

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link

Issue 5, November 2013



Welcome to the November edition of Family Link, a newsletter to help ship's company and their families remain informed.

Message from the Commanding Officer

October was a busy month for *Canberra* and the Navy as we celebrated the International Fleet Review (IFR). It was an exceptional spectacle which was a culmination of years of planning and coordination. I know everyone was proud to be a part of it no matter what their contribution was. You can read more about the Fleet Review and *Canberra's* contribution within this newsletter.



CO NUSHIP *Canberra*, CAPT Jonathan Sadleir, AM

Another significant milestone more directly related to our progress, was the Amphibious Operational Analysis (OA). This process was completed in recent weeks and involved subject matter experts from all the areas involved in building the capability that *Canberra* will be required to provide. OA was about fitting the jigsaw puzzle pieces together and started with stepping through an example scenario. We looked at a real world example from a holistic perspective, and stepped through the scenario in a static classroom environment at HMAS Watson. Everyone from ship's company to Army's 2 RAR, to Aviation experts from Navy, Army and Air Force, and medical and logistics personnel were involved. The OA process aimed to identify risks and sticking points as we stepped through the scenario. We will shortly have the formal outcomes of how OA went, but suffice to say we are very confident that we are on the right track and achieved the objective of highlighting areas where further liason and work needs to be done.

As you would be aware, we are working towards the first part of next year for delivery of the ship and we are training and preparing to be ready at that time. I continue to be very proud of the way the ship's company is conducting itself and in particular the strong and positive representation *Canberra* personnel provided on behalf of the RAN over the period of the IFR and the OA.

Family of NUSHIP Canberra personnel are welcome to ask questions of the Commanding Officer or provide feedback about this newsletter by contacting the Ship's Warrant Officer, Jeff Argoon at jeff.argoon@defence.gov.au or the Ship's Public Affairs Officer, Lieutenant Emily Kennedy on emily.kennedy@defence.gov.au.

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The Command Team

Commanding Officer
CAPT Jonathan Sadleir, AM

Executive Officer
CMDR Jonathan Earley

Commander Amphibious LTCOL
Richard Mogg

Commander Air
CMDR Paul Moggach, CSC

Commander Logistics
CMDR Nathan Robb

Engineer Officer
CMDR David Walter

Ship's Warrant Officer
WO Jeff Argoon

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Canberra passes Vehicle Load Trial – her first harbour acceptance trial in Australia

Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) has successfully completed a vehicle load trial on NUSHIP Canberra in the first Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) Harbour Acceptance Trial to be done in Australia.

The ship moved from its location at BAE Williamstown in Victoria, across the bay to Webb Dock to undertake the vehicle load trial which allowed for Army vehicles to be driven onto the ship and manoeuvred within the vehicle decks of the ship.

This activity involved a “cold move” meaning the ship was moved across the bay with tugs and not under her own propulsion.

The Army provided several vehicles that will be used on the LHDs including a tank, armoured personnel carrier and light vehicles.

The vehicles gained access to Canberra via the side ramps, drove around the internal heavy cargo deck, down the “beach” and through the well dock of the ship. Those vehicles which required access to the light vehicle deck used the internal ramp and elevator to move up decks to conduct trials there.

The trials were conducted on schedule and involved extensive planning, preparation and coordination between Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), BAE Systems, Navy and Army.

NUSHIP Canberra’s Engineer Officer, Commander David Walter said that both the “cold move” activity and the vehicle load trial gave Canberra personnel a good learning opportunity.

“A range of Canberra personnel including personnel from the Amphibious, Executive and Engineering Departments observed both the ‘cold move’ activity and the vehicle load trial which was excellent training value in terms of becoming familiar with the platform in a real time activity.

“There was significant training value in Canberra personnel being involved in terms of gaining confidence and seeing how parts of the ship work including the operation of the ships auxiliary and electrical systems, operation of side ramp doors, movement of lines to get the ship off and alongside the wharf, and the movement of vehicles inside the ship,” said Commander Walter.

Departmental Regulators
Whole Ship Coordinator
CPONPC David Leeming
Amphibious
WO2 Pete Woodham
Aviation
CPO Chris Swift
Executive
CPOB Mark Pahl
CPOCSM Drew Speirs
CPOCIS Tagan Wright
Logistics
CPOML-C Michael Oleksyn
Engineering
CPOMT Colin Milligan
CPOET Rebecca Shannon



Photos: (Top): Lance Corporal Robinson observing a Unimog about to be elevated to the Light Vehicle Deck from the Heavy Vehicle Deck. (Bottom): A Unimog with eight tonne trailer coming down the internal ramp from Light Vehicle Deck to Heavy Vehicle Deck.

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Commanding Officer of NUSHIP *Canberra*, Captain Jonathan Sadleir, said that the tempo is increasing as the project milestones move closer to the time when Navy receives *Canberra* into service.

“We have over 350 ship’s company who have now joined the ship and are undertaking a variety of training and preparedness activities ready to embark and operate the ship next year,” said Captain Sadleir.

“As these milestones are achieved, it certainly becomes more exciting for our personnel as we step closer to bringing this new capability into the Fleet,” he said.



Photo: A Mack Heavy Recovery Vehicle embarks in forward side ramp door of NUSHIP *Canberra*.

Becoming Duty Watch ready – preparing to take on the LHD

There is a spring in the step of NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel who have started Duty Watch training onboard the Navy’s first Landing Helicopter Dock ship currently being completed at Williamstown, Victoria.

Training and preparedness is approaching the sharp end as *Canberra*’s ship’s company start rotating through their Duty Watch training – meaning embarkation in the ship is not too far away.

A ship’s ‘Duty Watch’ is the group of people who look after the safety, security and daily operation of the ship for a 24 hour period while it is alongside.

Canberra’s Executive Officer, Commander Jonathan Earley, said there were many facets of the training that were valuable not only for the people being trained but for the ship’s organisation overall.

“The aim of the training is to familiarise the Duty Watches with a variety of issues related to the ship, such as the ship layout, its array of damage control systems, security measures, key management, its power distribution system and communications equipment while also building teamwork within the Duty Watch teams,” said Commander Earley.

“The Duty Watch needs to be prepared to be the first response to any incident onboard the platform no matter what it might be. This initial practical training is the start of an iterative process that will build on existing knowledge as well as the information learned from the contractor delivered training at the LHD Training Facility at Mascot.



Photo: Some of the first members of Duty Watch pictured in one of *Canberra*’s machinery spaces as they undertake Duty Watch training. From Back left to right: LSCIS Stewart Thurlow, LSMT Nathan Cook, LSMT Jack Gordon, LEUT Glen Suffolk, ABMT Brendan Mannings, POMT Andrew Copeland, LSMT Andrew Witheriff, LEUT Jasmine Kastaniotis, POB Thomas Archer, LSBM Joshua O’Hanlon

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While personnel may already be familiar with generic Duty Watch routines, *Canberra* will be unique in terms of its larger size, different damage control systems as well as compartment sizes and layout, so this initial training is really important to ensure we are ready to take over responsibility for the ship at Initial Materiel Readiness (IMR).

Commanding Officer NUSHIP *Canberra*, Captain Jonathan Sadleir, said *Canberra* is building and instilling a culture of safety and responsibility early.

“It’s been excellent to see the ship’s company already starting to take responsibility during this training process. Duty Watch procedures are being developed and tested while always ensuring safety remains of paramount importance,” said Captain Sadleir.

“There is a strong sense of enthusiasm and commitment to get involved at all levels to ensure we are best prepared to assume responsibility for what will be the biggest ship our Navy has ever had. It is an exciting time as we near IMR.” he said.

Leading Seaman Boatswain’s Mate Brooke Summers was in the first group of Duty Watch personnel to attend the training.

“Due to the sheer size of the ship, the training is a lot more involved than previous platforms. Everyone that completed the training walked away having learnt something new everyday,” said Leading Seaman Summers.

“The ship has many compartments, and many ways to get to them. Being a brand new capability, it has opened up doors to new techniques when it comes to damage control.”

“I’d definitely say the Duty Watch training was a teaser – a peek at what’s to come. Everyone is really looking forward to the ship getting here now and getting onboard,” she said.

Know your Amphib Jargon!

The entire ship’s company is coming to grips with a new era of jargon that is not familiar to even the most experienced of sailors. Here are some examples of Amphib terminology that you may hear from time to time.

Commander Landing Force (CLF). *CLF is the senior Army officer appointed as the commander of the Landing Force (LF). CLF plans and determines the combat scheme of manoeuvre ashore including the sequencing and delivery of landing force units and has immediate responsibility for the conduct of LF tactical operations ashore.*

Ready Battalion Group (RBG). *An RBG is capable of an amphibious landing and assault. A RBG may be comprised of infantry, armour (including tanks), artillery, engineers, reconnaissance and mobility helicopters and other vehicles selected for the required combat mission.*

Amphibious Ready Element (ARE). *The ARE provides an immediate short notice amphibious capability. The ARE is capable of conducting humanitarian assistance or non-combatant evacuation operations at short notice. The ARE is based on one major fleet amphibious unit with a landing force (LF) of approximately a ready combat team (RCT) with associated headquarters element.*

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IFR – A commemoration etched in history



Photo: HMAS Sydney leads HMA Ships Darwin, Perth, Parramatta, Bundaberg, Gascoyne, Diamantina and Huon into Sydney Harbour for the International Fleet Review 2013

Last month, the Navy was at the Centre of arguably the biggest celebration on Sydney Harbour since the 1988 Bicentenary as we commemorated 100 years since the Australian Navy Fleet first entered Sydney Harbour. On 4 October 1913 the flagship, HMAS Australia, led the new Australian Fleet Unit comprising HMA Ships Melbourne, Sydney, Encounter, Warrego, Parramatta and Yarra into Sydney Harbour for the first time to be greeted by thousands of cheering citizens lining the foreshore.

To commemorate this, on 4 October 2013 we saw divisions of ships from around the world entering the harbour in formation with the last division depicting the magnificent seven. HMAS Sydney led with Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN and Commodore Warfare, Commodore Peter Leavy embarked, followed by HMA Ships Darwin, Perth, Parramatta, Bundaberg, Gascoyne, Diamantina and Huon.

The following day, Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, reviewed the fleet. The Governor General was embarked in HMAS *Leeuwin* with Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN as the fleet sailed past. While these activities were the hallmarks of the International Fleet Review, the event involved a week long program in Sydney with Open Days, air shows, receptions, commemoration services, Freedom of Entry parades, band performances, a Combined Navies parade and a spectacular fireworks display and light show which told the story of our Navy.

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Photo: Multi-national ships at anchor in Jervis Bay prior to the transit to Sydney for the International Fleet Review. *Canberra* personnel supported these ships while at anchor.

Canberra played a part in various aspects of the IFR event program providing personnel in a range of forums.

One of them was to provide personnel to be trained in the use of the Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVPs) positioned at HMAS Creswell providing logistical support to the ships prior to their entry into Sydney Harbour. During this time *Canberra* provided two qualified and six unqualified personnel, of whom all were later assessed and deemed competent to coxswain the LCVP. The service provided by *Canberra* personnel ensured that all ships in Jervis Bay were able to remain at anchor and complete last minute ships husbandry without the worry of the accumulation of garbage and provided assistance with transferring some stores and personnel. The ships comments to the crews who assisted were always positive and thankful for the service they provided.



Photos: Top left: Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN led over 3,500 officers and sailors along George Street towards the Sydney Town Hall. Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia reviewed the parade. **Left:** The harbour and its icons take on a number of wondrous colours as the Pyrotechnics and Lightshow Spectacular wows the spectators lining Sydney Harbour's foreshore during the IFR. **Above:** HMAS Sydney leads the re-enactment of the First Fleet entry in Sydney Harbour from 1913 as part of the International Fleet Review 2013.

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Canberra represented at IFR Ship's Open Days.

Although *Canberra* isn't at Fleet Base East just yet, she managed to get in on the action for the IFR Open Days which attracted over 37, 000 visitors to Garden Island over Sunday 6 and Monday 7 October. CPOML-S Sally-Anne Plewis and LSML-S Meggan Thwaites volunteered to represent the ship talking to the thousands of people who passed by the *Canberra* stall.

An account from LS Meggan Thwaites regarding her time representing Canberra at the Open Day

We felt very happy and proud to be representing NUSHIP *Canberra* at the IFR Open Day at Garden Island. There were so many people and at some points it was quite daunting the amount of people trying to come into our tent to see what we were selling.

We had the opportunity to talk with the public about all manner of things from the ship and the new capabilities she brings to what we do in the Navy and how that has changed our lives.

We were selling a lot of ship's memorabilia, the most popular being ball caps, ships coins, LHD build your own ship models and the free LHD stress toys.

It was quite surprising the amount of people in the community that knew that *Canberra* was on her way and were very positive.

The public were also very positive of what the Navy does and how we present ourselves and, for me, that was a nice surprise and only made me prouder to be not only a member of the RAN but a part of the Commissioning crew for HMAS *Canberra* III.



Photo: LSML-S Meggan Thwaites and CPOML-S Sally-Anne Plewis at the NUSHIP Canberra stall at the IFR Garden Island Open Day.



Over the two IFR Open Days *Canberra* raised \$3500 which will go towards purchasing new stock. We also recently held a stall at BAE Systems Dockyard at Williamstown and in just 40 mins we sold \$2000 worth of merchandise.

Image: Along with memorabilia and items for sale, this handout was given out to remind the community that the Navy will soon receive a significant new capability - the first Landing Helicopter Dock, NUSHIP *Canberra*, the biggest ship ever built for the Royal Australian Navy.

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Communications pre-work up training

Contribution by ABCIS India Green

Canberra's Communications Department conducted their Pre Workup Training (PWT) alongside and onboard the ship at the BAE Systems Dockyard in Williamstown between 16-20 September.

With our department having only worked together for a short period of time, the week in Williamstown gave us the chance to set the foundation for a cohesive relationship that will see us through our next few years together. Our department, 32 strong, is a unique mixture of Army and Navy personnel, with some never having been exposed to the Navy culture. The week gave us the chance to experience the two different forces' way of thinking and the chance to learn more about each other's views, values and our collective goals as a department.

In the weeks leading up to our trip, members of the department were diligently working on briefs to present to the rest of the department and in turn we learnt a lot about the new equipment we will have onboard *Canberra*. The week started with us being let loose to explore our new ship for the first time. For those without the best sense of direction, this perhaps proved a more challenging exercise than a simple tour. With the sheer size of the ship, 230 metres in length and containing over 2000 compartments, it was easy to forget you were onboard a Navy vessel and not exploring a small town.

While most of us are used to working out of a small communications centre onboard vessels, the size of our numerous working spaces onboard *Canberra* means we'll be spoilt for choice. It was exciting to walk into compartments and revel in the new equipment and the space of the working areas which, in turn, left us with a sense of appreciation that we were the lucky ones chosen to commission *Canberra*. Everything seems supersized on the ship, from the spacious Galley which could see up to 6000 meals a day being prepared by our chefs down to flight deck which is the equivalent to the size of twenty four tennis courts. The rest of the week was spent completing tasks that would better orientate ourselves and improve our knowledge of our new platform.

The trip to Williamstown was an invaluable experience for *Canberra's* communications department. We are extremely eager for the ship to arrive in Sydney, and for us to begin the next exciting chapter of our naval careers.



Photo: Canberra's Communications Department pictured out the front of the BAE Systems building at the Williamstown dockyard.

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Canberra chef at sea with Spanish ship Cantabria

Able Seaman Neil Beattie shares his experience sea riding in ESPS Cantabria.

I spent ten days sea riding in Spanish Replenishment Oiler, ESPS Cantabria in the lead up to the International Fleet Review.

My time on Cantabria was eye opening just because of the different cultural views. I had a lot of fun learning a little bit of Spanish so I could communicate while I was on board Cantabria.

I worked in the galley for most my time onboard but I got to experience the way they run there systems in the Machinery Control Room and on the bridge. I also worked in the laundry for a few days with Pablo - a very funny man (he thought he was Pablo Escobar). The Spanish are have a very happy and inviting nature. When you get to know them they joke a lot which (when I could understand the jokes) were funny and made our days go quickly and very enjoyable. The Public Relations Officer onboard Cantabria, Lieutenant Chris Thornton, was a lot of help and made our time on board pleasant and constructive. The Spanish culture and the way they cook their food is different to the Australian Navy but works all the same.



Photo: ABML-S Neil Beattie spent 10 days onboard ESPS Cantabria in the lead up to IFR.

Canberra's Maritime Logistics Officer, Lieutenant Commander Matt Ryan, said that opportunities to sea ride are valuable.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for RAN members to gain exposure to foreign Navies and their vessels. It affords the sailor the chance to compare how different nations operate, and therefore learn how we as a Navy can perhaps do things better," said Lieutenant Commander Ryan.

ESPS Cantabria left Sydney on 1 November departing Australia after an extended deployment with our Navy. Cantabria has afforded a variety of visits and sea riding experiences to members of NUSHIP Canberra. Cantabria has welcomed our personnel and like us, values the learning that can be achieved from each other. We say thank you and wish her fair winds and following seas as she departs for home.



Photo: Replenishment Oiler A16 SPS Cantabria at anchor in Jervis Bay along with multi-national ships for the upcoming International Fleet Review. More than 20 warships are assembled in Jervis Bay off HMAS Creswell in preparation for their departure to Sydney for the International Fleet Review. RAN ships HMAS Perth, Sydney and Diamantina are assembled with ships from Spain, Singapore, U.K, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nigeria, China, USA, France, India and Brunei. The ships set sail for Sydney on Thursday 3 October following the navigational path of the original seven ships of the first Australian Navy 100 years ago and entered Sydney Harbour on Friday October 4 as part of a spectacular IFR program.

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Bravo Zulus

A message from Navy Canteens

Could you please convey our thanks to the wonderful guys and girls from NUSHIP Canberra who helped us out during the IFR. Their enthusiasm and energy was boundless! We could not have done it without them. You've got some very good people!



IFR Open Days

Well done to Chief Petty Officer Sally-Anne Plewis and Able Seaman Maritime Logistics-Steward Meggan Thwaites who worked ten hour plus days in the hot temperatures to represent *Canberra* at the IFR Garden Island Open Days which attracted over 37,000 people.

Engineering Challenge – through to Nationals

BZ to Petty Officer Electronics Technician Luke Porter, Leading Seaman Electronics Technician Ed Hearsom, Able Seaman Electronics Technician Kane Peters, and Able Seaman Marcus Hinkley whose Navy Engineering Challenge efforts have seen them through to the National judging round in December. Well done team.

Photos inset above: Navy Canteens staff pictured with NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel working during the IFR Open days at Barangaroo.

Marine Engineering Update

The Engineering Department, in particular, the Marine Technical branch, have currently been undertaking their ship specific technical training out at the BAE Systems LHD Training Facility in Mascot, New South Wales.

One of the key training tools being used by BAE is the LHD Engineering Systems Trainer or LEST for short. This gives the ship's crew the ability to learn and interact with different pieces of equipment, machinery and systems that make up the Engineering Plant aboard NUSHIP *Canberra*. The equipment and systems available on the LEST have been divided into the following subsections:

- Propulsion
- Auxiliary
- Electric Power Generation
- Damage Control
- Electric Distribution

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Another advantage of the LEST, is the ability to set up the LHD in different states, which can include:

- Cold Ship
- Cold Ship Prepared
- Shore Connection
- DG Connection
- Ready For Departure
- Full Ahead

Each of these different set ups, provide different challenges for the members undertaking the training to getting the ship ready to go to sea or whilst at sea.

All personnel that have had the opportunity to use this key training tool have found it beneficial, as they operate machinery and equipment and also align systems without causing any actual damage to them. It also gives them the further understanding of how one missed step in a standard operating procedure can have a huge impact on the plant.

Update on Navy Engineering Challenge

Great news for our Weapons Electrical Engineering Challenge team who have made it through to the National Finals of the Navy Engineering Challenge. The *Canberra Vikings*, as the team is named, will compete in the final on 4 December 2013 at the Heritage Centre at Garden Island, Sydney. Their task is no mean feat. They are required to build a fire control system in just four weeks from specified parts and within the confines of the supplied rules of the challenge.

The main factors which have 'upped the ante' this round is that they are required to incorporate a "nerf" gun which has to shoot foam pellets onto a stabilized weapon platform, where in the Regional Challenge it was a laser. The team will be working hard over the next five weeks to convert their 'box of bits' into an accurate and sophisticated fire control system. Good luck! The team has a new member – ABET Simon Pearn who replaced ABET Marcus Hinkley who has been posted.



Photos: (left): ABET Kane Peters holds the box of parts that will be used to build a fire control system. (Right): ABET Simon Pearn and ABET Kane Peters looking the Nerf gun which will be used as an integral part of the system.

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Player Profiles



Name: LEUT Adam Simeoni

Hometown: Launceston, Tasmania (the Boags end of the state).

When did you join the ADF? 24 Jan 2001

What's your role in Canberra? Gunnery Officer, Force Protection Officer, Duty friend of the Navigator (someone has to do it).

What do you want to achieve while serving in Canberra? A part from overall unit success, I'm really looking forward to doing some Gunnery practice and putting our very advanced systems through their paces. The weapons and how they integrate with the combat system are a really unique capability that nobody in the RAN has really ever seen in action.

Things you like most about your job? I am continually motivated by the great team I work with. We have already achieved some great things and I'm sure that will continue. It really is all about the people you work with!

Biggest challenges in your job? It's tough trying to learn and remember so much information about so many systems because you just want to know everything...

Footy team/s? Carlton, and all-round "Blues" supporter in all sports...including Origin...I've also developed a great ability to just screen out any noise that comes from a QLD supporter.

Interests outside of Navy? Lover of music – listening to, and attempting to play. Although my taste is broad I do have a soft spot for real 90's Aussie and US Rock. I like travel and skiing so I often find myself travelling to NZ. When I have a few minutes spare at home I tend to my balcony gardens where I'm growing various herbs and veggies (with varying degrees of success).

Anything else you'd like to add? I've noticed beards have become more common since I've posted to Canberra... Well done team – Beards are back.



Name: LSBM Doug Rowan

Hometown: Terrigal Beach, up on the Central Coast

When did you join the ADF? 1 Jan 2007

What do you want to achieve while serving in Canberra? To start with I want to be able to find my way around with ease, but mostly I just want to learn as much as I can whilst enjoying myself as much as I can.

Thing you like most about your job? I like certain aspects of the weaponry side of things although I really enjoy getting out and about in the jet RHIB. Also there's always something new to learn and challenges to tackle, doing this with your work mates can be enjoyable.

Biggest challenges in your job? Well at the moment it would be learning as much as possible about all the new equipment and procedures. Also spending a lot of time away from family and friends.

Footy team/s? Have been a loyal Manly supporter and of course NSW for origin.

Interests outside of Navy? I enjoy just about anything to do with the water such as fishing, spearfishing, diving, surfing and hanging out at the beach with family and friends. When I can't get out of the water I can be found relaxing at home or the local pub... (thinking about being at the beach).

Anything else you'd like to add?

I agree with LEUT Simeoni, beards are back. I believe anyone who is capable of growing a beard should grow one. Especially for Movember.

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Upcoming events

20 November	Gate to Gate Run, HMAS Penguin, contact POPT Nathan Adamson
4 December	<i>Canberra</i> sea trial scheduled to start
4 December	Beach Volleyball competition, North Steyne, Manly. Contact POPT Nathan Adamson
13 December	<i>Canberra's</i> Reduced Activity Period (RAP) starts
20 January	<i>Canberra's</i> RAP ends

Family of NUSHIP Canberra personnel are welcome to ask questions of the Commanding Officer or provide feedback about this newsletter by contacting the Ship's Warrant Officer, Jeff Argoon at jeff.argoon@defence.gov.au or the Ship's Public Affairs Officer, Lieutenant Emily Kennedy on emily.kennedy@defence.gov.au.