

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link

Issue 4, October 2013



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

Message from the Commanding Officer

This month the Royal Australian Navy commemorates the centenary of the first entry of the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet into Sydney. The International Fleet Review (IFR) is taking place between 3 - 11 October and NUSHIP Canberra is looking forward to participating in this celebration. The IFR will showcase our Navy's past, present and future. Canberra is a part of Navy's very near future, and although we don't have the ship in Sydney yet to showcase as part of this event, our ship's company will be proudly participating in the IFR through a range of activities. More detail regarding information about IFR and what Canberra is involved with can be found within this newsletter.



CO NUSHIP Canberra, CAPT Jonathan Sadleir, AM

I continue to be proud of the progress we are making as a team. Each month there is increasingly more happening which is to be expected as we get closer to introducing Canberra into the fleet. We continue to work towards our timelines for training and preparedness which remain on track. BAE Training Centre, who is conducting ship training in a simulated environment at Mascot, has a myriad of courses underway with over 100 Canberra personnel undertaking courses this week alone. In addition to this, we've had our first Duty Watch training happening down at the ship in Williamstown to ensure we are ready to stand up a Duty Watch when the ship achieves Initial Mission Readiness early next year. Of note, we have people leaving for Spain at the end of this month to complete a two month course to learn how to drive and operate the new Landing Craft Medium (LCM) 1E - a new capability for the Australian Defence Force of which four will be embarked in Canberra.

Alongside the training, we have completed Departmental Operational Analysis which is the pre-cursor to an amphibious themed LHD Operational Analysis scheduled for the end of this month. This newsletter provides some insight into how we are tracking with that process and I am pleased to say I'm very confident that we will have a set of procedures to embark the ship with next year that will provide a safe and strong starting point for testing in the real environment.

Finally, for those of you that are in Sydney for the International Fleet Review, I hope you, your family and friends enjoy this special naval commemoration which will provide a brilliant and fitting spectacle on the harbour this weekend.

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

Commander Engineering
CMDR David Walter

Ship's Warrant Officer
WO Jeff Argoon

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Canberra personnel steering LHD to safe and strong starting position

Months of preparation and work culminated in the Departmental Operational Analysis (OA) for NUSHIP *Canberra* last month.

The Departmental OA process was a pre-cursor to an Amphibious themed OA scheduled for the end of October.

Surface Forces hosted this process which aimed to identify areas of risk to the successful completion of *Canberra's* "naval operation test and evaluation" and provide Commander Surface Forces with recommendations to mitigate those risks.

Being a new class of ship, significantly different to any class of ship the Navy has had before, every process and procedure has required review and in some instances, needed to be developed from scratch. The recent Departmental OA sought to focus upon those Standard Operating Procedures required to simply operate the platform. These included evolutions ranging from departing a berth and undertaking damage control through to anchoring and recovering an aircraft.

In addition to NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel, focus groups from a wide variety of stakeholders such as JACIT, Fleet Medical, Sea Training Group, AASGRP, Fleet Aviation and other Navy and Army Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) participated in the Departmental OA. RANTEAA representatives acted as the independent auditing authority for the activity

NUSHIP *Canberra's* Executive Officer, Commander Jonathan Earley said the Departmental OA was just the beginning of a long process to introduce the LHD into service.

"The crew has worked exceptionally hard in developing the SOPs we'll use once onboard. Having to write SOPs for a platform nobody has served on before has been quite the challenge. The Departmental OA has assisted us considerably in providing us with the confidence that we are on the right path, although there is still much more to do", said Commander Earley.

"The OA process was beneficial in highlighting some areas of risk that need further mitigation and review, however I am confident we will be able to overcome these issues and push on towards introducing what will be a truly impressive capability once in service".

Commander Earley said that an important aspect of Departmental OA was that it has reinforced the importance of teamwork across all Departments. Almost every evolution will require some form of support from another department and the OA activity has fostered a strong interdependent culture to develop among the crew which will only serve to benefit the ship when at sea.

"It was important for all departments to attend the Departmental OA process – regardless of whether the particular presentation on the day directly affected their own

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



Photo: The Departmental Operational Analysis underway at HMAS Watson last month.

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department or not.

“It remains crucial for a ship of this size for all departments need to be aware of how their actions can affect others.

Aside from gaining valuable feedback from the objective audience, the OA also allowed *Canberra* personnel to better understand and appreciate how the other departments were managing their process and the impact it might have had on them.

“This process was a good way for people to ‘join the dots’ or identify potential ‘rub points’ so to speak and have a greater awareness of other departments’ risks, priorities and challenges and how we might best resolve these issues as a team to reduce risk and maximise the operational effectiveness of the ship,” he said.

This is the first time the OA process has been conducted in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). It is based on a United States Navy (USN) process. In the USN, the OA is conducted after the first pass of a project where the plans for the capability are assessed by a mature group of SME to ensure that the capability can conduct the mission requirements. The RAN has taken this methodology and adapted to meet the needs of *Canberra*. The lessons learnt from this activity will also apply to *Canberra*’s sister ship *Adelaide*.

Staff Officer LHD/AWD Facilities, Training, Personnel, and FOCT at Surface Force, Lieutenant Commander Julie Fowler, said the methodology used for Departmental OA was thorough.

“The methodology used for the Departmental OA was to use focus groups (syndicates) comprising SME and qualified personnel from *Canberra* plus various Navy and Army commands,” said Lieutenant Commander Fowler.

“The individuals in the focus groups were tasked with examining the LHD design and, perusing ship’s drawings of the LHD flight deck, hangar, vehicle deck, cargo areas and well-dock to test procedures, routines and safety,” she said.

Now that Departmental OA is completed, *Canberra*’s Amphibious themed OA will be conducted between 21-25 October at HMAS Watson. This activity will focus primarily on the embarkation, landing, sustainment and recovery of a Landing Force (plus associated support equipment and aircraft) within a Non Combative Evacuation – Permissive environment and Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) scenario.

Canberra prepares to be first of class

The Air Department in the Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN’s) first Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ship, NUSHIP *Canberra*, has taken another step towards achieving operational capability following a period with the Royal Navy (RN) developing multi-spot helicopter operating procedures.

NUSHIP *Canberra*’s Commander Air, Commander Paul Moggach, Lieutenant Commander Flying, LCDR Paul Hannigan, Deputy Lieutenant Commander Flying, Lieutenant Matt Schroder and the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer, Squadron Leader Mark Rowe conducted a two phase visit to the RN which took *Canberra* another step closer to being ready for next year’s first of class flight trials.



Photo: *Canberra*’s Lieutenant Commander Flying (F), Lieutenant Commander Paul Hannigan providing a briefing at Departmental Operational Analysis last month.

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The first phase involved a week at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton where the teams examined the theory and courseware used to qualify Flying Control (FLYCO) personnel in safely and effectively controlling multiple aircraft to multi-spot ships. Royal Australian Navy's Training Authority – Aviation's training developer Lieutenant Commander Lucito Irlandez accompanied the group during this phase to help develop the RAN's first LHD FLYCO training program which will be used to train the FLYCO team in the RAN's second LHD, NUSHIP *Adelaide*.

The *Canberra* team then embarked in the RN helicopter carrier HMS *Illustrious* for ten days as part of the United Kingdom's Response Force Task Group's Cougar 13 deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. The timing of the trip coincided with amphibious operations during Exercise Albanian Lion - a two-week major exercise conducted around Albania's Vlorë Bay. The exercise involved seven ships, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, Royal Artillery and aircraft from the Navy, Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force. The exercise commenced with an amphibious raid and culminated in a non-combatant evacuation operation.

Commander Moggach said that this was a highly valuable experience.

"The embarkation of both Army and Navy helicopters gave us a great view of the challenges of conducting amphibious aviation, particularly when overlaid against the movement of landing craft in a dynamic operating environment," said Commander Moggach.

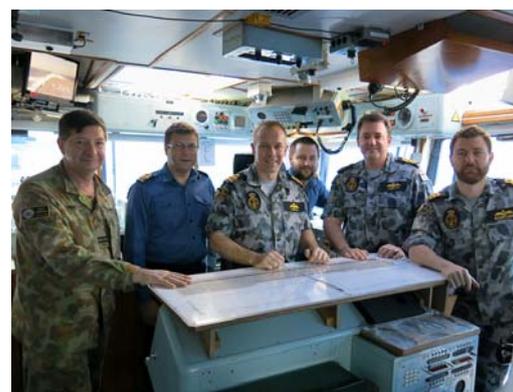
"A key element of the visit to *Illustrious* was to provide a level of education in FLYCO operations to enable our team to be authorised to commence at sea aviation operations during the First of Class Flight Trials in 2014.

"As the 'Canberra Class' air operations and procedures will be adapted for the RAN based on the RN framework, the opportunity to witness a variety of aircraft operations including launch, recovery, deck movements and emergency procedures greatly aided the development of Canberra's own procedures," he said.

Canberra's Lieutenant Commander Flying, LCDR Paul Hannigan said that the work being undertaken now is the baseline for the next 30 years.

"Our Air Department faces the complex task of developing and testing the operating procedures that will be the standard for aviation operations for the life of the RAN's two Canberra Class LHDs," said Lieutenant Commander Hannigan.

"*Canberra* is now well placed to meet all airworthiness and operational training requirements that will lead to aviation operations commencing in 2014," he said.



Photos: Top: NUSHIP *Canberra's* Lieutenant Commander Flying (F), Lieutenant Commander Paul Hannigan, discussing ship helicopter operating limits with the Royal Navy's HMS *Illustrious's* Lieutenant Commander Flying, Lieutenant Commander Nigel Terry onboard HMS *Illustrious*. Middle: A Lynx Mark 7 helicopter from 659 Squadron Army Air Corps embarked in HMS *Illustrious* in Vlore Bay, Albania. Bottom: Senior Air Traffic Controller, Squadron Leader Mark Rowe; Lieutenant Commander Flying (F), Lieutenant Commander Nigel Terry RN; Lieutenant Commander Flying (F), Lieutenant Commander Paul Hannigan RAN; Deputy Lieutenant Commander Flying (F2), Lieutenant Andrew Hackland RN; Commander Air, Commander Paul Moggach CSC, RAN, and Deputy Lieutenant Commander Flying (F2), Lieutenant Matt Schroder RAN. Middle:

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Engineering team learns and compares quality and safety

Contribution by Leading Seaman Marine Technician Andrew Follan

On 25 September a group of Canberra's engineering team visited the Royal Australian Air Force Base at Richmond where Qantas Defence Services (QDS) has a number of large aircraft hangers for conducting depot level maintenance, repair and modification of the C130H.



Approximately 110 QDS personnel are employed at RAAF Base Richmond providing C130 fleet support services. Fifty of those members are Tradesman conducting the maintenance and repair the C130 including structural, mechanical and aviation electronic components. QDS was recently awarded a contract by the Indonesian government to provide heavy maintenance and crew training services for four C130H Hercules transport aircraft at the RAAF base in Richmond.

We first had an introduction into how they work the logistics of the company and watched a slide show of what employees roles are regarding safety, efficiency, tool control management, scheduling maintenance, maintenance standards of being a recognised Authorised Maintenance Organisation (AMO) and Authorised Engineering Organisation (AEO). There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on in terms of how they conduct their repair and overhaul.

We then had a guided walkthrough of their workshop and storage facilities. Their workshops were very well maintained and divided into different sections as the work gets completed. The first step is the strip down phase where all structural parts are removed and labelled as being unserviceable. These parts are later inspected and tested and marked as either serviceable or replaced with new parts. The serviceable parts are then cleaned and serviced and once all repair and survey work is completed on the aircraft they are reinstalled. The Aircraft then gets a new paint job and the job is certified as being complete. Throughout this process personnel follow strict procedures for every task to ensure both quality control and safety guidelines are met.

During the walkthrough of their tool shops we were very impressed with the lengths that they go to in order to ensure that every tool is accounted for and there are no lost tools during maintenance. Every worker has a set of approximately 20 keys and they have to ensure that firstly they place a key against the task they are completing on a big notice board. They then have to place a key with their number on it on a hook behind each tool as it is removed. At the end of everyday the storeperson inspects the tool store and ensures that every tool missing has a key behind it. At first this process seemed excessive but we were then explained that there are no second chances with aircraft which are thousands of feet in the air. A loose tool in a turbine engine could do catastrophic damage and put lives at risk if an engine fails mid-flight.

We learnt a lot from the QDS visit and were impressed with the level of tool control, the quality of their training and expertise of every worker and quality control processes.

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Tri-service Canberra team challenge ACT Vets in Charity Rugby match

Canberra formed its first official sporting team for a Charity Rugby Union match against the ACT Veteran's Rugby Club Sunday 15 September. Played in superb weather at RMC Rugby field, the match proved to be an entertaining spectacle to watch.

Local Canberra based company iCognition donated \$2000 in celebration of the rugby match being played between Canberra and the ACT Veterans with the money being shared equally between Pediatrics at the Canberra Hospital (PatCH) Foundation and the George Gregan Foundation.

Commanding Officer of Canberra, Captain Jonathan Sadleir AM said the game was played in support of very worthy causes.

This event was a great opportunity for our ship's company to put together an official sporting team for the first time," said Captain Sadleir.

"To provide an avenue for a local company to give so generously to these local charities which make such a difference to sick children and their families was an honour.

"The entire Canberra team, made up of all ranks and services, as well as supporters had a great day and we look forward to this annual event growing each year.

"I commend the ACT Veteran's for putting on this game every year since 2005 and we are looking forward to continuing a long association with the ACT Veterans through this event," said Captain Sadleir.

This charity event between the ACT Veterans and HMAS Canberra has been held annually since 2005 – the year that Canberra II decommissioned. HMAS Darwin has carried on the tradition between the time of decommissioning Canberra II and the forming of NUSHIP Canberra.



Photos: (Left) Canberra's rugby team pose for a pre-match group photo at Royal Military Duntroon Rugby playing fields. (Right) Able Seaman Combat systems Operator Nathan Cook searches for a gap in the ACT Veterans Defence Line.

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Photos: (Left): A member of the ACT Veterans rugby union team attempts to break through *Canberra's* defensive line. (Right): Members of *Canberra's* rugby union side congratulated the ACT Veterans on a great game. Each team applauded the other after a great game of rugby played for charity.

Played in good fun, there are three halves of 20 minutes each and final scores are always leveled at nine all.

Founder and President of the ACT Veteran's Rugby Club, Mr John Hillier, said he hoped the relationship formed between the Vets and NUSHIP *Canberra* would continue for the life of the ship and beyond.

"The spirit of the day was absolutely marvelous – the fact that young *Canberra* guys didn't pummel us was terrific, and the predetermined score of nine all always makes the match interesting," he said.

"We look forward to this relationship continuing for many years to come. We hope *Canberra's* ship's company had as much fun as we did and look forward to many years of playing against the ACT Veterans in the future.

"The Vets are inordinately proud to be part of the Navy's biggest ship," Mr Hillier said.

Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael Van Balen, attended the match and presented the 76mm mounted shell trophies to each of the teams. The event also attracted family and friends from the *Canberra* community.



NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel were delighted with the presence of George Gregan who attended to receive the donation in person. The George Gregan Foundation works to raise money to build playgrounds in children's hospitals across Australia; and to train doctors who specialise in the treatment of children with epilepsy and other neurological conditions.

Photo: Surrounded by players of the game at the presentation of the cheque to the George Gregan Foundation was Mr George Green, Wallabies Great and Founder of the George Gregan Foundation, Commanding Officer NUSHIP *Canberra*, Captain Jonathan Sadleir AM; Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael Van Balen, and President of the ACT Veterans Rugby, Mr John Hillier.

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Dr Tim McDonald General and Respiratory Paediatrician at the Canberra Hospital and former ACT Veteran's Rugby player attended to receive the donation with PatCH the Platypus, the official PatCH mascot. Dr McDonald is an avid rugby follower and stayed for the duration of the match to enjoy the sport.

The ACT Veterans enjoy a strong relationship with the ACT Brumbies and invited Brumbies Forwards Coach, Mr Laurie Fisher to the game who presented a signed 2013 ACT Brumbies Jersey to the Commanding Officer of NUSHIP Canberra. Captain Sadleir reciprocated by presenting a Canberra plaque to the Brumbies, one of the first plaques to be given from the ship.



Photos: (Above): ACT Brumbies Forwards Coach, Mr Laurie Fisher presents a signed ACT Brumbies jersey to CO NUSHIP Canberra, who reciprocated by presenting a ship's plaque to the ACT Brumbies. (Right): iCognition Director National Sales and International Marketing, Mr Dom Mammoliti; General and Respiratory Paediatrician at the Canberra hospital, Dr Tim McDonald; CO NUSHIP Canberra, Captain Jonathan Sadleir AM, PatCH the Platypus; and ACT Veterans President, Mr John Hillier.

The following day, a contingent from Canberra went to present the iCognition trophy, of which there are two, to the PatCH staff at Canberra Hospital. Coincidentally, when we arrived, the kids were playing Battleship! The trophy will be displayed in the Canberra Hospital foyer, while the second identical trophy is stored in Chief of Navy's trophy cabinet at Russell.

It was a fantastic event overall, something that Canberra will look forward to participating in each year. Thanks again to generous donor 'iCognition' for their support to this event and great causes.



Photo: Patrick Vann, Able Seaman Marshal Williamson, Private Gavin Floyd and Tameka Kelleher play a game of Battleship at PatCH. (Far left): Canberra's Commander Logistics, Commander Nathan Robb, Able Seaman Andrew Williamson; ACT Veterans Treasurer, Mr Lindsay Callaghan and Clinical Director of PatCH, Dr Jeffrey Fletcher holding the iCognition Trophy.

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Upcoming LCM1E training for *Canberra* landing craft crews

NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel will leave at the end of this month to visit the Spanish Armada to attend Landing Craft Medium (LCM) 1E course in Cadiz, Spain ahead of the introduction into service of the Australian LCM1E. This training opportunity will expose our initial crews and future Landing Craft School Instructors to the craft handling characteristics of the LCM1E and their interaction with the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD). The training is expected to include all necessary competencies to operate and maintain the LCM1E, including other experiential training evolutions such as beaching, retracting, emergencies and day/night general dock operations with the Spanish LHD, SPS *Juan Carlos 1*.

The course is of seven weeks duration at the LCM1E School located in Cadiz Harbour. In all, 16 RAN members are scheduled to attend the course, including 11 coxswains and maintainers from *Canberra*. In addition, there are personnel from Training Authority – Maritime Warfare who will also attend so future courses can be delivered within the Australian Defence Force.

The opportunity to complete the Spanish LCM1E course will further entrench the LCM 8 experiential training already undertaken by the *Canberra* Landing Craft coxswains and maintainers. The course will run concurrently with the Armada LCM1E Skippers Course for a seven week period.

The course consists of two parts. Phase One is five weeks and will cover basic/advanced manoeuvres, stability, stowage, loading and unloading, beach-marking and beach guiding, propulsion system, hydraulic system, electric system, steering system, draining system, navigation in all conditions, amphibious operations, land craft control systems.

The second phase is two weeks long and will be conducted in harbour and at sea with the LHD. It will include beaching and un-beaching a loaded LCM1E (personnel and vehicles), towing a beached LCM1E, broken down LCM1E docking, docking with one engine, and day/night ship to shore movement.

Our landing craft crews are the first personnel in the ADF to undertake this training that will lead the way for future LCM1E training as we introduce this new capability into the Australian Defence Force. We look forward to letting you know how our coxswains and maintainers went during their upcoming course in the coming editions of Family Link.

Photo: LCM1Es are purpose built for the LHD and enable transport of troops and equipment from the LHDs to the shore including where there are no fixed port facilities.



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Bravo Zulus

A number of presentations, medals and awards were presented by the Captain at a Clear Lower Deck on 26 September 2013. Congratulations to the following personnel.

Name	Award / Presentation
Lieutenant Commander Matthew Ryan	Promotion Certificate (LCDR)
Lieutenant Melissa Loadsman	Promotion Certificate (LEUT)
Lieutenant Ben Stewart	Commissioning Certificate
Warrant Officer Jason Martin	Silver Commendation from 2 Commando Regiment for previous position as Ammunition Technician, and AAF Enterprise Trainer and Assessor
Chief Petty Officer Maritime Logistics – Steward Sally-Anne Plewis	2 nd Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal
Chief Petty Officer Electronics Technician Rebecca Shannon	Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs
Petty Officer Boatswain's Mate Eric McGregor	2 nd Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal
Able Seaman Marine Technician Thomas Cox	TAFE Statement of Attainment
Seaman Communications Information Systems India Green	Promotion Certificate (AB)
Seaman Maritime Logistics – Steward Ashlee Shepperd	Promotion Certificate (AB)



Photo: NUSHIP Canberra personnel pictured with the Commanding Officer after receipt of their awards and presentations

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The following personnel were awarded the Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection and Operational Service Badge
Lieutenant Adam Simeoni
Lieutenant Melissa Loadman
Lieutenant Sam Martin
Warrant Officer Jeff Argoon
Chief Petty Officer Naval Police Coxswain David Leeming
Chief Petty Officer Maritime Logistics – Steward Sally-Anne Plewis
Petty Officer Boatswain's Mate Eric McGregor
Petty Officer Marine Technician Michael Heath
Leading Seaman Boatswain's Mate Andrew Downey
Leading Seaman Boatswain's Mate Grant Lugton
Leading Seaman Boatswain's Mate Clinton Murphy
Leading Seaman Boatswain's Mate Michael Hines
Able Seaman Boatswain's Mate Kye Jones
Seaman Boatswain's Mate Dylan Carew
Seaman Boatswain's Mate Nadine Scholtalbers
Seaman Communications Information Systems Danica Sinclair
Seaman Communications Information Systems India Green

The following personnel were awarded the Australian Defence Medal
Able Seaman Marine Technician Kennedy
Able Seaman Marine Technician James Foster
Able Seaman Communications Information Systems Bill Farmakis
Able Seaman Marine Technician Justin Lawler
Able Seaman Marine Technician Thomas Cox
Able Seaman Marine Technician Jonathan Perreira
Able Seaman Marine Technician Nicholas Gangell

In addition the following members of the Weapons Electrical Engineering Department have received BZs this month:

Well done to **Able Seaman Dickerson, Able Seaman McMilan and Able Seaman O'Sullivan** for the Installation and set-to-work of VHF antenna for the International Fleet Review this month.

Well done to **Petty Officer Simons, Able Seaman Gregory and Able Seaman Faleval** for LHD Project Office feedback for the review of Australian Books of Reference.



Photos: (left): Captain Jonathan Sadleir AM presented Warrant Officer Jason Martin a Silver Commendation from 2 Commando Regiment for his previous posting as an Ammunition Technician. (Middle): Captain Jonathan Sadleir AM, donned Able Seaman India Green with her new rank slides on promotion to Able Seaman. (Right): Captain Sadleir congratulates Chief Petty Officer Plewis achieving her 2nd Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal.

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Engineers get insight into Performance Racing

Contribution by Able Seaman Marine Technicians Dimitri Garoufalis and Jim Schacht

During September, a group of *Canberra* engineering personnel had the opportunity to visit Ford Performance Racing. This visit enabled engineering personnel to understand core engineering principles applied in a time critical environment while achieving set goals.

Upon arrival at FPR we were greeted by Lauren (FPR team representative) and taken on a tour of the many different workshops within the FPR centre. At present the Navy has a work experience outplacement in place with FPR where there is an opportunity for two Marine Technicians to do a one year outplacement with the FPR maintenance team. One of the Navy MTs who is currently doing this outplacement was able to spare the time to walk around with us and answer questions we had specific to the outplacement position. First stop on the tour was the engine rebuild workshop. It was a great eye opener to see the massive workload within the team, knowing that after every race the car gets stripped down and various components (including the engine) get inspected and repaired/tweaked as necessary.



The Chassis workshop was next on the list. This is where the beaten up panels, frames and body kits get replaced/repaired. If you've ever watched one of these car races you could picture the amount of times these amazingly fast cars get knocked around. The work load for this workshop is huge. They also had a full sized adjustable jig that is used to build the car's chassis from the ground up which ensures that parts are in the correct position for welding and enables chassis to be replicated.

Next stop we where off to see the transport trucks. The first sight of these amazing looking trucks reminded me of "Transformers". These trucks where designed to load and off load vehicles, manpower, workshops - basically everything. We were explained the immense detail that goes into packing these trucks because if it isn't loaded...it isn't taken!



The machine shop was very modern with CNC Lathes, Mills and just about everything you need to make special parts, which leads to Fords cutting edge on the race track. Derek, the Machine Shop Supervisor, walked us through the entire process FPR employs. It starts with a design supplied from the engineering design team that needs to be converted into machine code. This conversion needs to be done in the most efficient way possible to make the design exactly as per the drawing to allow the CNC machines to produce the same product that the engineers did their stress analysis on. If there are any deviations from these designs the part could catastrophically fail which could lead to losing the race or worse, injury or death.

Photo: (Top): Canberra's Marine Technicians at the Ford Performance Racing visit. (Bottom): Marine Technicians learn about engineering at Ford Performance Racing.

The tour concluded with Ford's Trophy cabinet which was impressive. It was easy to see why Ford is such a power house when it comes to V8 super cars. Thankyou Ford Performance Racing for the grand tour.

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War memorial thoughts – Canberra personnel

As part of NUSHIP Canberra's trip to Canberra to play the Charity Rugby match, personnel also took the opportunity to visit the Australian War Memorial. Here are some thoughts from our ship's company regarding their visit.

"My highlight of the visit to the War Memorial was the ex HMAS BRISBANE bridge, was very interesting and great to see. The visit to the War Memorial made me feel proud to be apart of the Defence Force and also proud and thankful of past people that have served."

Able Seaman Maritime Logistics – Cook Andrew Wilson

The highlight moment at the War Memorial was seeing today's Afghanistan exhibition. You hear about what goes on over there all the time, and sitting down and watching some of the footage of our personnel overseas puts reality into perspective and pulls on the heart strings. When I was younger and visited the War Memorial, I didn't understand exactly what our Defence Force had been through and how much those men gave their lives to serve our country. Today being in the Defence Force, it's a completely different set of emotions and visiting the War memorial again was a truly bittersweet experience.

Able Seaman Maritime Logistics – Writer Brodie Sharp

"The highlight for me was visiting the section on the war in Afghanistan. As a Private Cook in the Australian Army who has served in Afghanistan I was very humbled and proud to see that future generations will have a chance to see what it was like over there. To hear the raw testaments from loved ones who have had to cope with the news no one should ever have to hear, that their husband, brother, son or daughter has been killed in action. To see parts left from IEDs, incredible drawings made by soldiers depicting war as they saw it. I found myself standing there taking it all in and thinking I am lucky to be here and to have seen and done the things I have. It also made me think of my mate currently serving over in Afghanistan and as always I hope he enjoys his time on operation and comes back safe to his loving family and all his mates like me here in Australia. The trip to the Australian War Memorial reminded myself how proud I am to serve in the Australian Defence Force."

Private Gavin Floyd

"The highlight of my visit was to see the new Afghanistan exhibit, to have an inside look on what our fellow sailors, soldiers and airman/airwoman are dealing with. The visit to the War Memorial made me feel proud to be a part of the RAN and Defence force as a whole."

Able Seaman Maritime Logistics – Cook Marshal Williamson

"The highlight of my visit was finding my Great grandfathers name on the memorial wall and looking at the navy history exhibits such as HMAS Brisbane. The visit to the War Memorial made me feel a sense of pride of being in the Forces."

Able Seaman Combat Systems Officer Andrew Johns

"For me the highlight was the Afghanistan Memorial. The reason for that being that I have served in the ADF for a while now but never been over to the Middle East Area of Operations and it was a bit of an insight into what happens over there and what my friends go through without having any kind of spin on it. Every time I visit the War Memorial I feel the same way. Sombre and humbled. Some of the exhibits have a very strong effect on me and it just seems surreal that this is history and not fiction. One of the more significant exhibits is the World War II Prisoner of War exhibit which always hits hard. The Afghanistan Memorial also makes me feel quite sombre in that this memorial is from my generation of soldiers and I do not know a single person in the Army that hasn't been affected by the campaign in some way."

Corporal Jeremy Martin

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Shore communications knowledge enhanced

Contribution by Leading Seaman Lee Daniel

The Weapons Electrical 02 (Communications) department departed for Canberra on Monday 16 September for a Shore Communications Familiarisation week, arriving later that night at HMAS Harman. On Tuesday morning we were given a guided tour of HMAS Harman communication facilities including DEFCOMMSTA (Defence Communications Station) Canberra and the Defence Network Operations Centre. Staff at both facilities took great time in explaining in great detail how these centres assist with ship operations and the role of shore based communication stations.

The following day was spent at Tactical Information Exchange Integration Office (TIEIO) Canberra where staff introduced *Canberra* personnel to Link-11, Link-16 and JREP. This introduction was very informative and much appreciated by all *Canberra* technicians. The afternoon was spent playing sport at HMAS Harman's sporting field.

On the Thursday Staff proceeded to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) where we proceeded on a guided tour. All personnel thoroughly enjoyed the AWM and learnt a great deal about the RAN in many theatres of war and Australia's contribution to world peace and stability.

Maritime Logistics Team Building

Contribution by Lieutenant Commander Matt Ryan and Leading Seaman Dana Mutch

On Thursday the 19 September NUSHIP *Canberra's* Maritime Logistics Department participated in a team building exercise where they would utilise not only their legs but their minds as well. As well as giving members some exercise on a fine Sydney spring day, it also presented personnel the opportunity to get to know each other outside of the formal work environment.

The basis of the day was an 11km hike along the scenic coastal walk between Maroubra and Bondi, which took members past Coogee, Gordon's Bay, Clovelly, Bronte and Tamarama beaches. The department was separated in to small teams, and subsequent quizzes, general knowledge questions and a few brain teasers were handed out to test mental agility at a number of stops along the walk.

The first and unplanned challenge occurred when the team reached a rocky path along the waterline in Maroubra. As we were ahead of schedule the tide wasn't completely out when we began our trek across the rocks, which resulted in some fancy footwork by the group in an attempt to avoid wet feet. An exercise that was not completely successful for all, and a number of members, who although agile in mind were not as fleet footed as they would have liked, had to conduct the remainder of the walk with wet footwear.

Leading Seaman Dana Mutch led the activity stops, and as well as being educational for all participants, it was amusing to watch all members ponder questions and employ tactics to get the best of other teams. There were plenty of clues required along the way, and even though some members attempted to Google their



Photos: The Maritime Logistics Department conduct their team building exercise at Clovelly Beach.

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way through, they were still unable to get all of the questions right.

No names will be mentioned so as not to cause embarrassment (Able Seaman Derek Gray). There was also an inappropriate question included by an absent Commander regarding the unfortunate State of Origin losing streak currently experienced by an unlucky NSW Blues side.

The end of the day saw the team enjoy a late lunch at Bondi, and after an 11 km walk, it was very timely indeed. The day was enjoyed by all, and the team has already commenced planning a follow up activity on the Spit Bridge to Manly walk later in the year. Well done to Warrant Officer Paul Mostowyj, Leading Seaman Dana Mutch and Corporal Jeremy Martin for organising and facilitating the walk.

Farewells

Farewell Private Anderson

Two of *Canberra's* ship's company were farewelled from the Australian Defence Force this month. Major Hayden Pickering and Private Leisha Anderson's service was acknowledged at a Ceremony held at HMAS Kuttabul by the ADF Transitions Cell.



Photo: Commander Logistics, Commander Nathan Robb, Private Leisha Anderson, and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Mogg at Private Anderson's Transition Ceremony at HMAS Kuttabul.

Private Leisha Anderson is leaving the Australian Defence Force after four and a half years as a chef in the Army to travel and work overseas. She said she is proud of having served in the Australian Defence Force. Private Anderson has been posted two and a half years at 10 FSB in Townsville prior to being posted to Sydney.

"I also helped out with Cyclone Yazi when that hit, they sent us up to Tully to help out with that," said Private Anderson

"I'm going to Thailand and then Canada and applied for a two year working visa. The highlight of my career in the ADF would be the people I have met and worked with and also travelling around Australia has been great," she said.

Commander Nathan Robb thanked Private Anderson for her service and her contribution while she has been posted to Canberra and wished her the very best for her future on behalf of all *Canberra* personnel.

Farewell Major Pickering

Major Hayden Pickering was farewelled from the permanent Australian Defence Force after 13 years service.

Head of Department for *Canberra's* Amphibious Department since January this year, Major Pickering has played a key role in bringing together the ship's Amphibious Department, made up of both Navy and Army personnel.

Major Pickering said he has enjoyed this posting and learnt a lot.

"Bringing together a new department of Navy and Army personnel within a new platform has given me a lot of freedom to shape and develop the department from scratch," said Major Pickering.

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"Not only is the platform new, but there are new capabilities within the ship such as the landing craft and the way we are developing operating procedures for amphibious evolutions - so it's been challenging and enjoyable to be part of that.

"The integration of our Amphibious Department is getting better all the time - Army and Navy have lots of things in common even though each service generally likes to maintain its identity. Sometimes it's just a matter of what we call things. We call it a wall, Navy calls it a bulkhead, we come to attention, Navy comes to the ho. But overall the Amphibious Department is working together well and by next year when they're operating on the ship, I've no doubt it will be great," he said.

As well as heading up the ship's Amphibious Department, Major Pickering has supported Commander Amphibious, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Mogg, in administrating all Army personnel onboard.

"Army personnel who are part of ship's company in other amphibious ships are largely Transport Corps personnel, however NUSHIP Canberra's Army personnel cover a suite of around 15 different trades or Corps so the aspect of assisting and managing their integration into the ship has also been interesting," he said.

Major Pickering will formerly transfer out of the permanent Army into the Standby Reserves in August next year after an extended period of leave.



"I'm looking forward to going overseas, doing a bit a travel and seeing a few friends and family.

Major Pickering is a graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy and then the Royal Military College Duntroon as an Ordnance Officer. He has served in Operations Sumatra Assist, Astute, Slipper, Queensland Flood Assist, and Paladin.

NUSHIP *Canberra* thanks Major Pickering for his contribution to the ship and the the broader Australian Defence Force. We wish him all the best for the future.

Photo: Major Hayden Pickering receives his Certificate of Service at the transitions ceremony conducted at HMAS Kuttabul.

Canberra cooks visit food expo

On the 21st of August and 9th of September, the NUSHIP *Canberra* Cooks went on visits to Tom & Franks All States Fresh Produce and Fine Foods Australia Expo. The scale of Catering services that Canberra Cooks are expected to provide in the LHD will be beyond anything previously seen in the Royal Australian Navy, and they are preparing as best they can in order to provide the high standards that will be required.

Tom & Franks are one of the largest Fresh Fruit & Vegetable suppliers to Royal Australian Navy ships at our home port of Fleet Base East. The visit was for our Cook to experience first hand the produce they will have available and services that Tom & Franks can provide to the ship. On arrival they were met by Tom & Franks Sales Manager, Mr Bruce Dalby. Bruce accompanied the cooks on a tour of the facilities, where a vast variety of fresh products were displayed. There were also a number of new products that were neither previously seen nor heard of by the Cooks, including micro herbs, edible flowers and exotic fruits and vegetables. There are currently many new products being used by fine dining restaurants and hotels around Sydney and after seeing them on display *Canberra* will be looking at ways to incorporate them into a number of the Functions planned to be hosted on board into the future.

Tom & Franks also allowed a tour of the production capability. This facility is where pre-peeled vegetables are packaged, salads are prepared and vegetables are pre-cooked that are used for Hospitals in and around Sydney. Such efficiencies are continuously being sought by Navy Cooks, and this will be of particular interest to our ship as we prepare to cater for upwards of 1400 people every day. The chance to see the facility was invaluable for the catering team, as was the opportunity to liaise with personnel from the providores to strengthen professional relationships. With the ship being of Spanish origin, it has been identified that standard Australian pallets are unable to fit into some of the food storage areas.

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Tom & Franks have provided a solution where they will utilise non-standard pallets that will meet the requirements for the LHD doors.

The Fine Food Australia Expo is the largest gathering of international food, drink and equipment for the retail, foodservice and hospitality industries in Australia. During this visit, the *Canberra* Cooks had the opportunity to liaise and network within the hospitality industry. Some of the companies present are manufacturers of the new equipment in *Canberra*'s galley that we will be working with, and this provided a timely opportunity to get a few hints and tips directly from the experts about these appliances. Other equipment was also considered that may assist the Cooks to deliver hot, prepared meals to Army members ashore.

Resulting from these two visits, the *Canberra* Cooks will be intending to implement ideas discussed and observed from both the Tom & Franks visit and the Fine Food Expo. The new variety of fresh produce from Tom & Franks will help us onboard to deliver a high level of catering to the crew of *Canberra*, as will the advice regarding equipment gained from the Expo.

NUSHIP Canberra people doing their bit to boost numbers

With the Ambassador for this year's Defence Blood Challenge, Petty Officer Cartrena Skinner, being part of NUSHIP Canberra's ship's company, personnel are well versed on the importance of donating blood.

30 people from NUSHIP Canberra have already given blood and the drive is on to get more people onboard before the Defence Blood Challenge ends on 30 November. With people spread across various sites in Sydney and Williamstown in Melbourne the Blood Challenge has lived up to its name.

Leading Seaman Steward Alister Harrison donated blood for the first time as part of this year's Challenge.

"This was my first time donating blood, and I have to admit it was really easy," said Leading Seaman Harrison.

"I was surprised to learn that one in three people will need blood at some stage, yet only 1 in 30 people donate.

"I would encourage everyone to donate. People in the ADF often work in difficult and dangerous situations so giving blood helps not only the sick but also those who become injured or wounded serving their country.

"When I was finished donating blood I was offered biscuits and a milkshake- it doesn't get better than that," said Leading Seaman Harrison.

Seaman Bosun's Mate Dylan Carew is a regular donor but had not donated blood recently.

"The Blood Donation Challenge motivated me to donate again. Sometimes finding time in working hours and between duties it is more difficult and easy to put off," said Seaman Carew.

I would encourage everyone to make the time to donate - if you are medically able to, why wouldn't you?", he said. Navy is aiming to out do the Air Force and Army this year, but a late run will be required if Navy is to be successful.

The 2013 Defence Blood Challenge this year kicked off on 1 September and finishes on 30 November.

The Defence Blood Challenge Ambassador is one of our own, Dock Manager Petty Officer Cartrena Skinner, who said it will take an effort from everyone across the Navy Community to ensure Navy gets good results this year.



Photo: Leading Seaman Steward Alister Harrison donating blood as part of the 2013 Defence Blood Challenge.

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"To make sure your donation counts the most important thing to remember is to register as part of Club Red before you donate – otherwise it won't count towards the Navy tally," she said.

People can either register for Club Red at the Centre prior to donating blood or for those that already have a donor identification number, they can register online for Club Red at www.donateblood.com.au/who-can-give/club-red/join-group.

To help boost numbers before 30 November, people can also choose to donate plasma, which can be donated every two weeks, it just takes a little more time at the Donor Centre.

This is the fifth year of the Defence Blood Challenge which is Australia's largest annual blood donation event. It is conducted annually to support the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS). The 2013 Defence Blood Challenge finishes on 30 November 2013.

Photo: Leading Seaman Steward Alister Harrison, Seaman Boatswains Mate Dylan Carew, Able Seaman Combat Systems Operator Chris Carrick and Lieutenant Emily Kennedy promote the 2013 Defence Blood challenge after donating blood, at the Red Cross Blood Donor Centre, Sydney.



Photo: Seaman Boatswains Mate Dylan Carew relaxes and enjoys a refreshment after donating blood as part of the 2013 Defence Blood Challenge.

International Fleet Review

NUSHIP Canberra is fully integrated in the event program for the IFR. We have personnel working in a range of roles and contributing right across the period For more information about the IFR visit www.navy.gov.au/ifr. The following is only a small excerpt of the activities happening during IFR. Visit www.navy.gov.au/ifr/events for a full schedule.

Date	Event
Thursday 3 - 11 October	International Fleet Review comprising a host of commemorative and celebratory activities.
Thursday 3 October	Tall ships enter Sydney Harbour
Friday 4 October	Ceremonial Fleet Entry and 21 Gun Salute
Saturday 5 October	Ceremonial Fleet Review and Formation Flypast – Sydney Harbour. Fireworks Display
Sunday 6 October	Ships Open to visitors and Open Day at Barangaroo and Garden Island (pre-purchased tickets required and enclosed footwear essential for entry). Ecumenical Service at St Mary's Cathedral
Monday 7 October	Ships Open to visitors and Open Days at Banragaroo and Garden Island pre-purchased tickets required and enclosed footwear essential for entry).
Tuesday 8 October	Navy Memorial Service at Martin Place
Wednesday 9 October	Combined Navies Parade – George Street, The Rocks to Town Hall