

CERBERUS serves up dog cake

Story by Chaplain Christine Senini RAN, Photos by Lieutenant Garry Barrow

The home of the three headed dog, HMAS CERBERUS served as the perfect venue for the ADF's Blessing of the Animals Service. Although this year with something different.

This year's service, thought to be the second in ADF history, was combined with the routine church service attended by RAN recruits in their first two weeks of training. Along with Ships Company, friends and family, members of the local community, and of course, the

pets; the recruits joined in with the singing and the howling, the praying and the howling, and the Bible readings ... did I mention the howling? The 17 dogs, three cats, two rats, and the earthworms were blessed with each pet receiving a commemorative certificate.

The service also included a tribute to ADF Explosive Detection Dogs 'Merlin' and 'Razz' who died tragically serving on OPERATION SLIPPER. We paused to remember all animals who have died serving our country and protecting

others. Those attending the service were able to light a candle in memory of pets who could not attend.

A highlight after the Service was mornos, featuring a 'dog cake'. The cake, prepared by Lieutenant Jo MacKintosh, included mince, carrots, spinach, eggs, and rice;



Bubs attended with Chief Petty Officer John Mullen



Cake prepared by Lieutenant Jo Mackintosh

'frosted' with mashed potato, and topped with liver sprinkles.



Chief Petty Officer June Cunningham's Kevin tries the 'dog cake'

As you go through life, may you be wise like a whale, confident like a seahorse, and kind like a dolphin. May God bless you and your pets richly!

Editor's Note: This article was originally intended for the 2007 Summer edition but alas we ran out of room!