graeme O'Beirne (Mess Manager), who have all contributed to an active social calendar. I look forward to working with them in 2004. ■



Senior Sailors' Advanced Staff Skills Course Phase 1

By LEUT Tess Cunningham

The Senior Sailors' Advanced Staff Skills Course Phase 1 (SSASSC1) is a 12 month, distance learning course that assists Senior Sailors develop their skills in written expression, grammar, and the application of the ADFP 102 Manual for Defence Writing Standards.

The past year has been a very exciting year for SSASSC1. How can defence writing be exciting? I can hear you ask. Well, during the year we hit the 800 current students mark – this is the highest number of students ever seen within SSASSC1. A lot of these students were in operational areas and they were still achieving results. These figures also proved to be quite challenging in that the staff had to be innovative in providing feedback. E-mail has been the most valuable tool, in that as soon as we get a module if there are any major problems we were able to provide feedback straight away instead of waiting for the fleet mail system to keep up. E-mail was used as the most efficient way of providing a level of two-way communication between the staff and students.

Another exciting development within SSASSC1 was the conduct of an online learning course. This was the first time it has been attempted in the RAN and after a couple of hiccups initially, we have been able to finish off the year with two groups of 30 students progressing through the course online as opposed to the traditional method. The benefit to online learning was that the course could be completed in 15



weeks as opposed to 12 months. This is a more structured approach and more resource intensive. Even though a few students withdrew from the course it was still extremely successful, and with a few more improvements we will be able to learn and develop the course even further.

Once becoming familiar with the technology, the students enjoyed the online course and found the ability for online chat proved to be very worthwhile. LSWTR Terri Davis from the NPT Strategic Concepts Development Group at Leeuwin Barracks in WA, was the first student to complete the course via online learning and she found it to be very rewarding. The distance course, however, is still available: we are just trying to conduct the course in a different method to suit the needs of the students, without breaking the budget.

The latter part of the year has seen a lot of development work

on the sailors' leadership and management training continuum. SSASSC1 has undergone a large amount of redevelopment work and it will become the Senior Sailors Management Course (SSMC). The new course will still cover defence writing, however it will also include items such as time management and planning, oral communications as well as written communications and there will be a number of divisional scenarios. The aim of this is to enable our Senior Sailors to become well-developed managers with a broadened scope of knowledge on which to draw, whilst being effective divisional Senior Sailors.

The SSASSC1 instructors LEUT T. Cunningham, CPOCK Bexton, and POCK Middleton have strived to increase levels of course quality and support to students, whilst looking for innovative ways to improve the quality and time given for the feedback and support. ■

Senior Sailors' Advanced Staff Skills Course Phase 2

By Warrant Officer Gary Bromley

The Senior Sailors Advanced Staff Skills Course Phase Two (SSASSC2) is a three-week residential course which is a pre-requisite course for promotion to Warrant Officer. There were seven courses programmed for 2003, and whilst Warrant Officers Lindsay Perryman and Gary Bromley (who replaced WO Hillis at the start

of the year), started the year as the instructors, Lindsay's departure from the Navy after the third course, meant that a replacement was required. WO Darren Jeffs hit the deck running at 0730 h, on day one of course 04/03, and found himself in front of the class two and a half hours later! Welcome to SSASSC2!

The SSASSC2 was a great course (just ask anyone who has completed it!) but new instructors meant new ideas, and the course was enhanced even further with fresh ideas. Changes to the sailors' leadership continuum in the latter half of the year provided further impetus to ensure that the course was continually improving.



SSASSC2 staff celebrate another successful year.

TA-ITLM WHB/WGB 022332Z Dec 03 advised that the course had a new name and that there was a change in the way that the course was selected. The new name for the course is the Chief Petty Officers Leadership Development Program (CLDP), and personnel wishing to nominate for the course may do so via course nomination form PT115. Eight courses have been scheduled for 2004, with the first commencing on 08 Mar 04. This course remains a pre-requisite for promotion to Warrant Officer.

The Senior Sailors Management Course (SSMC), which was formerly known as the SSASSC1, is a pre-requisite course for CLDP, so to all CPOs who have completed SSMC: "get with 'The Program'" and volunteer for the CLDP. Gary and Darren have their red pens loaded, and look forward to the challenges of 2004. ■

Banksia House activities for 2003

By Kaylene Anderson, President

Banksia House is the CRESWELL Community House which offers a range of support programs for ship's company members

2003 was a busy year for Banksia House. We had a full program operating for many weeks of the year, with a different event every day. Diversified activities were offered to appeal to people both on and off the base. The program included both day and evening events in order to attract those Defence members who work full-time.

Activities though 2003 included a variety of programs, both for adults and children. Some were: yoga, parenting programs, bookclub, music appreciation for children, kids' gym, various PTI "punishment" programs, doll making, and Easter and Christmas craft. School holiday programs for children offered tennis, a visiting beautician, water play, beach walks, art and more craft.

Our committee remained much the same as 2002. Sarah Morris Adams stayed on as Treasurer and Caralyn, yet again, was Craft Co-ordinator. Chandra Bornholm, who was our secretary for two years departed. Martina Arthur replaced her - thank you! Nikki Wong (despite having two babies) acted as liaison between the Committee and the Navy. The other hard-working members were Jennifer Veraart, Donna Erwin, and Kym Ritchie.

This year we have been well funded and special thanks for this goes to Sarah and Caralyn who worked tirelessly with the application to the Family Support Funding Program.

A major project that has been sorely needed, for which we gained funding, was the back verandah extension. This was both an occupational health issue and a safety issue. Many babies and children have accidentally fallen into the sunken area onto the pavers;

luckily most escaped with a cut and bruise.

With the remaining funds we have been able to expand our toy library, increase our craft supplies and replace some of our in-house equipment and electrical equipment.

I would like to applaud the Family Support Funding Program for its financial support: we are an isolated community and this funding recognizes our special needs and the adverse effects of postings upon CRESWELL families. Bernadette Rayner and the staff at the Defence Community Organization also deserve a special mention for their support.

Thanks again to all who have helped make Banksia House a success this year. ■





Historical Collection Report

By Lieutenant Tom Lewis (Curator)

This year was a lot quieter for the Collection than 2002, which saw the digital copying of the Collection's photos and negatives, and the development of a big new display entitled "The Career of a Naval Officer".

However, a number of new projects were achieved. The most notable of these was the quiet accomplishment of a permanent budget for the Collection – an

initiative of the CMDR Henry Pearce. This enabled a number of small projects to get started. They included the re-furbishing of the Chinese Cannon's gun-carriage; the framing of some new displays, and some badly-needed signage around the Historical Collection. We have acquired and displayed the model bow of a Daring-class destroyer bow model, and a hose-coupling designed by the "Engineer-Admiral" Purves. A project to name the

classrooms of the College after memorable members of the Navy was also achieved, with 14 signs and histories being placed. This allowed Lieutenant Garven to legitimately refer to his Division as "Darlings", as their classroom was named after the famous Captain Stanley Darling, OBE, DSC, RAN, the Navy's most decorated anti-submarine warfare officer. Other names included Burrell; Clarkson; Feldt; Howden; Martin; Menlove;

Purves; Rayment; Rodgers; Taylor; VAT Smith, and Walker.

The support of our Reservist, Geoff Evans, has been terminated, and his practical assistance is sadly missed. However, some repairs were able to be carried out under the Establishment maintenance contract, and this included fixing the DDG model we have.

Forthcoming projects include:

- Renovation of display cases;
- The Class Photo project – to display a photo of every RANC graduation class;
- Permanent casing for the NEOC Time Capsule project;
- Uniform Preservation Project: to purchase a deep freeze, a reverse vacuum cleaner; sealable bags, and inert labels to properly preserve our uniform collection;

- Additional secondhand wardrobes purchase;
- The establishment of an artefact preservation area;
- Trophy case replacement;
- Security camera coverage of building interior;
- Overhaul of the acquisition records, and
- The building of a Memorial Wall to commemorate Officers fallen. ■



'Another Year In The Dock' By CMDR Benjamin Spurgin RANR

It is always a pleasure to draft a few lines for the HMAS CRESWELL Yearbook on the activities of the Legal Department, for as in previous years, there has been much to do! As I am due to depart the base later this year to return to private practice, my eagerness to enjoy the holiday break is tinged with the sad knowledge that this will be my last CRESWELL Christmas.

With the sudden posting of LEUT Cathy Rice mid-year to an important operational billet overseas, I have been the sole Legal Officer in the Shoalhaven Military Region, with responsibility for CRESWELL, HMAS ALBATROSS, and the Army's Parachute Training School. I have some 2000 uniformed personnel and approximately 1500 Defence civilians and contractors in my region of responsibility, and with so large a group of people come a variety of legal and personnel management challenges. Perhaps most noticeable this year have

been the growth of administrative inquiries and procedural fairness issues for Command, a reflection of the wider community's desire 'not only to receive justice, but to be seen to receive justice' in a fair and transparent way. I have been fortunate with two progressive Commanding Officers in CAPT Andrew Cawley at CRESWELL and CAPT Simon Cullen at ALBATROSS, who have embraced the Navy's desire to promote fairness and equity for its people in all facets of their service life.

A highlight for CRESWELL this year was its hosting of the recent Royal Australian Navy Legal Conference, a three-day opportunity for the Navy's permanent and reserve panel members to discuss topical legal issues, make and renew friendships and to sample the delights of the CRESWELL Wardroom wine cellar. By all accounts, the lawyers acquitted themselves well in all respects!

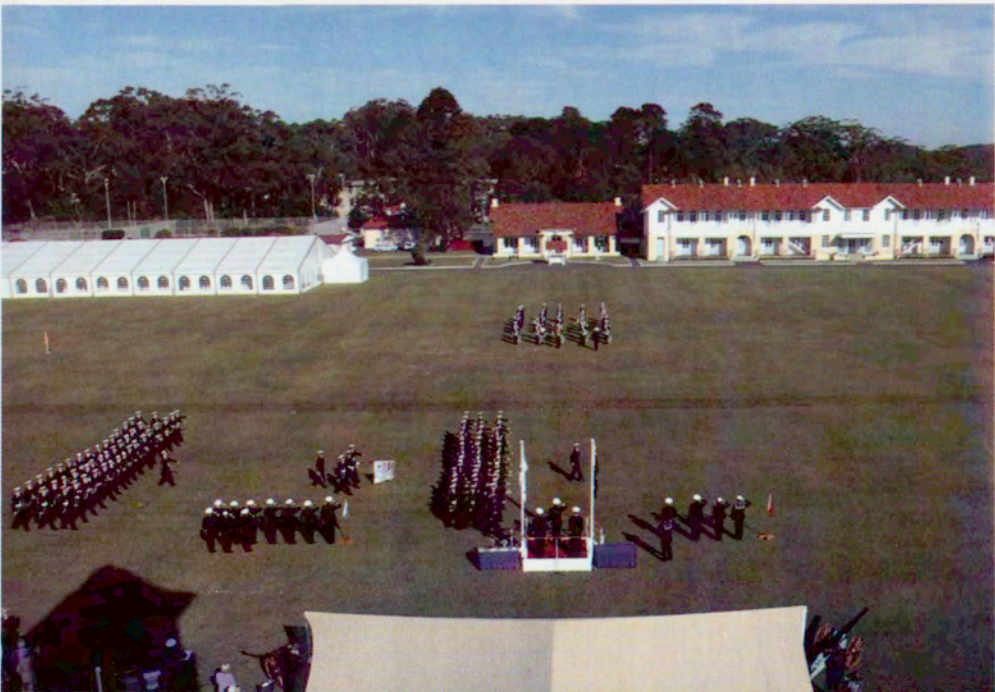
As ever, I am indebted to LCDR Colin Campbell and Army CAPT John Patterson for their Reserve legal assistance throughout the year. The Shoalhaven Military Region is blessed to have two such committed and accessible reserve lawyers, neither of whom has once complained about the frequent burdens I have placed on their broad shoulders! I acknowledge their excellent service to our people.

Next year heralds a legal 'changing of the guard', with the arrival of LCDR Chris Galloway as the Senior Legal Adviser, to be assisted by new lawyer and recent CRESWELL NEOC graduate, SBLT Alesha Gorton. I trust they will enjoy their time at CRESWELL as much as I have done.

After some three years living and working at CRESWELL, I wish to thank her Commanding Officer and the entire ship's company for providing me with an experience I shall treasure always. ■



NEOC 28 Graduation





New Entry Officer Course 28

NEOC 29 Graduation



NEOC 29 Graduation



Phillip Division - NEOC 28

By Midshipman Brett McKenzie



Phillip Division – NEOC 28. 4th row (l/r): MIDN F Wall, MIDN A Parker, MIDN P Hardman, MIDN T Colclough, MIDN A Blansjaar. 3rd row (l/r): MIDN S Jarman, MIDN S Cleburne, MIDN J McKee, MIDN B Harrington, MIDN S Jarvis, MIDN A Walter. 2nd row (l/r): MIDN P Duong, MIDN D Uren, MIDN R Wright, MIDN C Ward, MIDN A Erven, MIDN J Bennett, MIDN A Murray. 1st row (l/r): MIDN A Buckland, MIDN M Sawyer, SBLT Rod Norsworthy (DO), MIDN A Sharp, MIDN D Hennessy, MIDN A Frape. Absent: MIDN B McKenzie.

On 19 January 2003, 26 ambitious and interesting people arrived at the Royal Australian Naval College to start their naval careers. Before them was a 22 week New Entry Officers Course. Everyone was nervous, yet excited, and everyone did their best to look like it was all in a days work. For many this was their first time away from home. As we settled into our deck it was plain to see we had entered a division with a great and lasting legacy. This mixed and diverse group of people aged from 17 to 33 were the next generation proud to call themselves Phillip Dragons.

The first four weeks of NEOC were known as ITP (Initial Training Period) and during this time Phillip Division would form itself into a strong and successful team. Friendships developed and so did our ability to work as a team, whether it was during EMA (Early Morning Activity),

running along the beach or making sure everyone's room and uniforms were up to scratch for rounds each night. For many ITP was a massive change from our past lives, and all can recall waking up at 5am and thinking to ourselves "oh my god, who gets up this early!".

At the end of the first week Phillip Dragons united to win the Pixley Cup. ITP removed us from the outside world. TV was never seen or worried about as there was always shoes to shine and polish, uniforms to be ironed and the treachery of washing clothes without the 'sock monster' causing chaos in the laundry. Through all the pressures of the first four weeks Phillip Division established itself as the 'team to beat'.

We prided ourselves on working hard at our second home, Classroom Echo. And we always

played hard, dominating inter-divisional sports. But what Phillip had that was most important was a team that had courage, commitment, focus and most of all fun! With the division split up between four watches, it was rare that everyone was together for any long periods of time, but to our credit we continued to grow as a team and as friends. A helping hand was never far away, and trust was an important value to the division.

I write this at the end of NEOC 28, when everyone has graduated and is moving on to their next stage of training. The thrill of the Passing Out Parade and the glamour of the Graduation Ball has subsided. But everyone who graced the top deck of Collins House will look back and say "I couldn't have shared this experience with a better group of people". ■

Jervis Division - NEOC 28

By Midshipman James Atkinson



Jervis Division – NEOC 28. 5th row (l/r): MIDN Daniel Lucas. 4th row (l/r): MIDN T. Bons, CHAP R. Smith, MIDN B. White, LEUT E. Wilson, MIDN J. Atkinson. 3rd Row (l/r): MIDN D. Geraghty, MIDN D. Stevenson, MIDN J. Watkin, MIDN N. Bligh, SBLT B. Weller, MIDN C. Johnson. 2nd row (l/r): MIDN C. Meiklejohn, MIDN S. Blume, MIDN J. Milton, MIDN M. Cook, MIDN W. Hartridge, MIDN M. Freeman, MIDN B. Harrington. 1st row (l/r): MIDN P. Connolly, MIDN R. Skinner, LEUT C. Jones (DO) MIDN P. Henness, MIDN A. Hansen, SBLT K. Miller.

The past:

Jervis Division is formed in the hours before dawn on the fateful day 21st January 2003. The Chaplain looks for divine vengeance. A 0500 start and having shaved off his beard leaves him muttering something about wailing and gnashing of teeth.

"Changeover" ex-junior sailor Craig Meiklejohn dispels all terror of rounds by making phone calls and reading books as a fearsome lieutenant of the staff stalks the cabins of other hapless Middies. The indelible Physical Training Instructors 'Spud' and 'Ozzie' appear not to be human but some form of nocturnal fruit loops who love the sound of their voices at 0500.

Initial Training Syndrome (or sleep as it is sometimes called) ravages the decks of Jervis Division with the Padre and Travis Bons seeming the most affected. However MIDNs Grinch and Biscuit (Hartridge and Cook) later develop a new strain and fall asleep on a Seahawk flying off the deck of HMAS NEWCASTLE.

Jervis is robbed during the conglomeration of exerting trials that is the Pixley Cup – other divisions seem to misunderstand that a team of champions is supposed to win, not come second. However, Midshipman 'Devo' Stevenson sounds an ominous warning with resounding victory in the 'Iron-guts', by showing the contents of the aforementioned to the opposition.

As a reward for being 'the best division' over ITP Jervis rides HMAS NEWCASTLE to Sydney. Other divisions resign to being second best for the rest of NEOC.

Intermission:

Day 28 of NEOC 28. Jervis division succumbs to domestic tension and breaks up.

Though no longer the champion team, individual members continue to excel in chosen fields of sleeping in class, breaking things on HMAS TOBRUK, losing divisional officers, finding new ones, being attacked by

possums and sleeping some more during class.

The Present:

Under the auspices of Divisional Officer Lieutenant Chris Jones, Jervis Division effects a Hollywood-style reunification during the Inaugural (soon to be annual) Lieutenant Jones memorial (not quite yet) It's a knock out cup. A day which lives in infamy not just for the other divisions, as the Jervis shark was hoisted in victory over the quarterdeck, but for all those ladies whose legs don't look as good in a dress as our very own Miss Creswell, Rodney J. Skinner.

Success comes thick and fast for the now reunited Jervis division. Several members get lost while on Exercise Matapan and find a circuitous route home from a hike, getting an extra six hours sightseeing at taxpayer expense. Other members delight in self-torture and massacre themselves during the Commander Gray cup. Once again Midshipman Stevenson shows his iron guts to the competition, this time joined by partner in crime, Ben White.

The future?

Who can say what fearsome challenges will face the members of Jervis Division in the lead up to the final confrontation with the Buffer and Passing Out Parade drill. Will they survive? Is there really a world outside Jervis Bay? What do birdies really do when they are not sleeping? Why can't the Padre sleep at night and not during the day? All these questions, and more, will be answered in time. There is, however, one question to which the answer is clear: who really is the best division? ■

Flinders Division - NEOC 28

By LEUT Gisele Mouret and
MIDN Jess Robin

"A DAY NOT IN THE NAVY IS A DAY WASTED"... words that have been etched in our Naval souls, thanks to Flinders Divisional Senior Sailor, PO Williamson. Coming from the corners of the Pacific, a mish-mash of trainees were thrown together in a division to become a cohesive and effective team. Flinders Division consisted of Army and Navy changeovers, personnel from interstate and overseas, ages varying by up to 20 years, PQ's inclusive of the now-obsolete QEOC and all the personalities that these entail.

By the end of ITP the initially sloppy and disorganised rabble who were known to have responded to a personal address with, "Yo, yo, sir!" were well on their way to becoming officers displaying honour, honesty, integrity, courage and loyalty. A reprieve from the intense training saw the running of the Pixley Cup and despite our vocal attributes, the rippling muscles of MIDN Lokotui and the famous Custard Tarts, Flinders division gave all they had and came fourth out of four.

The ROP, Sunda Strait, saw the end of ITP and brought out in every individual the qualities of teamwork, leadership and communication. The rewarding completion of this week heralded the rest of NEOC. As some rules relaxed, our uniforms changed, rounds became weekly, weekends were our own and Flinders began the routine duty watch responsibilities.

NEOC 28 consisted of 102 people who were in such a comfort zone in their four divisions that Week 5



NEOC 28: Flinders Div Names (left to right). Front Row: MIDN Emily McCorquodale; MIDN Andrew Callander; LEUT Alex Gillett (DO); MIDN Rhiannon Hunter; MIDN Samantha Dudley; LEUT Gisele Mouret. Second Row: MIDN Nathan Chater; MIDN Joel Thrum; MIDN Phillip Beaver; MIDN Jessica Robin; MIDN Phillip Bywaters; MIDN Arthur Jagiello; MIDN Samuel Thorne. Third Row: MIDN Jonathon Gray; MIDN Stirling Milward; MIDN Mosa Lokotui; MIDN Ryan Broadsmith; MIDN Stuart MacDowell; MIDN Sean Money. Fourth Row: LEUT Louis Kei; MIDN Apakuki Gavoka; SBLT John Hallam; MIDN Dane Wilson; MIDN Aaron Schurink. Back Row: MIDN Shaun Poing-Destre; MIDN Trevor Mills

saw the advent of watches and the divisions were pulled apart... could we cope? In watches, members of Flinders division excelled in NBCD, damage control, survival at sea and swim/fitness tests. With this enormous gain in knowledge and practical skills we were ready for the challenges ahead.

As Gulf War II waged many miles away, some effects were felt at CRESWELL and with so many ships overseas the sudden availability of HMAS TOBRUK for Sea Training Deployment was grasped with both hands. Three quarters of Flinders proceeded to join the ship's company in Townsville. Of the 21 days onboard, 11 were at sea and the remaining 10 were spent in the ports of Vanuatu, Brisbane and Sydney. Experiences were many and varied by both Flinders and their divisional officer, LEUT Gillett, such

as rope tying, watch keeping and "vacuum cleaners". With impending dental surgery, the rest of Flinders remained at CRESWELL until the unexpected opportunity arose to join HMAS MANOORA, at a later date, experiencing workups on their way to Fremantle.

Upon return, the 'salty' crew travelled to Majura Range for Steyr and pistol (the preferred weapon of an officer) training. This was closely followed by sea familiarisation where we were reunited with our beloved PO.

The final weeks of NEOC saw 'funky dancing' in the passageway, parties in the gunroom and the relocation of MIDN Schurink's cabin into the heads. The CMDR Gray Cup hosted Flinders' brilliant performance after a vast improvement to come third out of four.

Exercise MATAPAN was the next instalment of the Flinders adventure. Once again united as a team after a long separation we proved ourselves as we achieved tasks unaccomplished by others and in record time. Nothing could stop the Division with graduation merely days ahead.

All would recognise that the people, places and experiences of NEOC 28 have had a profound effect on all those in Flinders division. Our memories won't fade over the years as we travel down the fleet's well-worn passageways... and as the QMA pipes "wakey wakey" we will inwardly grin when we remember

the words, "Rise and shine my little darlings, get out of bed you maggots!" ■

Cook Division - NEOC 28

By Midshipman McArthur

On the 20th January 2003, 25 unique men and women stepped off a bus, leaving their civilian life behind them, ready to start their new life as Naval Officers.

The individuals that formed Cook division ranged in age from 17 to 39, and included people from all walks of life, all with a diverse range of life experiences.

The dynamics of the group were made up of a banker; solicitor; dentist; fisherman; philosopher; fireman; media adviser; a writer changeover; a handful of exceptionally talented university graduates, and some brilliant young school leavers. Somehow, over the next 22 weeks, we were going to be turned into Officers.

The unique personalities of Cook surfaced in the first few weeks of living together. Everyone started to get comfortable with our new surroundings, and it wasn't long before Dean Bainbridge and Mick Kerrisk were tempting us all with their freshly brewed coffee, wafting from their cabins.

Brad Petro constantly entertained us with his mimes and stories of lost keys, while Dan Redondo (alias the "Great Redondo" and Cook



Eating as usual.



MIDN Anthony Fonokalafi – faster than a red bullet.



MIDN Brad PETRYCZKOWYX, MIDN Jason Hobbs, MIDN Paul Williams – need some work boys.

Treasurer) waited impatiently for his cash tin, which was never to arrive.

The medley of music that filled the deck was at times, really bad. It was a combination of incredibly loud hard rock, with a pinch of country, a large dash of punk, and lashings of new age. Throw into this cocktail Robert Hutchinson's electric guitar and you have a unique 'Raw Cook' sound.

For some of us, queuing for showers, lining up to brush your teeth or have a shave, and waiting your turn for a washing machine, were all fairly new concepts. Communal living definitely had its pitfalls. On the up side though, we learnt to be more patient and tolerant ... except when our showerheads were stolen. Communal living meant there was always someone with whom you

could talk, play chess or watch a DVD.

Our sea training deployment, (for those of us who were lucky enough to sail on TOBRUK), was excellent. We had a great trip, with fantastic stopovers, including three days in Vanuatu.

Those Cook members who sailed on MANOORA however, were not as fortunate. They sailed through terrible storms in the Bass Strait, and spent many tedious hours watching, but not participating in, training exercises. Through all this, their spirits remained high and they kept the Cook optimism.

All throughout NEOC, sporting trophies seemed to elude Cook. We always gave it our best shot, we were re-known for our dedication, we were usually the loudest, and we

were always the eternal optimists. We surprised our fellow NEOCs and staff members on numerous occasions, with our unique mascots. The 'piece de resistance' was of course, the 'Big Red Fire Engine' which we borrowed from the Fire Department. Still, we seemed destined not to win anything. That was until Christie Underwood took home the Commander Gray Cup, on which her name will be emblazoned forever.

As we end our time here at CRESWELL, we are aware of the strange metamorphosis that has taken place over the past 22 weeks. The unique qualities that make us individuals have been blended with the experiences that we have shared during NEOC, and have moulded us into a unique group called Cook. ■

Phillip Division - NEOC 29

By MIDN Angela Grendon

So much can be said about the 23 wonderful men and women who made up the mighty Phillip Div of NEOC 29. Full of excitement and ambition we were as together we embarked upon our 22 weeks of initial officer training in the idyllic setting of HMAS CRESWELL. A diverse range of individuals of all ages and backgrounds, bringing with us our own experiences, knowledge and friendship. It was only a matter of days before we began to feel like a family and that feeling has continued throughout the entirety of the course. We can all agree that we feel as though we've known each other forever.

Initial Training Period was kicked off with a 0500 h fire alarm to wake us up on our first morning. Smoke bombs and screaming divisional staff were there to add effect and it left many of us questioning what else we had coming for us. That question was answered with four weeks of relentless EMA's, classes, marching, ironing and rounds. Oh, and sometimes we were allowed a little sleep. It could've been a very trying time but we worked very well together and the experience was made easy by the support we gave each other. We celebrated the end of week one with the Pixley Cup. We all had an absolute blast on the day so we won at heart, even if we didn't win in points. We will forever be the undefeated Kings and Queens of Tug-O-War! In week three we visited Spectacle Island where we learnt a lot about Navy history and had a chance to get to know the other divisions better. We then finished ITP the best way we could, with four days out bush. Exercise Sunda Strait



Rear L-R : SBLT Richard Bosdyk, MIDN Jordan Thrupp, MIDN Matthew Minehan-Ryan, MIDN Michael Bradshaw, LEUT Rod Norsworthy (DO). 2nd Rear L-R : SBLT Geoff Kirwood, MIDN James Brewster, MIDN Evan Smith, MIDN David Foulds, MIDN Rebecca Russell, MIDN Bryan Gardam. 3rd Rear L-R : CHAP Barry Porter, MIDN Angela Grendon, MIDN Shane Stables, MIDN Danielle Trelor. Front L-R : MIDN David Crossley, MIDN Alicia Harison, CN, MIDN Georgina Rae, MIDN Andrew Shanahan, Gov Gen, MIDN Leanne Knight.



gave us the chance to get to know each other and ourselves better and was our first real opportunity to put the leadership theories we'd been learning about into practice. Sing-songs around the campfire, abseiling and then finally our first alcoholic drink in four weeks saw our spirits soaring as we farewelled ITP.

Over the next eight weeks we completed training in NBCD, Survival at Sea, small arms and First Aid. We spent our week of Sea Familiarisation in the Bass Strait on board SEAHORSE SPIRIT and stepped off as salty as old sea dogs can get, or so we thought. We also spent a week on board the sailing ships SALTHORSE and LADY PENRYN.

It was in this period of our course before our Sea Training Deployment that Phillip Div provided the HMAS CRESWELL guard for the Nowra welcome home march. Hours upon hours of drill prepared us well and on the day we were told we looked very professional. It was a very proud moment for all of us, marching through the streets of Nowra as the guard for hundreds of Navy personnel who had returned home from operations.

September 27th saw us boarding a RAAF Hercules and meeting HMAS TOBRUK in Cairns to set sail on our six week Sea Training Deployment. We sailed in company with HMAS ARUNTA through South East Asia stopping at amazing ports like Singapore, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City. Thanks to Phillip Div TOBRUK displaced a few extra tonnes on the way back due to our shopping and Asia now has an alcohol shortage (we couldn't believe drinks there are cheaper

than the Gunroom!!). It wasn't all fun and games though. We worked hard and our time on board gave us a detailed insight into the lives and jobs of sailors at sea. We found ourselves being 'armed with a chux' at every possible opportunity and can now honestly say that we have a good appreciation of the work sailors do.

The final hurdle was Exercise Matapan just before graduation and it was a blinding success. The essence of teamwork that has been continuously drummed into us was on display in all its glory. As our final chance to judge how our leadership skills have developed over the course it was uplifting to see every one do so well and every single person involved came away

with a sense of pride, not just in themselves but also in their team.

Back at the very beginning of NEOC, we had no idea of the experiences we would share or the memories we would take away from our time here together. We've had our fair share of ups and downs, but mostly we've had ups. We've had a bucket load of laughs the way only good old Phillip Div knows how and we've developed friendships that will be long lasting and fruitful. As future officers of the Royal Australian Navy, the foundations of our careers were laid right here, in the halls of Phillip Div!

Raise your glasses Phillip Div, three cheers to us!! See you in the fleet. ■



Flinders Division – NEOC 29

By SBLT Robottom

On the seventh of July NEOC 29 got underway. Flinders Division was initially just a collection of individuals, but over the next few days, weeks and months all members realised the importance of teamwork, and began to learn how to work together.

The Initial Training Period (ITP) was where much of the groundwork was accomplished. We had Early Morning Activity each day, in the

dark, with lectures and marching following for the bulk of the day. We were issued our uniforms and subjected to fitness tests. On the third weekend the entire course travelled to Sydney to visit Spectacle Island and various other Naval and maritime attractions, as part of the history component of the course. Our ITP concluded with Exercise Sunda Strait. For the next few days we put into practice

what we'd learnt about teamwork – managing to complete tasks including abseiling, constructing a jackstay, and a paddle in rafts across Jervis Bay followed by a multi-kilometre pack march. All members of the Division applied themselves, and helped those who needed assistance so that each was able to finish the exercise.

Needless to say we enjoyed that first weekend of leave!



Fifth Row l-r: MIDN Cameron Shaw, MIDN Shaun Burns, LEUT Alex Gillett, MIDN Tim Jeffery, Forth Row l-r: SBLT Alastair Lyon, SBLT John Grimshaw, MIDN Daniel Warner, MIDN Chris Harrison. Third Row l-r: SBLT Stuart Robottom, MIDN Oliva Byram, MIDN Sean Dalton, MIDN Andrew Steinbeck, MIDN Chris Meaker, MIDN Joe Francis. Second Row l-r: MIDN Madelaine Colling, LEUT Michelle Wakefield, MIDN Katey Mouritz, MIDN Jeff Spagnol, MIDN Anthony Gleeson. Front Row SBLT Alesha Gorton, SBLT Monique Van der Veen, CN, MIDN Davis Tindall, GG.

In the weeks that followed the pace hardly slowed. Flinders had a week of training in ship survivability, learning how to fight floods and fires onboard ship in simulators. They may have been simulators, but the flames and water were real enough, and focused everyone's attention on the tasks at hand.

For a week the Division was given lessons in sailing. This was initially confined to the waters of Jervis Bay, but culminated in a voyage northwards along the coast, a night at anchor, and a return sail the following day. Ironically the best navigation was done by the yacht which had no seaman officers aboard – the WEEO, Pilot, Pusser, TS and Legals managing to negotiate the various harbour entrances with more success than their accompanying (seaman-officer manned) vessel. Several hours after returning to Creswell we packed our gear and travelled south, this time by bus, to HMAS CERBERUS. Here we boarded the training ship SEAHORSE SPIRIT. Whilst onboard we learnt about coastal navigation and watchkeeping. With high sea states and very strong winds we also encountered seasickness, some members more than others...

After a week or so of lectures at CRESWELL the Division again left the base. This time it was to be for a week at Canberra's Majura Range, learning how to operate firearms. Andy Steinbeck managed to shoot 35/36 with the Steyr, the highest score for NEOC 29, whilst Dan Warner impressed with the 9mm Browning.

It was then time for our Sea Training Deployment. A flight to Cairns in a RAAF Hercules saw us board HMAS

TOBRUK in Cairns. For the next six weeks the entire NEOC was able to enjoy the sights of South East Asia, visiting Singapore, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City. This interactive Grey Funnel Line cruise saw us trainees also experience the life and work of a junior sailor. We were able to work with the bosun's mates, cooks, stewards, stokers – participating in watchkeeping as well as all other activities junior sailors are expected to manage. This was a great learning experience for all of us new entrants, the teachers being the ship and her crew. Almost everyone enjoyed the tricks on the helm – being responsible for steering a large warship making 16 knots through the Great Barrier Reef at night is something I will remember for a long time!

Having returned to RANC the pace did not slacken. We had another week of lectures, and also the dreaded exams... These were a challenge for us all! However, the third last week of the course saw us enter another exciting phase – Exercise Matapan.

Matapan was something we had heard only whispers about, but for several days we learnt first-hand what teamwork means. Matapan was not Division-based, instead there were six groups with members taken from each of the three divisions. With tasks ranging from constructing a tent, through transiting simulated minefields, to carrying heavy loads up a steep hill this was a time when teamwork was an absolute necessity. In addition we had to learn to work with people we had not previously done such activities with. As such Matapan was another great learning period, and certainly in my group the main

lesson was one of working together to meet the aim.

Over the 22 week course we learnt firstly to work as a team within our Division, despite ages ranging from late teens through to early thirties, and diverse backgrounds. Through experiences like Sea Training Deployment and Exercise Matapan we also learnt to work with people we were less familiar with, realising again that teamwork is necessary to complete certain tasks. Looking back at the course, I'd have to say that I didn't enjoy every single moment, but the overall experience is something I will look back on and think to myself "yeah, that was worthwhile". I, and everyone else in Flinders Division, will remember our time together, and the friendships formed, for a long time. ■

Jervis Division – NEOC 29

By MIDN Brooke Shields

Well, it's almost impossible to believe that we've completed NEOC. I bet a lot of the staff feel that way too after seeing us all piling off the buses on our first night at CRESWELL. It seems so long ago but indeed a very memorable evening - our first night "in the Pus". Since then it's been a roller coaster ride of excitement, new experiences, tears for some, but overall a

fantastic journey with a lot of great friendships forged.

Our first great victory as Jervis Division was the Pixley Cup, which we won in fine form on the first weekend of NEOC. Much to the shock of some (I suspect) we dressed as the Jervis Jihad, with towels over our heads, trendy service issue sunnies, and bath robes, and we were definitely

the loudest on ground as far as cheering went. That seemed to set the scene for the rest of our course.

Our first expedition was of an historical nature and we found ourselves on Spectacle Island, in Sydney Harbour. It is an amazing place and it was a shame we could only stay for the weekend. We were all pretty awestruck, particularly when we saw where they kept an



REAR ROW: MIDN Barry Carmichael, MIDN Fergus Stewart, LEUT Andrew Garven (DO), MIDN Adam Pearce, MIDN Aaron Scott. 4TH ROW: MIDN Ashley Lodder, MIDN Ben Gregory, MIDN Dave Mason, MIDN Jayne Stephens, MIDN Simon Dent. 3RD ROW: MIDN Brooke Shields, MIDN Paul Gapes, MIDN Robert Short, MIDN Andrew Hope, SBLT Rob Spencer-James. 2ND ROW: MIDN Tricia Williams, MIDN Paul Von Bertouch, 2LT Kelvin Koh, RSN, LEUT Heather Walker. FRONT ROW: MIDN Paul Molomolo, MIDN Dennis Grant, CN, MIDN Kirstie Gunn-Brockhoff, Governor-General, SBLT Wendy Castle.



exact copy of every single item the RAN has ever used (from saucepans to swords to uniforms).

Our first big op was Sunda Strait where the majority of us encountered a few new experiences – such as trying to coax down a “demonstrator” (PO Revell) from a tower, who was hurling water bombs and other not so savoury objects at us.

Majura Range was the highlight for a lot of Jervis, particularly MIDNs Williams and Dent, who proved to be rather good shots (let’s just say it would be best not to mess with them). For most of us it was a first to be holding, let alone firing a pistol or rifle, but we all managed to pass the shooting in the end.

Our next big adventure was our NBCD (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence) course. Here was where we learnt how to save our ship in a flood, fight fires and

learn how to deal with chemical attacks. There were minimal “casualties”, but those who had to be shut in a flooding room in order to save the rest of the ship tended to be a bit indignant about the whole thing.

Next, we learnt how to sail, and the week after went on Sea Familiarisation down in the Bass Strait. This was great fun, and for the seaman officers, we got to have our first taste of life on the bridge.

The highlight of our course would have to have been our Sea Training Deployment “up top”. We started our journey at ALBATROSS, then were flown to Cairns in the luxury of a Hercules. From there we sailed to Darwin, then onto Singapore, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City where we all had a lot of interesting experiences which will stay with us forever – some more memorable than others.

Exercise Matapan was the final physical and mental challenging experience we had. Overall, we all had a great time although some of us had a few more challenges to overcome, particularly when it comes to navigation.

Overall, NEOC 29 has been a great time with a lot of firm friendships formed. We will definitely remember these times for the rest of our lives, and there are certainly characters who have made our time a great laugh and series of entertaining experiences. On behalf of Jervis Division, a special thank you must go to our Divisional Officer (DO) Lieutenant Andrew Garven (the best DO), Chief Vic Young (who left us too early) and our Petty Officer Scott Revell, whose unique views enlightened us to the many ways of the “real navy”. ■



The Neil Gilmour Legacy

By Midshipman Sam Fairall-Lee

LCDR Neil Gilmour passed away in early 2002.

Here Midshipman Sam Fairall-Lee presents an interview with LCDR Gilmour, undertaken as part of his entry course into the Navy



In early 2000, as part of my studies at RANC, I was asked to write an historical analysis based on a naval member. For me, this was not only a welcome task given my interest in Naval History, but reflecting on it now, also personally rewarding when I consider the person I chose to write on. I had the honour of writing about an aspect of the career of the late Lieutenant-Commander Neil Gilmour. At the time, LCDR Gilmour was the Head of the Training Support Cell at the College – a title which did not necessarily reflect the importance of the advancements in Naval Training which he developed and championed. But perhaps equally as important as what he achieved – now seen as a ‘revolutionary change in educating officers not only in academic terms but in its philosophical approach as well’¹

– was the way in which he achieved it. LCDR Gilmour’s enthusiasm and willingness to help, together with his nature of ‘practicing what he preached’, made him a popular and much-admired member of staff for all those members of New Entry Officers Course 22. As LEUT Tom Lewis remarked in his obituary, the death of LCDR Neil Gilmour in February 2002 has deprived the Navy and Australia of a fine naval officer.

Lieutenant-Commander Neil Gilmour, RAN

Head, Training Support Cell
– HMAS CRESWELL & Training
Development Coordinator
for Training Authority – Initial
Training, Leadership and
Management.

According to LCDR Gilmour, his greatest achievement in the RAN was his role in the eventual adoption of the Junior Officer Leadership, Management and Personal Development (LMPD) Continuum. He was the primary driver of the philosophy and educational background behind the LMPD Continuum.

In early 1995, LCDR Gilmour had come to an understanding that the leadership culture within the RAN could be improved. He believed that the Service deserves the best leadership and therefore the best leadership training possible, and so

he became involved in the efforts to introduce a radical new initiative in the junior officer training sphere.

The LMPD Continuum was to incorporate the adult learning context philosophy. LCDR Gilmour has high regard for these adult learning principles, believing that if an adult learner is encouraged to take maximum responsibility for their own education, they will become self-motivated in an adult-learning environment. A willingness to learn will be fostered which will greatly aid an officer throughout their career.

By early 1998, LCDR Gilmour had become the primary officer pushing for the adoption of the new continuum. In March, due to concerns amongst some key senior officers regarding the LMPD performance of junior officers, Lead Authority staff conducted interviews with seven fleet commanding officers. In May, a qualitative survey of contemporary LMPD standards and performance was conducted at Commander Training – Navy’s (COMTRG-N) LMPD seminar at HMAS CRESWELL. The views expressed by fleet commanding officers were discussed by COMTRG-N, Chief of Staff Maritime Headquarters (COS MHQ), Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy (COMDT ADFA), Director General Naval Career Management (DGNCM) and Director of Naval Officers’ Postings

(DNOP). This confirmed that the leadership skills help by a large portion of junior officers needed to be enhanced considerably to enable them to meet the requisite level of performance.

In November 1998 a business paper (Junior Officers' Leadership, Management and Personal Development – Career Continuum Strategy) was prepared and presented to the Chief of Navy Senior Advisory Committee (CNSAC) for consideration. CNSAC had reservedly approved a previous paper on the subject in December 1996, which specifically targeted officers before they could progress to the ranks of LCDR and CMDR. The current proposal, however, was far more wide ranging. Junior officers had previously been exposed to some LMPD programs, notably ADFA Common Military Training (CMT), elements of the New Entry Officers Course (NEOC), and the Junior Naval Command Course (JNCC); however this proposal would fully incorporate LMPD principles into the essence of junior officers' training. Further, the paper proposed to incorporate LMPD principles into a continuum that would be the basis of an officer's training from initial entry until senior LEUT level. The continuum would take advantage of 'context based training', under which the focus of training progresses from the individual through to the team, team of teams, and on to an external strategic focus.

In February 1999 CNSAC approved the paper and the LMPD Continuum was implemented. The first NEOC to be conducted using these principles is NEOC 22, the results of this course are being closely

observed in order to evaluate the training techniques and enable improvements to be made. LCDR Gilmour admits to some minor oversights that have occurred and that will be rectified for the next NEOC.

A major concern of LCDR Gilmour is the 'cultural acceptance' of the LMPD continuum. There were cultural issues to overcome in the employment of LMPD, and especially adult learning, principles. For example, some felt that LMPD principles lead to a lack of discipline amongst trainees. In LCDR Gilmour's opinion, parties had to understand complex concepts that were a significant departure from previous ideas. In some instances it took up to a year to convince parties as to the merits of the principles. There were several instances in which a party key to the process would finally realise the merits of the proposals only to be posted out, then the process of convincing had to begin again. LCDR Gilmour refers to this as 'posting turbulence' and it is further seen when he tells of the workshop that was held for instructors before NEOC 22 commenced, only to see those instructors post out before the course began and a whole new set of instructors arrive.

To conclude, LCDR Gilmour believes that the LMPD continuum will continue into the future, greatly aiding in the development of leadership potential in junior officers. The results of the current 'guinea pig' course, NEOC 22, will be watched closely. Although he sees the realisation of the original vision as a great success, in his own words:

"There is a long way to go." ■

References:

- Naval Training Command, Business Paper 13/98 (Junior Officers' Leadership, Management and Personal Development – Career Continuum Strategy), 1998.
- Naval Training Command, Leadership, Management and Personal Development Continuum (Powerpoint presentation), 2000.

(Footnotes)

- ¹ LEUT T. Lewis, 'Obituary: LCDR Neil Gilmour', Navy News, 18 March 2002.



HMAS CRESWELL Ship's Company 2003



Some of the 2003 Medical Staff perform self-diagnosis.





HMAS CRESWELL Uniformed members 2003



JOLC & WOELC 1/03

REAR: SBLT RYAN, SBLT THOMPSON,
 3RD ROW: SBLT WILSON, SBLT CASEY, SBLT FOWLER
 2ND ROW: LEUT PATTON, LEUT WILLIAMS, SBLT DUKE, LEUT NICHOLLS, LEUT REID, LEUT COY
 FRONT ROW: LEUT ROSATO, LEUT COLLINSON, LCDR WEARNE, LEUT WOODS, LEUT ELLICOTT



JOLC 3/03

BACK ROW: SBLT E. RADFORD, SBLT S. BISHOP, SBLT C. DE BONO, SBLT S. BLAKE, SBLT N. TITTERIDGE, MIDN S. WHITING
 SECOND ROW: SBLT K. LEWANDOWSKI, SBLT D. THOMAS, SBLT C. JENKINS, SBLT S. BISHOP, SBLT B. FINDLATER, SBLT E. MCDONALD-KERR
 FRONT ROW: SBLT L. MORRIS, LEUT I. MURPHY, LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS), LEUT D. WOODS (COURSE OFFICER), SBLT A. ARGIRIDES



JOLC 4/03

REAR: SBLT S. NEWMAN, SBLT D. FARGG, SBLT D. KNOWLES
 3RD ROW: SBLT R. SCHRAMM, SBLT A. PEPPER, SBLT K. SCARCE, SBLT A. CLANCY
 2ND ROW: SBLT S. CROWLEY, SBLT K. BENSON, SBLT A. NEMARICH, SBLT N. JAGER, SBLT M. TAIT, SBLT C. SAIN
 FRONT ROW: SBLT K. SHARMA-WING, LEUT P. TAYLOR, LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS), LEUT J. CAMERON (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT S. PICKUP
 ABSENT: MIDN W. BECHLY, MIDN N. TURNER



JOLC 5/03

REAR: LEUT C. McCONACHY, MIDN M. BEECROFT, SBLT S. GRIFFITH, SBLT B. FORRESTER
 3RD ROW: MIDN M. TEMPLETON, MIDN N. ELLUL, SBLT A. ALLEN, LEUT D. QUINLIVAN, MIDN M. CURNOW
 2ND ROW: SBLT S. COLEMAN, SBLT D. SUTHERLAND, SBLT A. BULTERS, SBLT A. PARNWELL, MIDN M. HAYTER
 FRONT ROW: LEUT L. MEYLE, LEUT D. WOODS (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT B. PURKISS, LEUT P. NEAL



JOLC 6/03

REAR: MIDN G. O'NEILL, SBLT J. LAWLESS, SBLT M. GRAICHEN, SBLT D. MURPHY, MIDN R. EDWARDS
 3RD ROW: MIDN A. GABBOTT, SBLT A. SIMEONI, SBLT G. COLEMAN, MIDN A. MACGREGOR
 2ND ROW: SBLT J. BRAY, SBLT E. McEWEN, SBLT L. THOMPSON, SBLT J. HAYNES, SBLT T. BATTISHALL
 FRONT ROW: LEUT D. MUSGROVE, LEUT D. TALBOT, LEUT J. CAMERON (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT G. BEVEN
 ABSENT: SBLT L. WESTON



JOLC 7/03

REAR: SBLT S. RAYNOR, SBLT A. COLLARD, SBLT J. MITCHELL, SBLT N. ASHLEY-JONES, MIDN B. DEANE
 2ND ROW: MIDN K. BUCHANAN, LEUT J. VENNING, SBLT G. MORGAN, SBLT B. SIMPSON, SBLT K. OWERS
 FRONT ROW: SBLT M. ADAMS, LEUT M. DICKSON, LEUT M. SKINNER (COURSE OFFICER), SBLT J. BRET

**JOLC/WOELC 9/03**

REAR: SBLT M. TUDDENHAM, LEUT L. SOWDEN

3RD ROW: SBLT M. HAMS, LEUT S. YOUNG, LEUT D. NASATO, SBLT J. SPRLYAN

2ND ROW: SBLT S. WOOLRYCH, LEUT D. BAINBRIDGE, SBLT A. NAGLE, LEUT T. DOUGLAS, SBLT R. HEWSON, LEUT D. LAWRIE

FRONT ROW: LEUT D. FAY, LEUT K. EDWARDS, LEUT M. SKINNER(COURSE OFFICER),

LCDR J. WEARNE(DMSS), LEUT J. DELEEUWEN, LEUT R. MUNDY



BACK ROW: LEUT R. CONDER, LEUT M. BUNNETT (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT I. DAWSON, LEUT C. JOHNSTONE, LEUT N. MELVILLE
 FRONT ROW: LEUT D. FORBES, LEUT M. MITCHELL, LEUT J. HARDIMAN



JOMC 2/03
03/03/03 – 14/03/03

BACK ROW: LEUT L. WATTERS, LEUT A. PAYNE, LEUT W. JONDA, LEUT M. DEVINE
 2nd ROW: LEUT R. CARLYON, LEUT D. GAYFORD, LEUT G. DAVIS, LEUT A. MISKELLY
 FRONT ROW: LEUT M. YOUNG, LEUT P. WHETSTONE, LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS), LEUT C. JONES (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT M. SPEKE



JOMSSC 1/03

BACK ROW: LEUT J. RELYEA, LEUT M. SKINNER, LEUT G. PAGE
 FOURTH ROW: LEUT P. GADEN, LEUT J. PHILLIPS, LEUT K. FARMERY, LEUT E. GAUDRY, LEUT S. LEEMING, LEUT C. UNWIN
 THIRD ROW: LEUT J. McALINDON, LEUT E. MOSS, LEUT L. HICKMAN, LEUT J. PAPPIN
 SECOND ROW: LEUT R. FOSTER, LEUT A. SHORTIS, LEUT C. INNES, LEUT D. DELANEY
 FRONT ROW: LEUT K. YATES, LEUT D. WOODS (Instructor), LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS),
 LEUT C. JONES (Course Officer), LCDR M. BURTON (DMSS)



JOSSC 1/03
18/03/03 - 28/03/03

BACK ROW: LEUT M. DEVINE, LEUT N. CORNELIUS, LEUT L. RIDER, LEUT D. O'NEILL, LEUT T. JACKSON, LEUT A. LAW
 SECOND ROW: LEUT R. EZERGAILIS, LEUT D. FINDLATER, LEUT T. PEPPER, LEUT B. TRIM
 FRONT ROW: LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS), LEUT T. LEWIS (COURSE OFFICER), MR R. D'ALTERIO

**JOSSC 3/03**

BACK ROW: LEUT T. GLYNN, LEUT A. MacALISTER, LEUT A. MORCOM, SBLT B. SYMMONS
SECOND ROW: LEUT A. BARNES, LEUT A. SLEEMAN, LCDR B. CLARK, LEUT B. WOOD, LEUT B. BOBBERMAN, LEUT S. GOURLAY
FRONT ROW: LEUT K. YOUNG, LEUT G. WHITE, LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS), LEUT L. IRLANDEZ (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT R. DURBIN





SSASSC Ph2 1/03

BACK ROW: CPO D. BIDDLE, CPO W. HOEGEE, CPO M. CLAESSENS

THIRD ROW: CPO M. HURLEY, CPO J. BASCUNAN

SECOND ROW: CPO M. EDWARDS, CPO D. TAYLOR, CPO I. POTTER, CPO T. HOLLIDAY, CPO D. PERRY

FRONT ROW: CPO B. TREACY, WO L. PERRYMAN (COURSE OFFICER), WO G. BROMLEY (COURSE OFFICER), CPO S. CAMPBELL



SSASSC Ph2 2/03

BACK ROW: CPO D. POPE, CPO S. DOWNEY, CPO G. PALMINGTON, CPO C. GARNER, CPO D. HUNT

THIRD ROW: CPO C. COWDEN, CPO S. SAVY, CPO S. RIPPER, CPS S. BROWN

SECOND ROW: CPO M. KEOGH, CPO R. MEEHAN, CPO I. DONOVAN, CPO C. DAVIES-GRAHAM, CPO P. JONES, CPO W. MARKOWSKI

FRONT ROW: CPO B. MILLIGAN, WO L. PERRYMAN (COURSE OFFICER),

CMDCM W. STOLLER (USN), WO G. BROMLEY (COURSE OFFICER), CPO J. CUNNINGHAM



SSASSC Ph2 3/03

BACK ROW: CPO S. POKARIER, CPO L. NICHOLLS
 THIRD ROW: CPO H. JOHNSON, CPO J. HARRISON, CPO D. EVANS, CPO P. LOUDON
 SECOND ROW: CPO A. MAHER, PO A. DREW, CPO M. MCGUINNESS, CPO C. CURREY, PO N. PLATTEN, CPO G. IVINS
 FRONT ROW: CPO S. COURT, WO L. PERRYMAN (COURSE OFFICER), LCDR J. WEARNE (DMSS),
 WO G. BROMLEY (COURSE OFFICER), CPO A. MALLET



SSASSC Ph2 4/03

BACK ROW: CPO R. GLOVER, CPO W. MORSCH, CPO P. DICKSON, CPO G. LEEPERE
 SECOND ROW: CPO R. LENNARDS, CPO L. JENSEN, CPO N. BRENNAN, CPO P. COATES, CPO R. LOWE
 FRONT ROW: WO D. JEFFS (COURSE OFFICER), CPO K BRADSHAW, WO G. BROMLEY (COURSE OFFICER)



SSASSC Ph2 5/03

BACK ROW: PO J. ROMBOUTS, CPO P. TALBOT
 THIRD ROW: PO P. TRAEGER, CPO J. HARTNETT, PO L. ROBINSON
 SECOND ROW: CPO R. ATKINSON, CPO I. NIGHTINGALE, CPO K. CRANDON, CPO S. SMITH
 FRONT ROW: WO D. JEFFS (Course Officer), LCDR J. WEARNE (Director of Studies), WO G. BROMLEY (Course Officer)



SSASSC Ph2 6/03

BACK ROW: CPO M. BATEY, CPO T. AUSTIN, CPO J. MANSELL
 FOURTH ROW: CPO G. COLBOURNE, CPO R. MAYNARD, CPO P. PELCZAR, CPO D. HOWARD
 THIRD ROW: PO P. RICHMOND, CPO R. HOWARD, CPO D. BISHOP
 SECOND ROW: PO M. HYAM, CPO K. SELLARS, CPO N. SMITH
 FRONT ROW: WO D. JEFFS (Course Officer), LCDR J. WEARNE (Director of Studies), WO G. BROMLEY (Course Officer)



SSASSC Ph2 7/03
Last of an Era

BACK ROW: CPO COHEN, CPO GALE, PO WARNE, CPO DODD, CPO WILLS
SECOND ROW: CPO BORGAS, CPO McCLELLAND, CPO HART, CPO STUBBS, CPO MILLER, CPO KING, CPO BONNEY
FRONT ROW: WO D. JEFFS (Course Officer), LCDR J. WEARNE (Director of Studies), WO G. BROMLEY (Course Officer)



REOC 2/03



(NOT IN ORDER): LEUT ALEXANDER BALAS, LEUT ALLEN BERINGER, LEUT SHEREE EYLES, SBLT STUART GOLDFINCH,
LEUT CHRISTOPHER LAVIN, LCDR INDI MITCHELL, LEUT ALISDAIR PUTT, LEUT MARK SHRAAM,
SBLT ANTHONY SMITH, LEUT PHILLIP WALKER, SBLT BENJAMIN WILLEE

RMIT Phase 4



BACK ROW (L TO R): MIDN PETER CARTER, MIDN SCOTT BAYLEY, MIDN CLINT THOMSON, MIDN THOMAS DOHERTY
MIDDLE ROW (L TO R): MIDN ANDREW CALDERAZZO, MIDN MATTHEW EDMONDS, MIDN GARETH LUCY, MIDN DANIEL SMITH
FRONT ROW (L TO R): MIDN MARK CAMPBELL, MIDN WILLIAM MILES, MIDN DAMIEN GOODBUN, MIDN JASON GRIVAS
ABSENT: MIDN PJ BURRELL

WOSSEOC 02//03

By LEUT "Fingers" KLAU

Now is an opportune time to be attached to the RAN. As a result of the second WOSSEOC of 2003, the Navy has now amongst its ranks a blend of the finest highly tuned talented Officers ever to grace the manure-ridden paddocks of HMAS CRESWELL.

With a combined service experience of 291 years, the 2003 WOSSEOCs challenged the training staff to their wits' end, although it was conceded the College CO had the last laugh, with his tortuous fishing expedition that left two would-be fishermen with damaged bodies – and the catch was passed on! Possibly our most inspirational occasion was the tour of the historic sites by the resident historian Tom "I like green tights" Lewis, of Creswell Forrest.

The class bonded well and new friendships were formed. At our closing mess dinner, CMDR Lindsay Irwin gave a comical, nevertheless educational insight of his career prior to and post commission. His speech was enthusiastically received by guests and class members.

To sum up this class in a few paragraphs is literally impossible, so below is a brief synopsis of each of these talented Officers:

LEUT (GL ME) Pete ANDERSON

– Posting – DMEO HMAS PARRAMATTA. Pete's sharing of his fatherly challenges further bonded the class. We wish him and his family well in their future endeavours.

LEUT (GL CSM) John De LEEUWEN

– Posting – DNC4ISREW SOIA
– Canberra. Whilst in Holland, De Leeuwen is as common as Smith, "Dutchy" could not be concluded as such (not same). The Mundy / De Leeuwen duo were our WOSSEOC "panel team".

LEUT (GL EWL) Keith EDWARDS

– Posting – DSD Canberra – Keith realised his soccer talents remain. One of the "Poms", Keith tore up the soccer field whilst stunned NEOCS stood in awe... and who was the oldest here? Let's say vegemite was yet to be invented.

LEUT (GL AE) Daniel FAY

– Posting – DGTA RAAF WILLIAMS
– Victoria. Happy to uphold Navy representation in a Tri-Service environment. Dan's recent wedding antics will be difficult to top.

LEUT (RL-SN) "Fingers" KLAU

– Posting – JLU-W, HMAS STIRLING. "Fingers" levered himself out of the Reserve Regional Pool Office – WA in search of a new challenge. The only "Rockie" on course, Fingers heads back to WA in search of the best muffin maker at JLU-W.

LEUT Di LAWRIE (GL CIS)

– Posting – HQNORCOM Darwin
– our resident chick, Vice Pres, blanket hogging, all-round "don't pick on Di" person. Di (Young Mum) ensured the feminine aspects remained current in our equal rites environment.

LEUT (SMN) Beau MOYLAN

– Posting – SEAAC, HMAS WATSON. Two weeks down, two and half years to go... Our lucky resident Seaman Officer!

LEUT (GL-CSM) Ray MUNDY

(B2) – Posting – DNC4IRSEW
– SOSP Canberra – Ray – Dad – made the family complete. Ray's genuine qualities made everyone feel immediately at home. "Darren, you've got those epaulettes just a bit wrong".

LEUT (GL EWA) Darren NASATO

– Posting – RANTEWSS, HMAS ALBATROSS. Darren with a "e", found the accommodation to his liking! One of three submariners, Darren somehow secured a job in the east?

LEUT (GL ME) Darryn THOMSON

– Posting – FFG Upgrade Project
– Sydney. Loves it, craves it. Our Pres, lolly boy, and one of the 3 stooges (Moe rings true).

SBLT (GL TS) Mark TUDDENHAM

– Posting – Instructor NPTC-E. An ex "Birdie", the baby of the course came through with a bucket of delicious muffins on the last day – thanks Kath!

CPONPC Mark WILSON

– Posting – SLMF-E, HMAS KUTTABUL. The Coxswain who turned into an accidental TS. The Tasmanian connection was very interesting.

LEUT Steve YOUNG (GL CIS)

– Posting – HCAST – Sydney. A Falklands vet, who found the call of Australia very attractive.

and

LEUT Des WOODS – Class

Instructor. Still suffering battle fatigue, Desmond "let's just watch half this movie" Woods, was a most suitable candidate as our class "Dad" – thanks Des. ■



WO/SSEOC 2/03

Back Row: LEUT D. WOODS (COURSE OFFICER), LEUT B. MOYLAN, LEUT P. ANDERSON
 Third Row: LEUT J. De LEEUWEN, LEUT R. MUNDY, SBLT M. TUDDENHAM
 Second Row: LEUT D. THOMPSON, LEUT D. NASATO, CPO M. WILSON
 Front Row: LEUT D. FAY, LEUT D. LAWRIE, LEUT K. KLAU, LEUT S. YOUNG



CDRE Simon Hart presents LEUT Di Lawrie with a certificate. LEUT Lawrie was the winner of the Admiral Wilfrid Harrington Prize for the best contribution to the course.

**WO/SSEOC 1/03**

Back Row: LEUT A.J. ROSSATO, SBLT T. SHUH, LEUT G. WILLIAMS, LEUT R. COLLINSON, LEUT D. LOCKWOOD

4th Row: LEUT R. V.RANSON, LEUT J. DUKE

3rd Row: LEUT G. BEVEN, SBLT K. OWERS, SBLT A. TIELENS, SBLT S. COOPER, LEUT R. SOLLITT

2nd Row: LEUT D. REID, SBLT M. BLAGG, SBLT V. CARROLL, SBLT N. FORSYTH, SBLT A. STOKES, LEUT R. PATTON, SBLT J. BRETT

Front Row: LEUT A. MCCARTHY, SBLT N. DAVENPORT, LCDR C.POWELL (DIRECTOR OF STUDIES),

LEUT D. WOODS (COURSE OFFICER), SBLT J. ADAMS, LEUT A. ARMES

HMAS TOWNSVILLE makes a catch

By Midshipman Dale Axford

Midshipman Dale Axford's overall score in the RAN history Module won him the Historical Prize in NEOC 28.

The officer I chose to interview is CMDR Piers Chatterton. Commander Chatterton is currently posted to the Maritime Development Branch at the Russell Offices as the Deputy Director of Naval Infrastructure (DDNI). He went through HMAS CRESWELL as a Sub-Lieutenant with prior naval experience in the British Merchant Navy. In 1987, as a Sub-Lieutenant he was awarded the United Services Institute of Victoria Prize for exemplary officer development during initial entry officer training. He went on to eventually become the CO of HMAS TOWNSVILLE where he confronted a very serious and dangerous situation in the northern waters of Australia. He

recounted to me an incident that involved the apprehension of a large (Korean owned) fishing vessel. This boat – the 'VANINDA18' still has the record for being the largest fishing vessel captured inside the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

MIDN: "Can you describe to me your most memorable naval incident during your time in the RAN?"

PC: "This incident occurred when I was the CO of HMAS TOWNSVILLE. Operating in conjunction with Coastwatch Aircraft, HMAS TOWNSVILLE had been on patrol for about four days when we received intelligence in the form of a position location report of a number of large vessels operating inside the Australian EEZ to the NE of Darwin. Whilst this was 'radar only' data, from the experiences I had gained

it was a good bet that this was a fishing activity. I knew there were no Australian boats in the area and TOWNSVILLE was the only naval vessel on patrol. Looking at the Speed Time Distance problem there was an imperative to get to the area as fast as possible to gain any chances of an intercept. I also knew that a lot of illegal operators used commercially available radar detectors to produce their own Electronic Support Measures (ESM) picture to complement active radar.

"I approached the area at maximum speed, radar and radio silent with no navigation lights or other visible signs that might give away our position. Shortly after dawn when I assessed that we might be in with a chance of a radar detect, we went active on the type 1006 RADAR – this older equipment was very limited, particularly in range,



but did give us good 'paint' on two large contacts. Plotting these put the southern contact inside the EEZ – we then maintained constant radar contact and continued to close at max speed. The contact showed obvious signs that he had detected us – he altered course and speed and was making a run for the 'line' – the divide between Australian and Indonesian waters".

MIDN: "This sounds very exciting."

PC: "It sure was. Activity on the Patrol Boat was controlled and measured, but started happening quickly when I decided that I had fulfilled all the legal requirements for apprehension under the rules of 'hot-pursuit' – maintaining constant contact being the main issue. Weapons were issued and checked and briefings conducted – this was going to be a more risky operation than normal – the vessel, now visual, was huge – slab sided and with no visible ladder way or obvious entry area. There was still the problem that the ship was running into Indonesian waters as quickly as it could. Here luck played a small

part, our speed had meant that I had not been willing to put sailors onto the foredeck to take the covers off the main armament – the 40/60 Bofors gun. As we approached and slowed to match the speed of the contact we conducted the standard drills of calling on the radio and signalling the vessel to stop and be boarded, by this time we were getting well into Indonesian waters and things were getting interesting. The vessel ignored calls to stop so we went to the next level – shots across the bow using the Steyr rifle – this produced no response so we fired the 50 Cal. machine gun – we could see people moving about on the bridge as they recognised the more urgent and aggressive system used. The luck played its part. As we had now slowed and it was safe to do so, I ordered the 40/60 gun crew onto the foredeck to make ready the system for use. When the Captain of the fishing boat saw this he stopped his boat and called on the radio that we could board – I only found out later that it was the sight of the covers being taken off the main gun that convinced him

that we meant business.

MIDN: "How did the boarding go?"

PC: "The boarding went well and even though very upset by being ordered to return under escort, the ship complied. The voyage back was interesting, at one point I had a steaming party of four RAN sailors on board and at 2 am on the second day the whole crew (Captain included) had become roaring drunk on a type of clear port (the bottles were plain with the number '7' on the label and did not appear to be anything other than water – until it was too late to notice that there was a problem). When the Captain of the boat started a knife attack on one of the crew men with a fish gutting knife I started getting urgent calls from the boarding party for advise and assistance. TOWNSVILLE was sent to Action Stations, probably the quickest way to get everyone moving in a hurry, and we made our way over to the vessel as quickly as possible. I had ordered the steaming party to lock themselves in the bridge and to defend





themselves from there – the Koreans and Indonesians were swarming all over the bridge structure but my people were safe inside. The arrival of TOWNSVILLE with searchlights blazing and marking target and guns uncovered and manned was enough for the crew to run below to their accommodation and remain there – I reinforced the boarding party (adding shotguns and Steyrs to the usual pistol only inventory) and continued the journey to Darwin.

MIDN: "That must have been a tiring and stressful trip back!"

PC: "Arrival in Darwin was, I thought, going to be the easy part – hand over the vessel, get alongside and sleep for at least two days. Little did I know that the arrival of the largest illegal boat captured was going to become a media circus – there were boat loads of media running around us taking pictures and constant calls on the phone for radio interviews. Once I had finally handed VANINDA18 over to the fisheries officers, I got alongside Darwin Navy Base to be met by the Brigadier in charge of NORCOM (Northern Command) and five TV crews who covered the bow of TOWNSVILLE with kit and interviewed me for what seemed like hours standing in the midday Darwin sun.

MIDN: "I take it that it was a win for the RAN?"

PC: "Overall the operation was the most successful that TOWNSVILLE conducted – it was a visible testament to the quality of the crew of the boat. Even when confronted with unusual and harder circumstances than faced before, they dug deep and achieved the aim. VANINDA18 was the highlight of my time on TOWNSVILLE, the result that the crew and the boat achieved made me proud to be the luckiest officer in the navy to have under his command and the best people I have had the honour to know.

From this activity and through my interview with CMDR Chatterton, I have experienced an insight into the depths of the RAN. We are more than just an organisation that fights and wins in the maritime environment. We are officers and sailors whose duty are of high regard in the public eye and kept at a high standard in our service. I have learnt that a good ship only runs well because of the morale and respect the sailors have between themselves, their job, the ship's crew and to their Commanding Officer. As the Commander said, "a visible testament to the quality of the crew of the boat. Even when

confronted with unusual and harder circumstances than faced before, they dug deep and achieved the aim." This was followed by his personal remark; "the result that the crew and the boat achieved made me proud to be the luckiest officer in the navy to have under his command and the best people I have had the honour to know."

His words have stuck with me since the interview and I am now a true believer of having your crew want to follow you, not have to follow you. Their dedication could be the difference between life and death and the survival of the ship.

I had previously spoken to CMDR Chatterton prior to joining the RAN and found him to be a very informative officer of high quality. I had no problems contacting him then and presumed I would once again have no difficulties even though he works at the Russell Offices in Canberra. The interview was over before I knew it, and I was left with more than a bundle of notes. This document precisely recounts my informative interview with Commander Piers Chatterton. ■

Two Interesting Navy Members

By Sub-Lieutenant Stuart Robottom

Sub-Lieutenant's Robottom's overall score in the RAN History module won him the Historical Prize in NEOC 29

Introduction

Through accident rather than design I ended up with two ex-Navy personnel being prepared to share their stories with me. One was a Second World War Royal Navy sailor. The other was a Royal Australian Navy officer, with a career beginning prior to that conflict, and extending into the early years of the "Cold War". They have more in common, however, than simply serving during the same war. Both were sunk during that war, surviving to give further service, and both have contributed to Australia and the community in the period since the war. What follows is but a brief glimpse into their fascinating stories.

Bob Appleton

Bob Appleton was born, early in 1922, in Gillingham, Chatham. His father was a policeman and his mother had been a tram conductress during the Great War. Bob was an accomplished athlete during his younger years, having represented Kent in intercounty sports (high jump), and being awarded the Bronze Medallion in 1936. Overall athletic ability saw Bob invited to Windsor Castle in 1936 to receive the King's Scout Badge, presented to him by Baden Powell.

War broke out in 1939, prompting Bob to leave his job at Seabrook

Garage and enter the Royal Navy in 1940 as a signaller, becoming a radio operator shortly afterwards. His first ship was the submarine L.27. Whilst on this ship he undertook his first patrols of the North Sea. In 1941 he transferred to HM Submarine TRIBUNE, for more North Sea patrols as well as service off France, and later that year transferring to the TEMPEST, another T class submarine. Whilst off France Bob experienced his first depth-charging – it was apparently quite an experience... I can't repeat his exact words here, but the edited quote is "Frightened all the s-t out of me!". This wasn't the only time he was on the receiving end of depth charges, it happened on two more occasions at later stages of the war. The next time is remembered thus: "Second time, not too bad, getting used to it."

It was aboard the TEMPEST that Bob's most significant naval event occurred. On the 13th of February of 1942, a Friday, the TEMPEST was on a patrol in the Gulf of Taranto. This day was different. At 0302 TEMPEST and the Italian destroyer CIRCE sighted one another. TEMPEST dived below the surface as the destroyer moved in. Depth charging, Bob's third experience of this ferocious attack, began at 0332. This one he describes as "Third time, disastrous, sunk, lost 39 shipmates..."

At 0716, after several hours of depth charging, CIRCE spotted oil on the surface, but TEMPEST remained below. It was at 0945

that she finally came to the surface, with CIRCE opening fire on the submarine as she appeared – killing several of the crew attempting to exit the TEMPEST. The submarine's crew had been ordered to abandon their ship, in seas rough enough to prevent the Italians from effecting a boarding. TEMPEST stayed afloat until the early afternoon before finally sinking whilst the CIRCE was preparing to take her in tow.

Bob was one of 23 survivors. The remainder of TEMPEST's 62 crew perished. He was a prisoner of war for the next thirteen months before being repatriated in an exchange of prisoners. After the exchange he spent six weeks at Alexandria prior to being returned to the UK aboard the ILE DE FRANCE, a famous inter-war period liner.

Bob's war was not over. He returned to action in 1943, aboard the frigate HMS CAM. This ship was based in Scotland, and Bob stayed aboard for several months, until that ship blew her stern off when attacking a U-boat in the channel. It was in 1944 that Bob passed his Leading Telegraphist exam, commencing work with Special Services in Greece. He was involved in the Greek Civil War for a short period before being posted to HMS CANOPUS, at the Nile in Egypt, and then HMS ST ANGELO in Malta.

Bob's naval career ended in 1946, when he was demobilised on the 23rd of April.

This was not the end of Bob's naval life, however. In 1953, four years



HMAS CANBERRA leaving Wellington, N.Z, for Guadalcanal, 22 July 1942.

after migrating from the UK to Australia, Bob joined the Geelong Sea Cadet unit as Commanding Officer. He retained this position, with the rank of Lieutenant, until 1958, when the pressure of business forced him to leave. This was to be temporary. He returned to Training Ship BARWON, now considered a Naval Reserve Cadets (NRC), as Commanding Officer, this time in the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

During this period TS BARWON was to become one of the more successful NRC units in the country. The Ship's Company rose to well over 100 cadets. For three years in a row the unit was judged Victoria's best, and in consecutive years also won the Australian Colours. This was an Australian record. Such success saw the local community respond, with the unit being given "Freedom of Entry to the city of Geelong". Bob remained CO of TS BARWON until 1984. This time the departure was due to the RAN's decision – they considered him, in Bob's own words "TOO OLD!".

However, Bob was of a different opinion. Whilst no longer involved in the NRC, he started the Navy League of Australia's Geelong Branch that same year, and was appointed Royal Australian Navy Liaison Officer of Geelong Port. Still later, in 1989, Bob became Foundation Honorary Curator of the Geelong Naval and Maritime Museum. He remained in that position until 1996. During his tenure the museum expanded through the former Osborne House gym and engineering workshop. Whilst not in Osborne House proper, the museum is located next to the building that was the original home of the Royal Australian Naval College. Photographs of cadets (including those with the names of Collins, Farncomb et al) decorating the walls have extra significance – they are of, and taken at, the very place the viewer is visiting! The most ambitious of Bob's projects was an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to have an Oberon class submarine moved to the Geelong museum. Bob consulted with the Royal Navy Submarine Museum to assist with

costing this project and found ways to get the submarine moved to Geelong for no cost. However, the Geelong Council did not support this attempt, and it ultimately failed – something Bob still considers a lost opportunity.

Bob's contribution to Australia in general, and the Geelong region in particular, has resulted in him being awarded the 2003 Centenary Medal, for "Contribution to Australian Society", as well as, also in 2003, the Order of Australia for "Services to the Geelong Community".

These days Bob remains active, sailing several days a week on Corio Bay, and is currently working as a volunteer production coordinator at a local radio station and presenting his own Sunday breakfast show "Weeties & Wayback".

"Mac" Gregory

I emailed Mr Gregory requesting information on his career. As a junior officer during the Second World War Mr Gregory had first-hand accounts of some of the RAN's

more significant moments. He, like Bob Appleton, survived the sinking of one of his ships and served in the RAN for many years afterwards.

Like Bob's story Mac has many events which would be considered significant by many people. But for this assignment I will re-tell just a few.

In early August, 1942, the CANBERRA was steaming off Savo Island. The night of 08-09 August was to be her last. Japanese warships managed to pass by several US radar pickets without detection. They continued southwards until, early on the 9th, contact was made with CANBERRA's group.

The Japanese ships fired torpedoes. The CANBERRA managed to avoid being hit by these before several shells exploded around the bridge. CANBERRA's Captain, Frank Getting (one of the RANC's 1913 entrants) was mortally wounded. Several other personnel were killed or suffered injuries. In two minutes CANBERRA was hit by a reported 24 Japanese shells, the resultant damage leaving her with serious damage. She was on fire amidships and below decks, and had a significant list to starboard, with many of her crew either dead or wounded.

Sub-Lieutenant Gregory was on CANBERRA's bridge that night, and is quoted as saying of those short minutes: "... For CANBERRA the war was over...". He left the bridge at 0143 and went to his action station, the fore control. However, he spent little time there as the ship had lost power, so abandoned his station to help in other ways, recovering wounded and dumping

ammunition before the fires spread to the magazines. Later in the morning a ship approached the crippled CANBERRA and opened fire – it was the USS CHICAGO, their former consort. USS PATTERSON, a destroyer, lay alongside CANBERRA – she and CHICAGO exchanged identities and the shooting ceased.

The sinking of someone's ship is a major event in anyone's career, and this was undoubtedly so for Mac. However, after just two weeks of leave he was posted to HMAS ADELAIDE, which was engaged in convoy escort and patrol work. He stayed in ADELAIDE until transferring to SHROPSHIRE, Canberra's replacement, shortly after the Battle of Surigao Strait in October 1944.

Mac's time in SHROPSHIRE began on a slightly humorous note. Having experienced much frustration in attempting to organise air transport to join his new ship, Mac asked for a Travel Request. It stated:

"If Lieutenant M J Gregory RAN does not join HMA Ship within 24 hours, it will seriously hazard the war effort."

Mac says by way of explanation "The Yanks gasped 'What do you do?'" He replied "Too secret to tell you."

SHROPSHIRE's Pacific war included experiencing the Kamikaze attacks which ended the AUSTRALIA's war. SHROPSHIRE, a ship almost identical in silhouette, emerged unscathed. Mac describes this period as follows:

We had a torrid time at Lingayen, the Kamikaze aircraft in full cry.

AUSTRALIA collected five of them, just 3 cables from us, our gunnery

was superb, we fired the 8 inch in barrage using HE and radar control against the Japanese aircraft. At Manus we had acquired an extra 13 single Bofors mountings for a couple of cases of scotch, these were mounted on top of the turrets and all round the ship, this extra AA fire power without any doubt saved us from the same fate as the flagship.

Having survived the Kamikazes SHROPSHIRE was able to participate in the Tokyo Bay surrender ceremony, which ended the Pacific War. When the Japanese came aboard USS MISSOURI to sign the surrender documents, SHROPSHIRE was there, one of several ships representing Australia, to witness the event. Mac described this day as follows:

The surrender of the Japanese in Tokyo Bay came on the 2nd. of September 1945, and Shropshire was there, we had survived and not lost one man to enemy action. She was a wonderful ship and the best I ever served in with a wonderful company, a mix of permanent Officers and sailors blended with fine enlistments of both officers and sailors for WW2.

Mac served for nearly a decade after the end of the war, in various capacities. He was the first RAN officer to qualify as a Torpedo/Anti-Submarine Officer (TASO), and served on the staff of several senior RAN officers of note. Changing tack in 1950, Mac became Aide de Camp to then Governor-General William McKell until 1953. Back with the fleet from 1954 Mac served as Fleet TASO to then RADM Dowling, aboard HMAS VENGEANCE, through the period of the Royal Visit. This was his last operational posting in the RAN, and Mac resigned from the RAN.

Mac is still active, and runs his own Navy history website. He is recognised as a great source of information by many internet users, with a website visited by many, many people seeking answers to obscure questions – including those from nosy Sub-Lieutenants asking him for his life story!

Conclusion

I was quite apprehensive approaching both of these individuals for information to assist me with writing this piece. After all, both have experienced what could only be described as rather traumatic events – ships sinking from beneath them. I thank them

both for their positive replies. After reading their stories I hope I can get as much out of life as they have!

Both supplied me with more than enough information for this piece, and were more than happy to do so. In fact they are both prepared to provide further information if requested! I found it of great interest to be exposed to these personal recollections of history. There are ever fewer primary sources available to us as time marches on, and takes its inevitable toll on people with such interesting and amazing stories to tell.

Through NEOC we have read about ships being sunk in peace and war

– including the CANBERRA's loss. But most people only get to read someone else's version of the event, based on the memories of people like Mac and Bob. I consider myself fortunate to have been allowed to tell both Bob's and Mac's stories, and hope that this piece does them and their memories justice. ■

An engaging thought

By MIDN Amanda Buckland, NEOC 28

Written after one of Commander Rowan's psychology lessons

To anyone, this may sound quite ridiculous, but after a discussion in class regarding the five key elements of life, it occurred to me that a theory I have been pondering, is in fact legitimate to achieving satisfaction within relations in my life.

In order for one to maintain a homeostatic psyche, you must always have the ability to understand and focus on the realities of life. You must also, always, have obtainable goals. Goals are expressed in forms of particular behaviours, which allow you define what 'it' is, you really want to achieve in all areas of life. Questions such as "what do I want?" and "how will I know when I have found it?" allow us to process, understand and work through our goals in a chronological and rational format; which often people forget to do, especially in relationships. Definition of the goal is the key.

It was once said, "we do not remember days... we remember moments" (cesare pavese). I then believe that moments we remember from all areas of life, come together to help us decide what it is we want. It is then, the collaboration of all these moments that for me define what it is I want in a relationship. And this definition has come to be known as the 'theory'.

Until today, this 'theory' was simply some ideas about the 'perfect' relationship that over coffee and movie nights my friends and I discussed. It was not until the class that I realised the 'theory' was in fact my collaboration of ultimate goals for what I wanted in a relationship; and it was not until now that I actually recognised this 'theory' as a goal.

Therefore, within my 'theory', I have now recognised an achievable goal. I also have strategies and processes that will help me progress from where I am now, to where I want my 'relationship' with another individual, in the future to be. Who that person is, I do not yet know, and when I will find them is also unknown. What I do know, is that one morning I will roll over, remember a moment, ponder on my 'theory' and realise... I have found 'it'. ■

Untitled poem on stress and balance

By SBLT Catherine Bevan-Jones, NEOC 28

In my life it is sometimes hard to find,
A quiet place, some peace of mind.
A bad experience, one night's lack of sleep,
Can sometimes make my balance hard to keep.
There are many people who need my time,
Problems and solutions which are my job to find.
The dark grey clouds of things to do
Hurt, worry, stress, can all obscure my view.
And amongst all this are family, lovers, friends,
Many coloured balls to juggle and catch again.
And the people who would look to me to set an example to see,
I need to learn to motivate, even though that's the last thing I'll be.
And so I write to calm my mind,
The tranquillity of words heals troubles in time.
And thus I remain squarely on both feet,
Ready and willing, the next challenge to beat.



How Midshipman Robert Short saw the Training Cruise

By Midshipman Robert Short, NEOC 29

“Describe what you see in everyday life, in the country that you visited, that is different to Australia.”

Thailand

The Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, in his “Meditations” Book 4 (170 CE) wrote, “The entire Earth is but a point, and the place of our own habitation but a minute corner of it.” This truth was profoundly demonstrated to me by my visit to Bangkok. Bangkok is one of those places where the neutral world has all but disappeared. You can make out streets and footpaths, tuk tuks and cars, markets and restaurants, advertising billboards, monuments of glass and steel, but with the exception of Lumpini Park, not a tree or blade of grass. The only animals to be seen besides the ones waiting to be eaten, were rats or stray cats and of course, humans. There were lots of humans. Only when you looked up could you see a patch of blue. But the bright lights of Bangkok bleach out the stars. Bangkok is a very different place to the minute corner of the Earth that I inhabit.

The first thing that struck me in Bangkok was the volume of traffic. Bangkok has a lot of vehicles ranging from motorbikes and tuk tuks to cars and taxis to trucks and busses all trying to occupy very limited space on the road. There seemed to be discernible road rules. On a number of occasions

my tuk tuk driver proved to me that stopping at red lights was optional at best. Driving on the wrong side of the road in the face of oncoming traffic was quite often the most desirable route in getting from one destination to another. Having said that, rides in the tuk tuk were most enjoyable. I believe the enjoyment was induced by the inevitable adrenalin rush that accompanied any tuk tuk excursion.

Shopping in Bangkok is quite a unique experience. There are markets and street stalls everywhere. These are great places to buy inexpensive items such as souvenirs, imitation clothing and watches, handbags and just about anything you can think of. In fact a local described Jatujuk Markets as the place to go to get anything you want. He was right. Haggling down the price was more than acceptable and indeed part of the fun. Other than the market one could shop at established stores. Stores such as tailors and jewellers had arrangements with tuk tuk drivers for provision of fuel so it was easy to find them or be taken to them depending on your point of view. The service provided by the salespersons was extremely polite while at the same time extremely aggressive. There was a belief that if you were in the store, you were there to buy. There seemed to be no such thing as “just looking” in Thailand. I also worked out early that there was no need to buy soft

drink or water. The tailors were so sure you were going to purchase that they were all happy to provide you with liquid nourishment.

Going out for a meal was a memorable experience. There seems no need to have a kitchen in a person’s house. There was almost no time when you were not in sight of somewhere fantastic to eat. The first couple of places I went to eat, the waiter brought out a live fish in a net for us to inspect. I was totally awestruck by this and couldn’t resist. The food is generally a little spicier than food at home. It is also a good deal cheaper, with the average meal costing between one and four dollars. All food is eaten with chopsticks, which is not the norm in Australia. Food is a shared cultural experience. People met each other at places where they could eat together. It was times of eating that deficiency in my Thai and the English of my hosts was most apparent. At one roadside kitchen the language barrier caused us to have to pay twice for a meal. This still cost remarkably less than paying once in Australia.

Everything in Bangkok was inexpensive when compared to Australia. The currency used in Thailand is the baht. One Australian dollar is worth 27 baht. For 27 baht you could easily buy a couple of cans of coke and get some change. This did not only apply to food and drink. Clothes, DVDs, entertainment and everything else was available

at a fraction of the price paid in Australia. However, as cheap as everything is, it isn't cheap enough for the Thai people. Unlike Australia where a large percentage of people live in comfort and prosperity, in Thailand, the vast majority of people live in poverty. Brick veneer suburbia found in Australia was no where to be seen. The average dwelling was run down and makeshift at best. What is most different to Australia in this regard was the attitude of the Thai people. They did not complain about their relative poverty. In fact, the most remarkable feature of the Thai is their beaming smile and their extremely polite and courteous nature. The Thai people always showed us the utmost respect even when we were blatantly trying to take advantage of them over the price of their goods.

The Thai, like Australians are devoted people. But unlike Australians, the Thai are devoted to their religion. The majority of people are buddhist, a minor religion in Australia. There are many places of worship all over the city. I had the opportunity to visit a number of the temples and sacred sights in Bangkok. The temples are incredibly iconic. Images of the buddha were abundant. A lot of effort is put into adorning and maintaining their religious icons. The standing buddha is unlike anything I have seen before. Thai people can be found at these temples at all times of the day on everyday of the week, whereas in Australia, a visit to the majority of churches would find them locked and/or deserted. Ritual is very important. We participated in one of these rituals by releasing birds at the standing buddha. This was the first time I ever had the opportunity to release birds despite having visited a buddhist temple in

Australia. It was supposed to bring me luck.

The Thai are also devoted to their king. The king and his family are held in high esteem. Everywhere I went in all the stores there were pictures of the King and the Thais did not have a bad word to say about their leader. This is unlike Australia where our leaders are not held with the same esteem. The Thai people also transferred the respect then showed for their leaders onto leaders from other nations. Being in Bangkok at the same time as the APEC summit afforded us the opportunity to hear how the Thai people viewed world leaders. They showed good respect for them. They were also happy to express their annoyance at John Howard for closing Lumpini park so he could go for a jog.

Thailand has a dirty side as well. The first thing we noticed as we arrived in Bangkok was the pollution. Australia's major city, Sydney, also suffers from pollution problems but not to the extent of Bangkok. The river was extremely dirty and seeing a dead animal carcass floating past was soon not surprising. As with any large city, Bangkok is surrounded by a brown haze. With so many people trying to occupy the same place, high levels of pollution are inevitable. Cleanliness and hygiene are not the highest of priorities. On my first night in Bangkok I was witness to a rat making a hasty exit out the front door of a restaurant. In Australia this would have horrified me but in Bangkok, this was exactly the kind of atmosphere that I was hoping for.

Another aspect of the dirty side of Bangkok is the sex industry. Although I did not frequent any

of the establishments that offer those services, it was impossible to avoid contact with the sex industry of Bangkok. Despite having lived in close proximity to a brothel in Australia, I have not experienced such confronting contact as my couple of nights in Bangkok. There were men on the streets brandishing advertisements for their respective establishments. Most tuk tuk drivers told me they would take me to some ladies for a "massage." There were also plenty of streetwalkers of both genders offering their services about town, particularly at Lumpini Park, the drop off and pick up point for the shuttle bus.

Bangkok was a lot like putting a salt tablet on my tongue. It gave me a thirst for more. The Thai people are best described by the Thai phrase "soi mak", which means very beautiful. The city was a cultural fruit salad of delights that had me totally enthralled. Bangkok and Thailand are an entirely different world to Australia. On leaving Bangkok I am left echoing the thoughts of Herman Melville when he wrote in *Moby Dick*, "I am tormented with an everlasting itch for things remote. I love to sail the forbidden seas." ■

Vietnam - as seen by Andrew Steinbeck - Flinders division

By MIDN Andrew Steinbeck, NEOC 29

So many differences can be found between Vietnam and Australia that it may be easier to answer the question by identifying the similarities between the two countries. My brief experience of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City and on tours of the outlying areas of Cu Chi tunnels and the Mekong Delta has shown that a lifetime could be spent living there and yet still find differences in everyday life. These differences extend across the spectrum of their society and culture, from family structure, religion and history to government, economics and living standards. As broad as the gulf is between the two countries, I still have the sense that there were many similarities, and these are very useful in developing links between us. These links and ties are essential as a basis for maintaining friendly relations and developing trust.

Prior to this visit to Ho Chi Minh, my exposure to Vietnam had been confined to limited contact with a few Vietnamese in Australia, having either made their home there or as international students. I had also had good reports from friends who had travelled there, and I learnt about the country's history of the last 50 – 60 years in high school. While all of this was useful as a potted introduction, nothing compares to experiencing the country first hand. I found that Ho Chi Minh was quite unique, and certainly different from both Singapore and Bangkok. As a westerner, I could see similarities between all of these Asian cities, especially in their energy, desire for commerce and trading activity and

the emphasis on an individual's responsibility to look after him or herself.

Ho Chi Minh of 2003 is a very curious mix of both western and eastern approaches to life, and is also a strange blend of enterprising economy and communist (single party) planning. The history of the city is apparent in its architecture and urban design, with reminders of French colonialism in building appearance, city layout and even street names. The city as a bustling marketplace reminds me of other Asian cities and its crowds and busy streets are not witnessed to the same extent in Australian cities. Despite the similarities to other Asian cities (and by extension, countries) Ho Chi Minh is still emerging as a large metropolis, and seems strangely quaint in comparison with Singapore and Bangkok with its relatively flat skyline. No doubt the country's recent history and its current financial situation place some severe parameters around what one should expect of the city. Nevertheless, I was impressed by the population's resilience (perhaps they have no alternative!) and tenacity in the face of so much suffering and difficulty over the last 60 years. They continue to carve out an existence with minimal help from the government, which despite its communist ideals fails to provide health or social security benefits to its citizens. I'm sure that as individuals each of the city's population is aware of the necessity to work and support themselves, just as they are aware of the disparity that exists in

economic terms between people in western countries like Australia and themselves. I wonder if Australians would be as industrious and mindful of the imperative to survive, given our familiarity with unemployment benefits, our devotion to the five day working week, and our near religious zeal in pursuing recreational activities. It could be argued that the difference in philosophies between east and west has helped to create differing economies (among other things) and that as Vietnam becomes more westernised and develops economically, then the standard of living will improve across the board. I would hope though that this does not preclude the Vietnamese from retaining some control over their destiny. They appear to be a friendly, warm and ingenious people with a tremendous capacity to persevere and prosper, and surely deserve to have maximum input into the future, for which they have so grimly struggled. Realities of economics and politics aside, I wish the Vietnamese the best as they pursue integration with the wider world.

Witnessing the changes and movements in Vietnamese society in such a fleeting way makes it difficult to comment on much of what I saw. Ho Chi Minh seemed to be the most interesting of the three Asian cities TOBRUK visited (perhaps because it's the one I wanted to visit the most) and also the most distinct from an Australian city. While traffic congestion, large concentrations of people and expensive hotels are features of any modern city, Ho Chi Minh has a larger population (~5.6 million) than any Australian city and

differs in great many respects from the Australian norm. Aside from the provision of common services and utilities which could be found around the world, Ho Chi Minh is as disorganised, chaotic and vibrant as Sydney at it best and worst (as we perceive it) and exemplifies an Asian city rapidly leaving the past behind and embracing the future with enormous enthusiasm.

The desire for individuals to better their lot and that of their families is evident in this move toward western technology. I strongly suspect that the impact of this change will be felt throughout the society as family structure and more traditional approaches are modified and tend towards western philosophies of individualism. Whereas Vietnam was once largely agrarian in its economy and the family was paramount as the social unit, it is slowly but surely moving toward a more western society. It is still common to find several generations of the one family living together, but even the Vietnamese acknowledge that as young individuals or couples gain income, then they will tend to move away and live independently.

Vietnamese society, as seen briefly in Ho Chi Minh and in outlying areas, seems much freer of western bureaucracy and red tape, despite being governed by a communist system. Vietnam appears to function readily on a pragmatic approach to life and work and business, and with greater acknowledgment of the value of common sense. Western society, Australia included, grows continually into an over regulated system of rules and tiers of government. This works well to prevent exploitation and engender a technically fair society, but also stifles energy, creativity and promotes frustration. Indeed I suspect that the cynicism

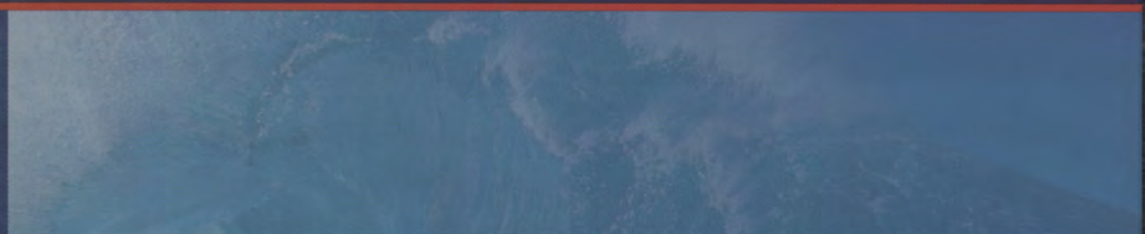
so common in western society is closely linked to this, and is also perhaps why Vietnam seems so vibrant, fresh and energetic. Whilst it would be pleasant to dream of successfully blending the two cultures, the reality of poverty in Vietnam suggests that most Vietnamese would happily relocate to enjoy the great wealth enjoyed by most Australians.

Turning away from economic and political considerations, the people I encountered in Ho Chi Minh displayed traits not dissimilar to many Australians in their approach to foreigners. Despite their recent history, the Vietnamese were generally quite warm to visitors, and seemed happy to welcome Australians to their city. Ordinary members of the public would occasionally test their English to ask where we were from, and proved ready to help with directions or other simple questions. I experienced some difference with Australian settings in that the Vietnamese were much more service orientated in the retail/service sector. Staff in shops restaurants cafes, nightclubs etc were ever present to assist you with choosing items or simply relaxing in that venue, whereas in Australia what I assume is the high cost of labour prevents this phenomenon from being common.

On the streets of Ho Chi Minh was the evidence that Vietnam has struggled in the past due to war and massive upheaval. Small children begged or sold cigarettes, books, magazines or newspapers of flowers, watched over by older mentors or parents. Thousands of cyclos, scooters and small motorcycles act as the prime means of transport and their riders harangue you for your fare. Other services are offered out of the corner of mouths or muttered by the

same people; everyone seems to know where to take an Australian for a massage, and just what sort of massage is required. Cafes and stalls operate right on the footpath, with tiny stools for those dining, and yet no one seems to mind (least of all those eating as you stepped around them). To an Australian from a small city used to driving himself around when and where necessary, all this activity is a little bewildering. Nevertheless, Ho Chi Minh was a marvel for the senses that could be indulged in for a very long time, and I suspect that despite its drive into the future, it will remain fascinating for the foreseeable future. This suggests of course that many differences will remain, and I hope they do, because Vietnam has so much tradition and culture that it would be a shame for it to dissolve into an island of a city; western urbanism surrounded by traditional farmlands with little in common.

Part of Vietnam's mystery and attraction lies in its difference from western society I have grown up in. In this observation of Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh in particular, I have avoided noting the small differences and happily immersed myself in the experience to whatever extent our visit constraints permitted. That I enjoyed it so much speaks volumes for the ability of the Vietnamese to create a society which is unavoidably different and yet has such value and vitality that an outsider can't help but be fascinated. Moreover, it shows that while differences can be readily found in Ho Chi Minh, it does not take long for the similarities and shared values to surface, and allow for the dissipation of differences that prevent meaningful personal exchanges. ■



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