

Coasting along

By Darren Gallagher

You know, I've sometimes said cliché things like, *'There's not such thing as good and bad postings, but more so good and bad people'*. Though now I'll confess, I'll happily admit that I'm a fool.

Leading Seaman Karl *'my posting is better than yours'* Eva has led me to realise that elusive connection between Jack Tar and Summer Fun Barbie. When I stumbled across the Defence recruiting office up at Maroochydore, Queensland, I realised that in the right place, even work can be 'down time'.



Karl (right) road testing the promotional material

So Karl, how long is it that you have been here now?

I've been in this recruiting posting now for 20 months, most of which time has been spent on the beach, a lot of good recruiting happens while catching a few waves and sunbaking

It looks like a great place to live, did you grow up on the coast or is this all new to you?

I was actually born on the Sunshine Coast, so very happy to be back to God's Country (Queensland) after spending 10 years away. We have a house here now, so we're set up nicely. Still have parents here on the Coast as well, so nice and cheap babysitters!

Now you have just married recently, tell us a bit about your wife (Sharyn) - is it true that she married you just because of this posting?* (Note: Interviewer deliberately asking leading questions to trap him - thus far it hasn't worked.)

It's funny, she asked me the day I told her that I had a posting over here... She is very lovely, I met her while she was in the Navy as a Writer, over in Western Australia, she has subsequently gotten out and we now have a beautiful 18 month year old boy named Josh.

Forgetting the locality for a moment, have you enjoyed the recruiting experience?

Yeah, I have enjoyed it, with our new recruiting numbers we need, it is certainly a very busy environment!

What would you say is the best part about it?

There is a lot of variety which is good, we tend to spend most of our time in the office helping out our candidates through the recruiting process, though we do get out and about quite a bit in this office to do school presentations, we travel all the way up to Bundaberg. You get a lot of job satisfaction knowing you are helping people get jobs, we get quite a few applicants from troubled backgrounds who are looking to make a change to their lives, so it's good knowing you help them make that change by finding them a job.

When you see the applicants come in, you must get flashbacks of your own entry?

Things have changed a bit since I joined over 11 years ago and my memory is a bit fuzzy about it all, but I still remember the feelings I had going through the whole process, so I can empathise with our candidates a bit.

What sort of things do you and your wife get up to in your spare time?

There are so many things to do here on the Coast, most of our spare time is spent with Josh and the dogs and making improvements to the house. The beaches are great, there are plenty of sporting teams around and there are places like Australia Zoo around - Defence Members get in free there, so makes for a good cheap day out.

So you're making the most of the locality while you are here then. How have you enjoyed working in a tri-service environment?

It has been good, thought I find it hard to understand the Army sometimes! We have a really good crew here in Maroochydore, we have an Army Military Policeman (MP) who we all were a bit apprehensive about before he posted in, being an MP, but he's a good bloke (laughs).

Well, I'm not sure the policy for beers on a name drop, but we'll let Scott go this time. What advice would you give to an ADF member thinking about throwing their hand up for a gig in recruiting anywhere?

It is a really good job, there is quite a bit of office work involved however which isn't everyone's tea and bikkies. But it could be suitable to somebody who is looking for a bit of a change, particularly if they have been highly involved in the operational environment, and there are plenty of other good locations around Australia to go apart from Maroochydore, like Hobart, the Gold Coast, Darwin, Newcastle and Albury.

Finally, what advice would you give to somebody thinking about joining up as a member of the ADF?

The ADF offers many great opportunities for young and the not so young, it gives good life experience to those who are just out of school as well as those who have a few more years under their belt who are looking for a change to their current way of life. We get a lot of benefits working for the Defence Force that you don't get in most jobs in the civilian environment, and there is

certainly the opportunity to travel, I would never have gone to places like Japan, Hong Kong, China, Dubai, Guam or Russia if I didn't join the Navy.

Thanks for your time Karl, I'll let you get back to the beach...I mean your office.

No worries, Thanks.

It just goes to show readers, that there is a lot to be said for throwing your hat in the ring. One of Karl's recruiting colleagues was kind enough to pose for a tear in the eye recruiting style pic that left this reporter wondering why Karl was using a RAAF brochure. A quick assessment of this revealed that it was the Jedi Knight on the cover that caught his eye. Ciao for now.