

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link

Issue 6, December 2013



Welcome to the December edition of Family Link, a newsletter to help you remain informed.

Message from the Commanding Officer

In twelve months we have formed a ship's company 360 strong, comprising Navy, Army and RAAF personnel. We have developed a myriad of policies and procedures for the LHD as a platform and for amphibious operations, and completed an extraordinary amount of training.

This year we have also supported the Fleet in various tasks including: contributing personnel to Australian Federation Guard duties for the Brisbane Ekka, Opening of Parliament and Remembrance Day activities; assisting ships with force protection exercises, duties and deployment; providing personnel for boarding party exercises; assisting units to store ship; and participating in a range of community engagement and charity activities. We have also started to show ourselves as a strong team on the sports field.

All these things have helped build our team and develop the strong fabric which we will take with us in the ship next year. I am very proud of how much we have achieved so far.

As we prepare to transfer into 2014, it is a time to reflect on how far we have come as a group already but importantly, to look forward to what will be an historic occasion as we bring *Canberra* into the Australian Defence Force. People will be surprised at her size and immense capability and this will be apparent as we begin to demonstrate what the LHD can do over the year ahead.

It has been a big year for us. Next year will be even bigger as builders' sea trials are completed, Commissioning happens and then we start first of class trials at sea. I encourage everyone to have a relaxing break over the Christmas period and come back ready for the increased pace 2014 will bring.

I am looking forward to identifying a time next year when families can come onboard and have a good look around the ship. As part of the *Canberra* family, it's important that you get to see the ship and gain an understanding of the ship's roles and where your son, daughter, wife, husband, partner, mum or dad work and what they do onboard. The exact time for this will be identified as we get into next year.

The ship's company returns from the reduced activity period (break) on 20 January and the first edition of the Family Link newsletter for the year will go out in March 2014. I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year period with your family and friends. I look forward to continuing this journey with you all next year.



CO NUSHIP *Canberra*,
CAPT Jonathan Sadleir, AM

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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

Engineering Officer
CMDR David Walter

Ship's Warrant Officer
WO Jeff Argoon

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Coxswains of our newest landing craft put through their paces in Spain

An RAN contingent made up of 15 personnel departed for seven weeks to attend the Landing Craft Mechanical 1E (LCM1E) Coxswain Course with the Spanish Armada in Cadiz, Spain. The 11 members selected from NUSHIP Canberra ranged from LCM1E Coxswains and Engineers along with external agency translators and future Australian Navy LCM1E Instructors.

We departed Sydney on Thursday 24 October on a mammoth 22 hour journey to Spain with stopovers in Dubai and Madrid. On arrival at Jerez airport, we were greeted by the Commanding Officer of the LCM1E Squadron and School who conducted a welcoming brief before boarding for a one hour journey to our final destination of Cadiz.

Our accommodation is at the Military residence 'La Cortadura' which is located on the beach at Cadiz. The staff are very nice and helpful, meals that are supplied by the hotel are of a very high standard and are complimented by the use of local cuisine.

The working week starts at 0600 when the personnel gather to conduct morning PT. The morning activities differ every day from a jog, right down to a power walk on the ocean boardwalk. On completion personnel are mustered for breakfast before boarding a bus for our short transit to the LCM1E School. Weather during the first two weeks had been in the mid twenties; however there has been a significant change in the weather and recently it has become cold and windy.

The first two weeks of training consisted of classroom theory, which included the basics of seamanship, navigation and communications as well as mechanical, electrical and hydraulic system overviews. Classroom theory also included stability, load plans, man overboard recoveries, basic/advanced maneuvering of the LCM1E including towing at sea and off the beach.

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

Senior Personnel Officer

CPOML-P Celeste Di Liberto



Photos: (above) Members of NUSHIP Canberra and personnel from Training Authority - Maritime Warfare are completing the Landing Craft Medium 1 Echo (LCM1E) course run by the Spanish Armada LCM1E School in Cadiz, Spain. This class photo pictures both students and instructors of the course. (Top right): Canberra's Leading Seaman Boatswains Mate Andrew Hines manoeuvres an LCM1E into Spanish Landing Platform Dock ESPS Castilla. (Right): A LCM1E docking in ESPS Castilla. The LCM1E student coxswains are learning to dock in ESPS Castilla alongside a second LCM1E already docked.



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Week three saw the course members being introduced to the actual hands on driving of the 1E landing craft. Some participants were a bit apprehensive at first, however as they gradually become acquainted with the power of the craft and with no helm as such, they soon had the LCM1E spinning on the spot, maneuvering sideways in close quarters with other craft and wharves. To date the students are still learning new skills every day and are gradually getting past the language barriers that existed when we first arrived.

At the time of writing this, we have just completed week four which saw course participants setting up and towing other LCM1Es both at sea and off the beach, beaching the craft, rafting up with other LCM1Es and bringing them alongside, along with loading and unloading vehicles. We also conducted a night navigational exercise around the harbour, to consolidate the use of the rules of the road and the navigational system.

Week five will be based around conducting advance maneuvers like entry and exit on one engine, rafting up alongside a broken down LCM1E, bringing it into the dock and man overboard exercises on various Amphibious Armada ships. Week six was loading and unloading various types of cargos.

The final week will see members conduct their final assessment onboard Spanish Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ship *Juan Carlos*. Course participants will join the LHD at sea for several days to conduct day and night LCM1E docking operations, incorporating all training that has been conducted over the previous weeks.

While it has been a busy period of instruction, the LCM1E School took the opportunity to program a friendly game of soccer between the RAN members and the LCM1E Squadron, however after discussions with the School's XO it was quickly noted that it might be a little one sided. So the course members were mixed with our Armada counterparts. There was a couple of Academy Awards handed out to certain members for falling over (taking dives) which was generally followed by some friendly banter from the opposing team.

CPOB Paul Farrar (*Canberra's* Dock Master) was clearly the best on ground with his skills as a goal keeper. During his warm up routine he attempted to jump up and do a chin up on the soccer goal but failed to hold on and ended up flat on his back, winded. The game appeared to be halted to check on him; however it came to a standstill mainly due to the amount of laughter from players and spectators. Thankfully the Chief fully recovered after a couple of minutes and was back to his normal form by letting in two goals. The game ended in a two all draw, however a plenty shoot out saw the Gold Team victorious 5 – 3. The next sporting challenge will be volleyball, but a date is yet to be set.

On weekends the contingent has been busy conducting sightseeing adventures noting that the city of Cadiz is one of the oldest and most historic towns in Spain and there is plenty to see. Numerous places have been visited which include Sevilla (four hour return trip), Ronda (four hour return trip), Cordoba (seven hour return trip) and Madrid (five hour return trip by bullet train).

We are aware of a number of members have been given shopping lists from home and are attempting to fulfill these lists during their spare time. The LCM1E School organised a tour of the Osborne Winery in El Porto De Santa Maria. The winery has been around since the early 1770s and specialises in sherry. After the tour, we returned to our residence where a combined Spanish/Australian BBQ was laid out and it was an extremely large feast. The day was a great success with all members enjoying themselves and fostered continuing RAN/Armada friendships.

Overall this has been a once in a life time and career experience. To be able to be sent to Spain to attend a course which will see the introduction of an enhancement to a new capability into service for the RAN, is a privilege and all course members are extremely grateful.



Photo: Course participants and instructors onboard a Landing Craft Medium 1E (LCM1E) conducting trials as part of the LCM1E course run by the Spanish Armada at the LCM1E School in Cadiz, Spain.

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First Navy personnel to train at RAAF's School of Air Traffic Control in over 20 years

For the first time in over 20 years, Navy personnel used the School of Air Traffic Control (SATC) at RAAF Base East Sale for training purposes.

Five of *Canberra's* Air Department personnel visited the SATC to use the tower simulator to validate and practise the tower procedures that will be used from the LHD.

Canberra can carry up to a total of 18 helicopters onboard and operate up to six helicopters on the flight deck at any one time. On the port side of *Canberra's* superstructure there is a 180 degree flying control position which overlooks the flight deck. This position—arguably the best view on the ship — is where *Canberra's* Navy Flying Controllers (FLYCOs) will coordinate and control aviation operations on the flight deck and within the Ship Control Zone (SCZ), while the RAAF Joint Battlefield Airspace Controllers (JBACs - formerly known as Air Traffic Controllers) will be located in a separate compartment behind the tower without windows.

Canberra's Senior Air Traffic Control Officer (SATCO), Squadron Leader Mark Rowe, said that the time spent at the SATC was a very worthwhile experience for the team.

"We used their 360 degree tower simulator which enabled us to step through and trial our launch and recovery procedures, workflows and circuit operations in a safe environment," said Squadron Leader Rowe.

"This activity helped to develop RAN FLYCO and RAAF JBAC skills specific to LHD aviation operations," he said.

Canberra's JBACs, Flight Lieutenants Aaron Betts and Tim Clark, played the role of pilots as well as 'approach' controllers utilising radar to safely recover aircraft to the airfield when the weather is poor and visibility makes it difficult for the pilot to identify the airfield. *Canberra's* FLYCOs, Lieutenant Commander Paul Hannigan (F) and Lieutenant Matt Schroder (F2) took turns operating as FLYCO.

Squadron Leader Mark Rowe was the Tower controller subject matter expert providing advice and coaching.

The team trialled different flight tracking and recording tools, and discussed different tower control techniques as well as the different perspective compared to a helicopter cockpit.



Photo: This is a picture of the RAAF's School of Air Traffic Control at East Sale where *Canberra* personnel did their training.

Canberra's Deputy Lieutenant Commander Flying (F2), Lieutenant Matt Schroder said the training was beneficial.

"The best thing about the training was running through our procedures and experiencing the work flow as it would play out in a real situation. Having a simulated environment where aircraft were approaching, recovering and launching in real time scenarios was great." said Lieutenant Schroder.

Photo: This image was provided by BAE Systems and depicts air operations onboard the future Landing Helicopter Dock. You can see the Tower in this image overlooking the flight deck (at the forward of the superstructure).



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“It was also good to practice the handover of aircraft and interaction between the FLYCOs and the JBACs,” he said.

Squadron Leader Rowe said that it has been a long time since Navy personnel had trained at the SATC.

“This has been the first time that there have been Navy students learning at SATC since 1991, when the last Navy Air Traffic Controller trainee attended the school,” said Squadron Leader Rowe.

“We thank the SATC for access to their tower simulator and look forward to putting into practice what we learnt when operating from *Canberra*’s tower next year,” he said.

Fast Facts

What is the difference between the roles of a JBAC and the role of a FLYCO onboard Canberra?

FLYCOs control the visual circuit within five miles of the ship. Any helicopters that are recovering or launching from *Canberra* and within five miles from the ship will be controlled by the FLYCO. (They have windows)

JBACs control aircraft outside the five mile ship’s control zone. They also provide radar controlled approaches to the ship for aircraft when the weather is poor and visibility is reduced. (They don’t have windows)

First hand look at what will “deck the halls” in Canberra

Contribution by Deputy Amphibious Operations Officer, Captain Dave Hosie,

The Command Team of NUSHIP Canberra got a first hand look at what equipment is likely to line the decks of Canberra when Army’s 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) hosted them at their base at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville recently. This opportunity formed part of an Embarked Forces (EF) Stakeholder meeting program which has been underway this year aiming to increase understanding between Army and Navy’s about each others requirements and increasing cooperation as we bring this new capability into service.

Previous to this, all EF stakeholder meetings had been held in Sydney, and this meeting provided 2 RAR with an opportunity to physically display the range of equipment they intend to embark in *Canberra*.

One of the key capabilities of the LHD is that it can land a force of over 1,000 personnel by helicopter and water craft, along with all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles and stores.

You may be forgiven for thinking that Infantryman would only need to bring their pack, their rifle and themselves onto a ship like *Canberra*, but there is much more than that.

For starters, there are many types of weapons ranging from hand guns and the individually issued semi-automatic rifle through to large calibre machine guns and anti-tank rockets.

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The troops will also have their own body armour, radios, inflatable boats, personnel mobility vehicles (armoured trucks commonly referred to as a Bushmaster), light armoured reconnaissance vehicles, and other support vehicles such as cargo trucks and a towing truck.

One of the more interesting displays was the explosive detective dog (EDD). EDDs are trained and handled by combat engineers and are frequently more successful at detecting explosives than mechanical/electronic detectors. EDDs are so fit and energetic that they will come to the ship with their own specially designed treadmill to keep them fit.

Another display, not familiar to Navy personnel, was the presentation of a mud model. A mud model is a roughly to scale 3D representation of a selected area of land and sea and can be as large 225m² (15m x 15m). Army units use mud models to visualise their mission planning, synchronise their movements prior to the mission and deliver their orders. It is common to see a mud model stay in place for as long as four or five days and finding the space to house a large mud model will be a challenging issue for the ship and future embarked forces.

Canberra appreciated the effort that 2 RAR went to produce displays and briefs which provided an excellent basis for discussions between members of the ship's company and 2 RAR on many important issues that will impact on EF integration into *Canberra*.

Importantly, the visit coincided with Remembrance Day, and all activities paused at 11am for a touching service to remember those who have served the nation.

Canberra's doctor provides first class service to first class team

NUSHIP *Canberra's* medical officer has provided a full and varied range of medical services as the Team Doctor for the Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) Men's Tour of Tonga.

While Lieutenant Commander Richard Loizou said it was fun, he outlined the great breadth of responsibility that comes with being the team doctor for a tour like this.

"As the team doctor I was responsible for looking after 40 people for any injury or sickness that happened either on or off the field in a remote location that has little medical resources at hand," said Lieutenant Commander Loizou.

"I also had a key role in maximising the fitness of players of they can perform to the best of their ability.

"One of the most challenging aspects is knowing what equipment and medicines to take to cover any contingency – I carried over 50 kilograms of medical supplies with me.



Photo: Lieutenant Commander Richard Loizou at one of the Tongan school's that the team visited to conduct a rugby camp.

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The position of Team Doctor is a sought after role and medical skill and competence needs to be of the highest order.

“It was a great privilege to be selected for this. You need to be competent and work quickly when necessary – for example one player cut his head open and it was essential to get the required stitches in within a matter of minutes so he could get back on the field and continue playing.

Lieutenant Commander Loizou said there were a number of reasons why he volunteered for this role.

“This was an opportunity to practice medicine at a very high level in a remote and underprivileged location. To provide support to high performing ADF athletes is a big responsibility and a professional highlight as well as being fun.”

Far more than just being about rugby, the team participated in a range of community development activities.

“Tongans live and breathe rugby. The ASRU tour greatly reinforced a great friendship between not only the Tongan and ASRU rugby teams but more broadly between our communities,’ said Lieutenant Commander Loizou.

“We ran training camps at two different schools which the kids loved. The kids are underprivileged and really appreciated us visiting and conducting camps.

“We also provided health care to entire Tongan rugby team and took the opportunity to teach them some basic medical skills such as how to strap joints properly for example.

“During the visit we also treated ADF personnel and their families based in Tonga who rarely get the opportunity to see doctors as they would have to travel to Auckland” said Lieutenant Commander Loizou.

The ASRU team also participated in a charity activity assisting in the painting and repairs of safe houses in the Tongan community.

The appointment was over four weeks – the first two weeks was preparation and training in ACT, Melbourne and Sydney. The second two weeks was the tour of Tonga returning to Australia on 12 November.



Photo: Lieutenant Commander Richard Loizou, team physiotherapist, Flight Lieutenant Emma Lewis, and Team Strapper, Mr Fred Cantlon at one of the Tongan school's that the team visited to conduct a rugby camp.

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Training chief rounds off sea going experience in style

Meet Chief Petty Officer Physical Trainer (CPOPT) Brad Walsh – *Canberra's* Training Coordinator.

With around 360 personnel onboard and a new platform with new systems and structure, the training aspect of achieving and maintaining the required skills sets onboard *Canberra* is a huge job.

The Training Department is responsible for all training onboard *Canberra*. This involves a myriad of components including identifying ongoing training requirements for positions and then meeting them, as well as liaison with external agencies, coordinating on the job training and the 'introduction into service' training for LHD personnel at Mascot.



Photo: Chief Petty Officer Brad Walsh

As *Canberra's* Training Coordinator, CPO Walsh works directly to the Training Officer and closely with the Command Team.

"A large part of the job is Damage Control, supporting regulators to ensure course and on-job training is progressing as it should be and driving individual readiness compliance through a holistic approach," said CPO Walsh.

CPO Walsh will be training up the ship's Damage Control Instructors and will be an independent training approving authority onboard.

"By having an RAN skills assessor onboard, we can be assured of an open and transparent process in terms of people achieving the required skill level for their jobs.

My biggest challenge as Training Coordinator is probably the same as everybody else's – bringing a new platform online, with new structure, systems and position requirements. With the larger ship's company, it really makes the job a great challenge.

"Although, once onboard, when 'canteen' is piped', another big challenge in such a big ship will be making it to the canteen before it closes," he joked.

CPO Walsh said that the role was varied and he was able to use his skills well in the role.

"Being a PT, you learn such versatile and transferable skills that you find yourself often being given tasks that don't specifically belong to any particular department but need to get done. I also use my core skills as a PT to contribute to the physical training requirements onboard."

After 26 years in the Navy, CPO Walsh said he is looking forward to getting back to sea.

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“I’m looking forward to the sea time onboard *Canberra*. Being a PT is a great thing - you always see the sunrise and sunset and hear wakey wakey being piped. A lot of people miss that opportunity and don’t appreciate where they are.

“This will be my seventh sea-going platform and will likely be my last stint at sea after 26 years in the Navy. I’m going to enjoy and appreciate all it has to offer.



Photos: A career spanning 26 years – (left) CPO Walsh as an Able Seaman Quarter Master Gunner onboard HMAS *Jervis Bay* through to more recent times (right) training onboard HMAS *Newcastle* as the ship’s Physical Trainer.

Canberra surfer takes out Navy surfing competition



Photo: Seaman Cameron Stewart riding a wave at the October Navy Surf competition. More photos of the surfing competition in the Sports section of the newsletter towards the back.

Canberra’s Physical Trainer (PT), Petty Officer Nathan Adamson along with Seaman Boatswain’s Mate (SMNBM) Cameron Stewart participated in the Navy Surfing Association’s monthly competition in October held at Gerroa, south of Sydney.

Both PO Adamson and SMN Stewart made it though the heats to qualify for the finals. SMN Stewart won the competition, with PO Adamson coming third.

PO Adamson said it was a good competition.

“There was a mix of rates, ranks and genders and was a good lead up to the Navy Surf Championships being held 9-13 December at Burrill Lake, just south of Ulladulla,” he said.

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Bravo Zulus

Congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Flying (F), LCDR Paul Hannigan who was awarded a Silver Level Fleet Commander's Commendation for his work at 808 Squadron.

An extract from LCDR Hannigan's Commendation:

I commend you for your unswerving dedication to the Navy MRH90 helicopter program from 2007-2012. Over a series of postings including MRH Staff Officer Fleet Air Am Headquarter, MRH Flying Instructor, Senior Naval Officer MRH Contingent Townsville, Flight Commander and Training Officer 808 Squadron you have consistently applied yourself to the highest standard to ensure the successful development of Navy's Maritime Support Helicopter capability.

Through your exceptional experience, skills and professionalism, you have provided strong leadership and expert training to progress 808 Squadron and the MRH90 towards Operational Release. In addition, you have been instrumental in the development of joint MRH tactical and operational doctrine, including a maritime operations training plan that has been endorsed by the Army Aviation Training Centre.

Through numerous challenges presented by the MRH program you have remained committed to Navy's interests and demonstrated outstanding devotion, drive and loyalty that have been an inspiration to all Navy personnel involved in the MRH program. You have been a key factor in the successful development of 808 Squadron.

Your efforts embrace Navy's core values and signature behaviours, are of the highest order, and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy.

The Commendation was signed by Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett AM, CSC, RAN on 30 August 2013.

Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN presented the following awards and medals:

CAPT	Jonathan Sadleir AM	Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection and Operational Service Badge
LCDR	Paul Hannigan	Commander Australian Fleet Navy Silver Commendation
LCDR	Suzie Bishop	Defence Long Service Medal
CPOMT	Desmond Soar	2nd Clasp to Defence Long Service Medal
CPOMT	Colin Milligan	Defence Long Service Medal
POMT	Benjamin Paton	Defence Long Service Medal
POET	Peter Cannon	20 year Appreciation Certificate

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The following personnel were awarded the Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection and Operational Service Badge

CMDR	David Walter
CMDR	Nathan Robb
LCDR	Richard Loizou
LCDR	Suzie Bishop
LEUT	Glenn Suffolk,
LEUT	Ben Stewart
CPOPT	Bradley Walsh
CPOCSM	Drew Speirs,
POET	Luke Porter
POMT	Brad Sherer
POMT	Benjamin Paton
POMT	Darren Jay,
POMT	Phillip Lang
POMT	Michael Heath
POCIS	Chloe Oliver,
POAVN	Stephen Firkin
POATA	Kristian Becker
POMT	Michael Robertson
POMT	Andrew Beattie
POCIS	Steven Bowerman
LSMT	Troy Russell
LSCIS	Adrian James
LSML-C	Nathan Hawke
LSET	Ryan Mansell
LSMT	Nathan Cook
LSML-SC	Grace Ransley
LSCIS	Anthony Thatcher
LSMT	Andrew Witheriff
LSET	Christian Alcantara
LSET	Sean Blacklock
LSBM	Michael Jack
LSMT	Paul Gunnee
ABML-C	Neil Beattie
ABCIS	Brendan Benesh
ABCIS	Tamos Cuenca
ABBM	Mitchell Day-Kennedy
ABML-S	Michael Kotiw,
ABCISO	Nathan Horan,
ABML-S	Trent Gomm,
ABBM	Troy Mcwha
ABML-SC	Cameron Irvine
ABBM	Matthew Webster
SMNCIS	Libby Pearce



Photos: (Top): Captain Sadleir presents a range of awards at the ship's final Clear Lower Deck for 2013. (Above): Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN presented Chief Petty Officer Colin Milligan with his Defence Long Service Medal.

Well done to:

- All involved in the Navy Engineering Challenge – see separate article on page 18.
- Lieutenant Lachlan Cairns on his promotion to Lieutenant.
- LSET Ryan Mansell and ABBM Ryan Barker for their outstanding contribution as part of Australian Federation Guard duties at Remembrance Day commemoration and the Opening of the 44th Australian Federal Parliament.

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The Commanding Officer presented the following personnel with a range of awards, medals and certificates:

LSMT	Candice O'keefe,	Promotion Certificate (LS)
SMNCIS	Danica Sinclair	Promotion Certificate (AB)
LCDR	Glen Cross	Level 3 Engineering Authority
LCDR	Suzie Bishop	Level 3 Engineering Authority
CPOPTI	Bradley Walsh	Recruit Instructor Badge
ABMT	Adam Cashion	Afghanistan Medal
LSCSO	Troy Martin	Australian Defence Medal
ABET	John Falevai	Australian Defence Medal
ABCSSO	Kamia Zarb	Australian Defence Medal
ABMT	Dimitri Garoufalis,	Australian Defence Medal
ABMT	Hamish Day	Australian Defence Medal
ABMT	Frank Raymond	Australian Defence Medal
ABML-S	Trent Gomm	Australian Defence Medal



Photo: Captain Sadleir presents a range of awards and medals to members of the ship's company. The ship's company was a large and impressive sight as they fell in for the final clear lower deck for 2013 in the HMAS *Kuttabul* car park.

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Canberra's Boarding Party establishes key milestone

Twenty *Canberra* personnel recently undertook the initial boarding party course at HMAS Cerberus, satisfying yet another training requirement in preparation for *Canberra's* delivery to Navy in 2014.

In a busy ten days, *Canberra's* boarding teams learned how to conduct a boarding, become familiar with the roles of each boarding party member, understand the relevant legal principles, practice self defence tactics and ASP baton usage as well as, escalation procedures and fast roping.

The teams also learned how to wear and correctly use all the equipment required to conduct a boarding, including body armour, helmets, goggles, gloves, weapons and ammunition belts – all of which add up to around 18 kilograms on top of your body weight.

Navy can conduct many types of boardings. These can range from a compliant boarding such as a flag state verification of a vessel, where crew and cargo manifests are checked through to more non-compliant boardings that may be conducted under the auspices of a United Nations Security Council Resolution.

The course was largely practical culminating in scenario based compliant boardings where teams would deploy on jet RHIBs (rigid hulled inflatable boats) and board a vessel in Western Port Bay. The vessel boarded was a



Photo: Canberra's Boarding Teams on course at HMAS Cerberus.



Caption: *Canberra's* Boarding Team boards the DMS training vessel for a scenario based boarding exercise.



Caption: *Canberra's* Boarding Team approaches the DMS training vessel for a scenario based boarding exercise.

DMS training vessel and the *Canberra* boarding teams had to board the vessel, achieve the desired mission safely, and deal with any escalating situations that came their way.

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In amongst the formal boarding party training, the team participated in additional physical training and sporting expeditions – and with the ship’s physical training instructor (PTI) being a member of the boarding party – every opportunity was taken to improve fitness, strength and teamwork.

Canberra’s Boarding Party Officer, Lieutenant Ben Stewart, said that he was impressed with the standards the team set and the level of team cohesion that was built during the ten days.

“Canberra set an excellent example for everyone - marching as a formed body from place to place, doubling (running) across the parade ground and generally conducting themselves as a tight knit professional fleet unit, said Lieutenant Stewart.

“We had excellent participation in all the extra team building activities as well. LSMT John Findlater arranged for the group to go to skiing and wakeboarding at the nearby national water park which everyone loved – particularly Clubs who enjoyed another opportunity to get out in his swimmers even though there was a brisk southerly wind,” he said.



Photos: (top left) ABMT Daniel Coad about to enjoy a wakeboard. (Top middle) ABMT Nicholas Gangell shows his skill on the wakeboard. (Above back left to right): SMNBM Joshua Egan, POPT Nathan Adamson, ABCIS Patrick Barr, LSMT Matt Dawe and LSMT John Findlater (front left to right): LSCSO Aumau Falepau, LSCIS Emma Perkins, ABCIS Bill Farmakis, and ABMT Daniel Coad. (Left): LEUT Ben Stewart relaxes while waiting his turn on the biscuit.

Other activities included water volley ball, volley ball, and trust dives.

“POPT Adamson ran a trust dive exercise which involved falling backwards off a three meter dive platform into the water. The display of camaraderie and encouragement from team members was great to experience,” said Lieutenant Stewart.

All Canberra personnel enjoyed the course, whether it was role playing difficult crew members and getting the chance to crash tackle Canberra’s Boarding Officers during escalation role plays or testing their nerves during the fast roping training off the 5, 10 and 15 metre towers – there was plenty for everyone to think about.

Able Seaman Boatswain’s Mate Matthew Webster said that he enjoyed the course.

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Photo: Canberra Boarding Teams play water volleyball in a physical training session run by 'Clubs' POPT Nathan Adamson.



Photo: Canberra boarding teams participated in trust dives with the encouragement of other Team members.



Photo: Canberra Boarding Team members line out in preparation for water drills as part of the training.

"It was a good course – it was great how Clubs arranged extra fitness activities that were surprisingly not too strenuous considering he's a PTI," said AB Webster.

"The biggest challenge of the course was fast roping. I got to the 10 metre tower platform but didn't make it to the 15 metre platform. I'm looking forward to working with Clubs to work on the technique so I can hopefully pass next time.

"The best thing about being part of Boarding Party is that it is something different to the daily routine – it gets you out doing something different," he said.

Another team member, Leading Seaman Combat Systems Operator, Aumau Falapau, said she thought the fast roping was the best part.

"The best part of the course was fastroping – I enjoyed being taken out of my comfort zone. I realised its not every day we get to fast rope, so I definitely appreciated the help from the instructors and the great support from other members of the Boarding Party team. I will definitely do it again," said Leading Seaman Falepau.

"I enjoyed the camaraderie of the team.....we worked hard and played hard. The course made the most challenging jobs seem effortless. It was the first time since posting onto NUSHIP Canberra that I got to know members from other Departments and form new friendships," she said.

NUSHIP *Canberra*

Family Link



Canberra fitted with advanced weapons systems

Another exciting project milestone for *Canberra* has been achieved with the installation of four Typhoon stabilised weapons systems onboard.

For weapon enthusiasts, this advanced weapons system includes a 25 mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun and a coaxially mounted M240 7.62mm machine gun.

For those not so conversant with weapons systems, the Typhoon is a large gun with a rapid rate of fire. *Canberra's* Gunnery Officer, Lieutenant Adam Simeoni, helped to explain the size and scale of the weapon.

“The typhoon is smaller than the main gun you see on a Guided Missile Frigate, but it has a much higher rate of fire. While higher rates of fire are usually associated with small ‘person-operated’ automatic machine guns, the Typhoon has a much larger round,” said Lieutenant Simeoni.

“Basically, this means the Typhoon has a high rate of fire and decent sized rounds. This combination provides *Canberra* with a very effective and potent force protection weapons system, specifically suited to the requirements of the LHD platform,” he said.

The Typhoon has a rate of fire of up to 180 rounds a minute and can be operated from the Operations Room via the Combat Management System (SAAB 9LV Mk4) or from the independent remote operating consoles, also located in the Operations Room.

The weapons have also been mounted in such a way to cover a 360 degree arc of fire around the platform. Two are mounted forward with one located on the starboard gun deck and the other on the port gun sponson. The aft mounts are located on either side of the quarterdeck, just behind and below the flight deck.

“When operated through the Combat Management System, the Typhoon provides an increased level of functionality that boosts its effectiveness as an all-round force protection defence system featuring capabilities not before seen in the RAN,” said Lieutenant Simeoni.

The Typhoon will be operated by both Boatswains Mates and Combat System Operators depending on the mode of operation. A team of three Electronic Technician (Weapons) personnel will be maintaining the guns.

“The operators and maintainers have all completed the courses on how to maintain and operate the weapons system and are raring to go,” said Lieutenant Simeoni.

“We are all looking forward to testing and operating the system during First of Class Trials at sea next year” he said.



Photo: *Canberra's* force protection weapons system includes a 25 mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun and a coaxially mounted M240 7.62mm machine gun.

NUSHIP *Canberra* Family Link



Learning coalition amphibious operations an eye opener

Two NUSHIP *Canberra* personnel recently returned from the United States having undertaken a series of amphibious-themed courses to further bolster their professional development and understanding of amphibious operations. Lieutenant Glenn Suffolk, an OOW, and the ship's Combat System Manager (CSM), Chief Petty Officer Drew Speirs, attended the Amphibious Warfare Indoctrination and the Expeditionary Warfare Staff Planning Courses, both held in San Diego.

Lieutenant Suffolk said the course was of huge benefit and a real 'eye opener' in terms of the significant size and scale of how coalition amphibious operations are done.

"The purpose of us going to the course was to broaden our knowledge of large scale amphibious operations and, in particular, the planning aspects of undertaking such an activity.

"The course enhanced our understanding of how some of our coalition partners operate in this domain and will serve to increase our future effectiveness when working with them.

"Having previously been exposed to US forces and Coalition operations in other theatres, you quickly gain an appreciation of just how large a force the US armed forces is, but it isn't until their entire capability is being laid out in front of you that you begin to truly appreciate the massive scale of resources they have at their disposal".

"*Canberra* will be the first of an entire new level of capability for the ADF, so it's important that we have the skills and knowledge to effectively execute our missions, which may at times require the LHD to integrate into large scale exercises and operations" said Lieutenant Suffolk.

Chief Petty Officer Drew Speirs reinforced the value of getting to know how large scale coalition amphibious operations work.

"The most valuable part of the course was gaining and understanding of how coalition partners use and coordinate their assets in the amphibious environment, said CPO Speirs

"The US has a vast number of different air, amphibious and surface assets to contribute to their amphibious operations – so putting the puzzle pieces together in terms of how each is used in the amphibious context was very valuable and will help us operate with them in the future.

"Large multinational exercises in the scale of *RIMPAC* and *Talisman Sabre* are examples of opportunities likely to test our mettle in the future. The training in San Diego ensured we understood large scale amphibious operations and we look forward to transferring what we learned to the rest of our department", said CPO Speirs.



Photo: The photograph that was presented to CPOCSM Speirs at the end of the two courses.

NUSHIP Canberra Family Link



Engineering challenge - benefits of participation exceed results

Well done to the Canberra Vikings – POET Luke Porter, LSET Ed Hearsum, ABET Simon Pearn and ABET Kane Peters

The *Canberra Vikings* showed exceptional commitment as they burned the midnight oil building and testing their weapon in preparation for the Navy Engineering Challenge.

Last week, the national finals for the Navy Engineering Challenge were held at the Heritage Centre at Garden Island, Fleet Base East. Finalists from right around Australia competed.

The finalists were 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 challenge required that they had to incorporate a "nerf" gun which has to shoot foam pellets from a stabilized weapon platform.

The day finally arrived and after staying back on weekends and many late nights, the *Canberra Vikings* were ready. Arguably the most impressive looking weapon in the competition with a vertical top fed magazine, the team were ready to show their skill.

The weapons were tested in four firing runs in a classroom situation. The judges looked on and marked accuracy as the targets popped up on an overhead projector.

Such was the drive and commitment to the mission, the tension in the room at times could have been aligned to an operations room in a real combat environment – you could have heard a pin drop as participants willed their weapons to fire at the right time and the right target.

While the *Canberra Vikings* didn't take out the contest, Petty Officer Luke Porter said that the benefits of participating in the Challenge far outweighed the results.

"The fact that we don't have our ship here yet means that we don't have an engineering equipment to work on just yet – so in terms of up skilling, skills currency and general problem solving and teamwork, the Challenge was hugely beneficial for us," said PO Porter.

"It just wasn't the four team members, but the whole WE department got behind us and got involved indirectly by showing general interest and encouragement. The Department gained from it and watching the problem solving process evolve," he said.

Petty Officer Porter said getting to know the team was an absolute highlight.



Photo: LSET Ed Hearsum, ABET Kane Peters, and POET Luke Porter with their weapon system they designed and entered in the 2013 Navy Engineering Challenge.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



"The Challenge involved personnel from across the weapons electrical sub-departments, so the Vikings were made up of a great cross section of skills and talents.

"I have a new found respect of the junior sailors in the WE department – it was great to see the level of skills and knowledge that junior ranks brought to the table that I could not – so I've learnt a lot from them.

"All the extra hours were put in voluntarily and it was excellent to have our hard work and commitment acknowledged by the ship's senior leadership. We appreciated the support from our senior Chiefs and Officers –ranging from the perspective of being allowed the time to work on the project to the WEEO shouting pizzas after a long night," said PO Porter.

The Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer, Lieutenant Commander Glenn Cross said he was proud of the team.

"I am extremely proud of the team that competed in the 2013 inaugural Navy ET Engineering Final. The team worked very hard in producing the final product and was capably led by PO Porter.

"Given the level of enthusiasm and interest shown I look forward to the 2014 competition and hope *Canberra* is able to build on the experiences of this year's competition.

The *Canberra* Vikings placed fourth with FSU West taking out the competition, FSU North placing second and HMAS Parramatta coming third.

The Engineering Challenge as a whole was an excellent display of Navy's professional talent and demonstrated the requirement of working at the highest level of skill under extremely tight time deadlines. While the consequences weren't catastrophic in this case, it was easy for the onlookers to imagine the level of stress that may be encountered in a real time operational environment.

To watch such a high level of professional skill and teamwork, it was easy to feel a great level of pride to be part of the Navy.

In addition to the four personnel in the team, the following personnel and organisations deserve an honourable mention in helping the Viking's achieve the final outcome:

- POET Simons (NUSHIP *Canberra*);
- LSET Blacklock (NUSHIP *Canberra*);
- ABET Boyle-Allardice (NUSHIP *Canberra*);
- ABET Gregory (NUSHIP *Canberra*);
- ABET Patrick Oliver (NUSHIP *Canberra*);
- FSU SE Hull Workshop - water jet cutter;
- FSU SE WE Graphics Workshop - laser engraver;
- LCDR Pay (IFR) - real estate on level 1 of AC Lewis House; and
- WO Clarke (PSU) - real estate on level 1 of AC Lewis House."



Photo: Crunch time. The *Canberra* Vikings during a firing run – you could have heard a pin drop in the room. With *Canberra's* Gunnery Officer and Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer looking on.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



Congratulations to Navy's Blood Donation Ambassador

For the last three months, she has been known as the Navy's Blood Donation Challenge Ambassador, but she has also proved herself as an exceptional ambassador for NUSHIP Canberra.

Canberra is extremely proud of their Dock Manager, Petty Officer Cartrena Skinner, who has worked tirelessly over the last four to five months to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation.

Although final figures haven't yet been received, Petty Officer Skinner estimates Navy reached a total of around 800 donations for the 2013 blood challenge which ended on 29 November, well surpassing last year's figure of 553. This significant jump in donations can be directly linked to PO Skinner's efforts.

Commanding Officer of NUSHIP Canberra, Captain Jonathan Sadleir, commended Petty Officer Skinner for her efforts.

"I have been very impressed with Petty Officer Skinner's passion and hard work as the Navy Ambassador for the Defence Blood Challenge," said Captain Sadleir.

"I know she has been rallying the team in Canberra as well as being a motivator and facilitator for group donations for Navy units right across the region.

"To take this on voluntarily in addition to the duties required of her as a member of Canberra's ship's company is a credit to her," he said.

Petty Officer Skinner said that she was really pleased with the support she received and the response from Navy.

"It is great that we surpassed previous year's efforts, however, I do not think that the number this year is an accurate reflection of how many Navy members, friends and family that have donated.

"This is because I have found that the hardest aspect of this Challenge is raising awareness for the donors to join 'Club Red'. It is also the simplest part of the whole process. You join once and then every year, if you donate through the Challenge time, it is added to our tally," she said.

Petty Officer Skinner has been integral in arranging group donations including HMA Ships *Huon*, *Tarakan*, *Watson*, *Cairns* and NUSHIP Canberra.

"Currently posted to a tri-service ship, there has been tough competition around – I did attempt to sway the RAAF and Army personnel in NUSHIP Canberra to donate for Navy in the spirit of being Canberra ship's company – but without much luck!" she said.



Photo: Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael van Balen and Defence Force Blood Ambassador Petty Officer Cartrena Skinner pose with Billy the Blood Drop back at the official launch of Australia's largest blood donation event at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Donation Centre in Canberra.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



"I have loved being the Navy Ambassador and I hope that everyone who has encountered me during this time, has seen the passion I have for this worthwhile cause.

I know that Navy will only continue to do better and hopefully next year beat Army and RAAF!" she said.

Five minutes with Canberra's Physical Trainer



Name: POPT Nathan Adamson

Where was your previous posting? HMAS CRESWELL

How long you been in the Navy for? 11 Years

How do you feel about being posted to NUSHIP Canberra? Excited

Have you seen the ship yet? What PT potential do you see for a platform like this?

I have not seen the ship yet, but I am imagining Olympic sprint events on the flight deck, Sydney Tower type stair runs up ladder bays and a huge sporting arena in the vehicle deck with a bonus indoor swimming pool.

What do you want to achieve while posted to NUSHIP Canberra? I want the ship to take out the Pakistan shield.

Best part about your job? Keeping people fit, healthy and happy.

Biggest challenge in your job? Keeping people fit, healthy and happy.

Favourite sport? Surfing (see photo inset above)

What footy teams do you follow? Gold Coast Titans, QLD Reds, Gold Coast Suns and all other team from QLD. I also have a soft spot for the Essendon Bombers as they were they first team I supported at a live AFL match (MCG vs Demons 1997).

What can NUSHIP Canberra expect from their first Physical Trainer? Speedo's! I'm bringing them back.

Note: Between the time of interview and publication of this newsletter, PO Adamson has visited the ship and made the following comments:

It was great to see the ship. My ideas for PT potential remain the same. Now I've seen the ship, I can see there are just so many options – and I'm very creative!

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



The Ship's Welfare Committee

The *Canberra* Welfare Committee provides a means for free discussion between members of ship's company on matters of welfare and general amenities within the ship. The Welfare Committee is chaired by the Executive Officer CMDR Jonathan Earley, with members of the Welfare Committee representing all departments and ranks to ensure any decision made is fair and equitable. The Welfare Committee Secretary records all the discussions and decisions made by the committee, with the minutes then made available to all ship's company.

One of the main tools used by the Welfare Committee is the Ship's Fund which is primarily intended to meet the cost of welfare, amenities and recreation of the ship's company and for benevolent purposes connected with the ship. The Ship's Fund is financed by profits from canteen sales, beer sales and other miscellaneous income, such as fund raising activities. Any surplus funds may be provided to the RAN Central Canteens Fund, RAN Relief Trust Fund or to other charitable funds or institutions.

Topics that the Welfare Committee may discuss include living conditions in the ship, messing arrangements, composition of menus, recreational activities, stock held in the Ship's canteen and any suggestions for the general benefit of the welfare of ship's company.

Members of the Ship's Welfare Committee pass information from the meetings back to their respective departments and provide issues from their departments at Welfare Committee meetings.

Some of the recent outcomes from the Welfare Committee include:

- Commissioning Ball planning,
- Planning and holding for a Melbourne Cup day function,
- Discussions on an appropriate charity for the ship to contribute towards, and
- Promoting participation in sport and physical training, both individual training and team competitive activities.

Events that the Welfare Committee have conducted in order to raise funds include, breakfast BBQ's, 100 Club, out of uniform days and a variety of raffles. When ship's company embark in the platform and proceed to sea, canteen sales will increase substantially generating further funding for the Welfare Committee.

LHD Replica on show for naming ceremony

The scaled versions of Navy's Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) and Landing Ship Dock (LSD) used for ship handling training at the Port Ash Ship Handling Facility near Newcastle have been officially named in an informal ceremony.

The newly launched LHD ship model was named 'Assault', after the nearby shore base HMAS *Assault* which was used for training in the Nelson Bay area near Port Ash, during World War II.

The scaled version of the LSD, which can provide platform training for future Command Teams of HMAS *Choules*, was named "Headmark" after the title of the Australian Naval Institute magazine.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



The scaled version of the LHD 'Assault' has already been in constant use to train the commissioning Command Team of NUSHIP *Canberra* and next year, will be used by the commissioning Command Team of *Adelaide* – the Navy's second LHD.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC, RAN, joined the Director of the Port Ash facility, Captain Cliff Beazley and his wife and Naming Lady, Mrs Cath Beazley, to assist with the ceremony which also included pouring champagne over the bows of the replicas to officially name them in true naval tradition.



Photo: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, RAN with Royal Australian Navy officers and Port Ash staff who attended the naming of Port Ash Australia's scaled versions of the LHD and LSD. 'Assault' is pictured in the background.

After the official naming, Port Ash staff were honoured to host Chief of Navy onboard 'Assault' to demonstrate the unique ship handling characteristics of the LHD. 'Assault' has been carefully designed from its hull shape through to its propulsion controls to accurately reflect a 1:20 scale version of the LHD.

Director of Port Ash Australia, Captain Cliff Beazley said that the training offered to Navigators and Command Teams is of great benefit both in terms of experience and cost, especially when compared to using the real platform.

"It is a smart way to provide training to personnel who are going to be navigating and piloting new platforms – by learning in the scaled version, they can experience the nuances and unique characteristics of the platform before they handle the real thing," said Captain Beazley.

LHD replica 'Assault' increases the number of platforms at Port Ash to six. Of the four platforms used to train Navy personnel, *Centurion* emulates the Anzac class frigates, *Triton* emulates HMAS *Sirius*, while *Headmark* and *Assault* are used to emulate HMAS *Choules* and the new LHDs *Canberra* and *Adelaide*.

"The naming of the replica ships is important – every ship must have a name – naming them certainly makes it easier for us when we have six different platforms to refer to," said Captain Beazley.

"It was an honour to have Chief of Navy here for the event and demonstrate the way 'Assault' replicates the specific azimuthing propulsion and handling techniques of LHD providing realistic experiences for the personnel who will drive and pilot the ships," he said.

"The kind of analogue training that we provide with the scaled replicas puts the RAN at the forefront of international ship handling training," he said.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



Back Page Sport

First marathon an international feat

Congratulations to Leading Seaman Boatswain's Mate Josh O'Hanlon who has completed his first ever marathon in style. As far as locations for people to give their first marathon a go, New York would have to be one of the best picks.

Together with HMAS Kuttabul's Petty Officer Baker, the pair raised \$20,000 for the Heart Foundation of Australia. They were two of only 25 runners chosen to represent the Heart Foundation in the world renowned running race.

Leading Seaman raised an individual amount of \$7,775 for the charity and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of his first marathon.

"I was aiming to do the New York marathon in 3.5 hours and I got a time of 3 hours and 23 minutes which I was really happy with," said Leading Seaman Hanlon.

"There is nothing better than the feeling of crossing the finish line after having run that far.

"I also love being part of the running community who support each other so well and spur each other on.

"To say you've completed a marathon is a pretty good feeling," he said.

Leading Seaman O'Hanlon has always been interested in running and started running as a serious hobby a couple of years ago.

He now has his sights loosely set on the Gold Coast marathon next year depending on the ship's program.

Canberra sends strong message in beach volleyball contest

Contribution by POPT Nathan Adamson

NUSHIP Canberra joined the Navy's regional sporting scene with strong participation and sportsmanship in the recent Eastern Australian Area Beach Volleyball competition at Manly last week.

Canberra contributed five teams to a 26 strong field. Four of our teams were a mix of Departments however our best performing team was team of Combat Systems Operators (CSOs) with the team name "Merman". Team 'Merman' made it through to the semi finals where they faced two time champions 'Hydro Cannon', a hydrographic team from Wollongong. With all that finals experience 'Hydro Cannon', proved too strong and had a convincing win over Canberra's CSOs.



Photo: LSBM Josh O'Hanlon running in the New York marathon this year.

NUSHIP Canberra

Family Link



'Beach Balls' and 'Safe Set' were the other two *Canberra* teams who made the quarterfinals.

Although we didn't walk away with the trophy this time, all five teams played really well and it was a great opportunity for *Canberra's* ships company to mix across departments and get to know each other better.

Well done to HMAS *Newcastle* who took out the trophy. Plans are already in motion for *Canberra* to train hard and win the competition in 2014.

It was a great day and a well run competition. Thank you to all the departments who spared personnel to make the day a success.

It was an exciting way to finish the 2013 sporting calendar leading into next year. We are looking forward to bigger and better results for Team *Canberra* next year.

***Canberra* participates in HMAS *Penguin's* 'Gate to Gate' run**

Another great sporting event during November was the HMAS *Penguin* 'Gate to Gate' fun run. Pictured here are members from NUSHIP *Canberra* who competed in the fun run. The 35th annual HMAS *Penguin* 'Gate to Gate' fun run is a 5km course that incorporates panoramic and undulating route from middle head oval, through chowder bay, across George's heights oval, past *Penguin* to finish at Middle Head Oval. The event is a long standing tradition as a major sporting and social event on the *Penguin* calendar.



Photo: Some members of NUSHIP *Canberra* ready who participated in the HMAS *Penguin* 'Gate to Gate' run.

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 at emily.kennedy@defence.gov.au