HMAS Newcastle leads JS Fuyuzuki and USS Hopper in formation through the Northern Australian Exercise Area off the coast of the Northern Territory.

Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes
Warships locked in battle

LEUT Todd Fitzgerald

JUST three days into the sea phase of Exercise Kakadu, a task group of five international warships was locked in a steady battle of anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare.

The ‘Red Force’ task group was made up of a Japanese destroyer, an American destroyer, an Indonesian corvette and a Malaysian frigate, and was led by the RAN frigate HMAS Newcastle.

The task group’s first challenge arrived at dawn on day one when it responded to a surface threat by forming an offensive line and firing their main guns at a target the size of a small boat almost eight kilometres away.

The next day, Red Force defended itself against a heavy air attack, after which each ship in the task group used its main gun to fire at a target towed 400 metres behind a Lear jet.

One of Newcastle’s Principal Warfare Officers LCDR Liam Walters coordinated Red Force in both air defence serials. “Communications were exceptional with the regional partners coming together to achieve successful outcomes in each serial,” LCDR Walters said.

“The ships worked together effectively and shots were on target. Night offered little respite from the hectic pace, with the group’s crews practising submarine detection, deterrence and prosecution.”

During one exercise, five ships closed and continuously attacked an ‘enemy’ submarine attempting to get through their patrol areas.

Newcastle’s Principal Warfare Officer – Surface Warfare LEUT Courtney Kruger said many hands made light work when it came to submarine hunts. “We achieved coordinated tracking and attacks on the submarine and we all improved at using proper tactical coordination procedures,” she said.

It was pleasing to see everybody across the task group progressing and developing their skill sets, not only in warfare, but also in interoperability.

Eighteen warships took part in Exercise Kakadu, the RAN’s largest multilateral exercise. Helicopter frigate HMAS Warramunga led the ‘Blue Force’ task group, which also included a Canadian frigate and two Singaporean corvettes.

Two Australian submarines, patrol boats from Australia and Papua New Guinea and 18 aircraft from across the region were also involved in the exercise.

Red Force and Blue Force operated independently for the first six days so regional partners could practise working together and coordinate operating procedures, after which the preparedness and cohesion of the two forces was tested when they battled each other for disputed maritime territory.

Red Force leader CO Newcastle CMDR Mark Sirois said his task group positioned itself well for the final battle. “Our task group was able to use the first five days of force integration training exceptionally well,” he said.

“There were some trials but we learned and improved a lot, and came together as an extremely effective task group.”

Glenelg more than well catered for

LSIS Jayson Tufrey

ABML-C Adam Grant comprises half the dynamic duo of HMAS Glenelg’s catering capability and has been posted to the Armidale-class patrol boat for the last nine months.

He was fortunate enough to get a sea-ride on a patrol boat while posted to the main galley at HMAS Stirling and he was hooked.

AB Grant said that experience aboard Stirling was enough for him put his hand up for a posting to Darwin.

“I love being on small boats; of course they have their challenges, but it’s a great environment to be in,” he said.

The two chefs in Glenelg prepare three meals, morning and afternoon tea for up to 30 people every day.

AB Grant said even though major fleet units cater for many more people, he and LSML-C Ben Coulter have enough work to keep them busy.

“On small boats, we all have multiple ancillary duties. I act as bow-man in the sea boats and have fender duties during berthing,” AB Grant said. “I also share canteen duties. It’s a big task keeping the ship running and everyone fed and happy during a busy period like Exercise Kakadu.”

Boarding tactics

LSIS Jayson Tufrey

AUSTRALIA’S closest neighbours had the opportunity to observe RAN tactics, techniques and procedures in real-time as Exercise Kakadu’s minor war vessels conducted boarding operation training off the coast of Darwin.

Members of ship’s companies from Papua New Guinea, and observers from Fiji and Tonga, embarked in the DMS-operated Discovery III to observe as crews from HMA Ships Armidale and Glenelg conducted boarding of the vessel.

Discovery III is an asset used by both major fleet units and minor war vessels to conduct boarding training under the supervision of Sea Training Group (STG), the organisation responsible for testing Navy’s ability to execute missions safely.

STG member POI Damien Keygan said the boarding scenarios were tailored around specialist for navies in our region.”

PO Keygan said bringing navies together for training is a good approach for all concerned. “Australia has a massive coastline which means a huge oceanic responsibility for us,” he said.

“Our regional partners all operating similarly, we are well-placed to respond to contingencies in our part of the world. “Our neighbours have a large part to play in the sustainment of maritime resources in the Pacific and it’s great we can share our knowledge with each other.”

By the end of Kakadu crews from HMIPNG Ships Moreby and Seadullar will have tried their hand at conducting boarding training under the supervision of Sea Training Group staff.
on display

Specialists behind scenes ensure smooth operation

**LEUT Nicholas Robinson**

BEHIND the Exercise Kakadu action unfolding at sea off the coast of northern Australia, exercise director CAPT Nick Woodley ensured the coordination from Exercise Headquarters allowed all units involved to meet the objectives of the exercise.

Kakadu involved more than 3000 personnel, 18 warships, and 19 aircraft, from 19 nations. Coordination of Australia’s largest maritime exercise, with such a large number of complex moving parts, was no short order.

CAPT Woodley explained the structure of the team that supported the exercise from the headquarters in Darwin.

“During the exercise period we had almost 50 personnel who were collectively operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week to support the fleet at sea, and squadrons in the air,” he said.

“These personnel are from a wide range of specialisations including Maritime Operations, Maritime planners, Logistics, Legal, Intelligence, Communications, Public Affairs, Cultural Awareness, Maritime Trade Operations, Aviation and Submarine Operations.

“Beyond the Exercise Kakadu headquarters, we also had multiple organisations which assisted us in bringing the exercise together including Air Traffic Control, Navy Port Services and the Darwin Port Authority.”

The Naval Harbour Master of Darwin, LCDR Paul Ruhl, managed the movement of all ships to and from Darwin Navy base HMAS Coonawarra with his team at Port Services.

“On a normal day, Coonawarra is the busiest port in Australia. LCDR Ruhl said “Once you overlay the additional exercise requirements for the Australian fleet as well as our regional partners, this is an extremely busy period for us.

“Our team is well rehearsed and comfortably managed the traffic in and out of this strategic base.”

LCDR Geoff Hart-Davies, Maritime Trade Operations, was the Officer in Charge of the Shipping Coordination Team, which operated on the opposite side of Darwin, at the Darwin Port.

“The aims of Kakadu are to develop interoperability with Australia’s regional partners, enhancing the capabilities of Navy, the RAAF and each of the participating military forces.

“Our unit was stood up during this period to specifically support Exercise Kakadu,” he said.

“We are here to ensure alignment of any military activity with the commercial and civilian interests at sea.

“It is an important responsibility for us to keep Headquarters informed of civilian movements, and advise civilian vessels of our activities, so everyone has a clear and coordinated picture of the exercise environment.”

The aims of Kakadu are to develop interoperability with Australia’s regional partners, enhancing the capabilities of Navy, the RAAF and each of the participating military forces.

**ABMT Matthew Patmore**

ABMT Matthew Patmore joined the patrol boat squadron a year ago, joining HMAS Glenelg’s marine engineering team for career progression.

AB Patmore has served seven years in the Navy and, despite enjoying the major fleet units, recently made the decision to move to Darwin.

“I decided to come to small boats because I love everything about Darwin,” he said.

“I love the heat, the lifestyle and my girlfriend is a Darwin local. “I am currently working towards getting my marine systems technician endorsement, and patrol boats are a great place to do that.

“We monitor all the mechanical and electrical systems on board, including the emergency sensors that detect fire and toxic hazards, as well as conduct rounds of the machinery spaces.”

AB Patmore said his secondary role is duty as a member of the boarding party.

“You get plenty of different experiences on the small boats. I am looking forward to being trained on the davits which launch and recover the sea boats,” he said.

“I love the role we play on the ship as technicians. You get a great sense of accomplishment in the very important role – keeping all the systems going.”

“My favourite part of Exercise Kakadu has been seeing and working with all the ships participating.

“It’s great to be getting some sea time; I’ve missed it in recent times and like being back out in a hard working fleet.”

— LSIS Jayson Tufto

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FROM hunting submarines by moonlight to engaging and defeating surface and air targets by day, HMAS Warramunga proved to be a highly potent warship during Exercise Kakadu, as well as leading Combined Task Group 628.1.

Reflecting the increasingly sophisticated and complex scenarios of the exercise, Warramunga, working with HMCS Vancouver, successfully denied a submarine from disrupting simulated shipping in the exercise area.

In a coordinated and orchestrated daytime gun firing serial, Warramunga, again working with Vancouver, as well as Singapore Navy Ships Valiant and Victor, engaged a surface target with her five-inch gun.

In the warfighting heart of the ship, the operations room, Warramunga’s officers and sailors worked closely together to identify and destroy the surface target. The communication between staff in the ops room and the bridge ensured the success of the serial. The efficacy and potency of Warramunga was comprehensively established in the gunnery serial.

CO Warramunga CMDR Dugald Clelland said he was proud of the performance of the ship’s company.

The determination of Warramunga’s crew to aggressively engage threats in the exercise areas displays our ability to project power at sea,” he said.

The results of our simulated warfighting confirm Warramunga’s lethality. “I am privileged to lead a highly professional agile and adaptive crew. Warramunga’s sustained rate of effectiveness in warfighting during Kakadu 16 will ensure our future operational effectiveness.”

Showing her versatility, the surface engagement was followed by an air defence serial as a simulated attack was undertaken by RAAF Hawk 127 aircraft and Lear jets.

Warramunga’s world class sensors, including the new phased array radar technology, allowed the threats to be destroyed by a combination of the simulated use of the Evolved Sea Sparrow point defence missile, as well as the utilisation of the Nulka active missile decoy system.

The contribution of her sailors, such as ABBM Matthew Barton on the ship’s 50-calibre machine guns, strengthens Warramunga’s reputation as a versatile war fighter.

“Defending the ship with the 50-calibre machine gun is a massive privilege and responsibility,” AB Barton said.

“The design of the weapon long predates me, but there is no doubting its accuracy and potency.”

While undertaking the major serials of the exercise, the crew continued to undertake a wide range of daily activities including weapons trade testing, ship medical emergency team training and boarding party training.

LEUT Adam Grover

Warramunga proves her worth
LSCIS Danny Ginger updates the fleet exercise program on the bridge of HMAS Warramunga.

Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes

Romeo Flight Two prepares to launch the embarked MH60 Romeo on board HMAS Warramunga.

Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes

SMNBM Taija Vaisanen conducts a daily pre-fire check on the 12.7mm machine gun on board HMAS Warramunga.

Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes

A Lear jet performs a simulated attack on HMAS Warramunga during an air defence serial.

Photo: LSIS Jayson Tufrey

Warramunga proves her worth for defence serial.
Exercise Kakadu provided an opportunity for navies and air forces throughout our region to test their integration and warfighting abilities.

EXERCISE Kakadu came to a close in the north of Australia with Navy showing it can rapidly deploy a large number of major fleet units and lead a multinational maritime force.

Navy has a constant presence in the seas around Australia and the exercise provided an opportunity to enhance interoperability with partner nations, demonstrating a high-end warfighting capability in the region.

The officer conducting the exercise, CDRE Mal Wise, said the graduated training program was successfully achieved, with all nations receiving great benefit from it.

"Being able to project our forces from the north of Australia is a vital component of Australia’s maritime strategy," he said.

"Exercise Kakadu proves that Navy is present, persistent and potent at sea. These types of exercises allow us to continually develop our tactics and improve our performance at sea alongside our partners to build understanding, capability and interoperability," CDRE Wise said.

Anti-submarine warfare was a key feature of Kakadu, with Australia deploying its new generation MH60R Seahawk Romeos with dipping sonar, and the United States bringing a P8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. Singapore also demonstrated its Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle capability.

Exercise Kakadu is Australia’s premier international maritime exercise, bringing together navies and air forces from the Asian, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to test integration and warfighting abilities. It will return to Darwin in 2018.
Manoeuvres reaffirm links with neighbours

**LSIS Jayson Tufrey and LEUT Nicholas Robinson**

HMA Ships Glenelg and Albany enjoyed some in-company time with our closest Commonwealth neighbours in the Arafura Sea as part of Exercise Kakadu.

Her Majesty’s Papua New Guinean ships Seeadler and Moresby are Pacific-class patrol boats based at PNG’s naval base on Manus Island. They conducted officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres (OOWMANS), engineering casualty control drills (ECCDS), man overboard exercises (MOBEX) and gunnery serials with the Australian warships.

CO Moresby LEUT Collen Yaperth said he had participated in many Kakadu exercises in the past.

“We get a lot out of these biennial exercises. We get to develop our seaman officer skills, and have a better understanding of fleet work and tactical manoeuvres,” he said.

“There is always the possibility we will be called upon to work with the Australian Navy for any number of reasons, so it is great to know we can integrate should we need to.

“Most of our officer training is done in Australia so many of our procedures are the same.”

LEUT Yaperth said working in company with the international fleet at Kakadu presented many challenges and was at the same time rewarding.

CO HMPNGS Moresby LEUT Collen Yaperth chats with STG’s CPOB Paul Norton aboard Moresby.

“We have to ensure we are in the right place at the right time and following the correct procedures,” he said.

“As the CO it presents a fantastic training opportunity for the younger officers coming up through the ranks – it is also rewarding to see the increase in your crew’s skill level as you progress.

“My highlight has been participating in OOWMANS with six or more ships in company. That is not something we get to do every day.”

**Sea Training Group (STG)** traditionally are utilised to work crews up to an operational standard. They participate in exercises such as Kakadu by embarking in foreign vessels to ensure serials run smoothly, and as overall safety observers.

CPOB Paul Norton, of fleet gunnery and seamanship, said STG’s role was to train, coach and mentor.

“We’re on board to alleviate any communications issues that may arise from misinterpretation of tactical orders. We also make sure there are no safety breaches,” he said.

“During this year’s Kakadu I have been embarked on the boats from PNG and it is impressive to see the professionalism these guys have.

“A lot of their procedures are almost identical to ours and some, such as steering gear failures, are quite different and interesting to see.”

CO HMAS Albany LCDR Carl Jordan said he was looking forward to building on the professional and personal relationships his ship has already established.

“As the exercise evolves, we have been really impressed by the professionalism and capability of our partners,” he said.

LCDR Jordan underscored the importance of taking the opportunity to engage with visiting nations.

“We are here to support the training outcomes of the multinational task group and to share knowledge and experiences with our regional partners to achieve their objectives,” he said.

**ABBM Sarah Anderson conducts a surface shoot with the 12.7mm Browning machine gun on board HMAS Glenelg.**
TWO Midshipmen, one from Australia and the other from Papua New Guinea, discovered they had a lot in common during Exercise Kakadu.

MIDN Thomas Icke, of HMAS Albany and MIDN Kosbi Koyati, of HMPNGS Moresby have both undertaken training at HMAS Creswell and the pair share mutual friends.

The meeting of two navies saw discussions around training, ships and routines, as well as cultural exchanges that will forge relationships well into the future.

Currently completing training in an Armidale-class patrol boat, MIDN Icke said visiting the PNG Pacific patrol boat was a highlight of Kakadu.

“This experience has been fantastic and the PNG crew are professional and a lot of fun,” MIDN Icke said.

“It’s interesting to see how different some aspects of seamanship can be and how many things are exactly the same.

“I guess that is a product of the training we share with Papua New Guinea.”

MIDN Icke said it was great meeting MIDN Koyati.

“We have so many friends in common, bridging the gap was immediate,” MIDN Icke said.

“I found it easy to relate as we have similar naval backgrounds with the training at Creswell.”

MIDN Koyati, who has been in the PNG Navy for nearly two years, said he always enjoyed his time in Australia on courses and exercises.

“After Exercise Kakadu, I’m looking forward to getting back to Australia to complete more training,” MIDN Koyati said.

“I love learning about Australian culture and this cross-deck experience reminds me I can’t wait to get back.”

Since posting to HMAS Albany, MIDN Icke has participated in Exercise Singaroo and undertaken Operation Resolute patrols to Christmas and Ashmore Islands.

“During Singaroo, I was fortunate enough to tour a Singaporean missile corvette. I was able to see Albany conduct her officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres from the other side, which was exciting to see,” MIDN Icke said.

“I’ve loved my time on patrol boats and have another four weeks with Albany before I post to HMAS Darwin for three months, where I will not only get to experience life on a frigate but learn about warfare.

“After that, I’m aspiring to become a submariner by 2018. After experiencing the sub familiarisation course last year I decided that is where I want to be.”

It’s interesting to see how different some aspects of seamanship can be and how many things are exactly the same.

— MIDN Thomas Icke, of HMAS Albany
International cooperation

Workshop demonstrates incorporation of gender perspectives

During the harbour phase of Exercise Kakadu, Australia’s Gender Adviser LCDR Donna Sill hosted a Gender Perspectives in Maritime Operations workshop with international partners, to develop case studies and discuss gender issues that arise in maritime operations. The workshop was designed to demonstrate the existing incorporation of gender perspectives across the spectrum of maritime operations, and to highlight particular areas of improvement for the planning and conduct of future Australian maritime exercises and operations.

LCDR Sill said the workshop was an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with our regional partners. “We already consider gender perspectives in maritime operations, but quite often it is ad hoc and reactive,” she said. “The case studies we’ve explored from across the participating nations have been an excellent opportunity to highlight issues commonly faced by navies across the Asia-Pacific.

“Whether Australian or Japanese, all fought with the faith their country would win the war. I hope Japanese-Australian relations will flourish in the years to come and I offer my respects to all those who sacrificed their lives. May their spirits rest in peace forever.”

Japan lost 80 crew members in submarine I-124 when it was sunk by Australian warship HMAS Deloraine just 40 nautical miles off the Darwin coast on January 20 1942.

On February 19 1942, Japan began a series of air raids on Darwin and northern Australia. From the first raid to the last on November 12 1943, Australia and its allies lost about 900 lives, 77 aircraft and several ships. The Japanese lost 131 aircraft.

Mr Elix said services are important to heal the wounds of the past.

“The commemoration was very moving and I am pleased that both nations can come together to remember the fallen,” he said.

“I think it is an important part of moving forward. It is part of our history, it is part of their history and we will learn from the past to build a better and enduring relationship.”

CMDR Navin said the service was a reminder of how far Australian and Japanese relations had come since the end of the war.

“The ceremony reminds people what the Second World War brought to Darwin and how relations between the two countries have developed,” CMDR Navin said.

Darwin Returned and Services League representative Rod Cook also attended the service, which he described as touching and inclusive.

“I appreciate the way Japan is so respectful for our dead. We can remember the war with mutual respect and condolence,” Mr Cook said.

“The RSL will be wherever there is a service to respect our fallen.”

Fuyuzuki and her crew of 190 were in Darwin to participate in Exercise Kakadu, the Australian premier maritime exercise.

Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes

Kakadu Gender Adviser LCDR Donna Sill with Indonesian Navy Ensign Kevin Syaifullah at an information session on Gender Perspectives in Maritime Operations. Photo: LSIS Tom Gibson

FLLT Tritia Evans

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“By deliberately incorporating the principles of the United Nations Resolution on Women in Peace and Security into the planning and conduct of our maritime tasks, we will increase our operational effectiveness.”

Indonesian Navy Ensign Kevin Syaifullah joined the workshop to provide insights into how Indonesia handles gender issues that present themselves at sea.

“It’s important to understand how vulnerable people are disproportionally affected by human trafficking,” Ensign Kevin Syaifullah said.

“During boarding operations, we separate victims from agents of human trafficking, and men and women, for the protection of the vulnerable groups.”

LEUT Todd Fitzgerald

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force and the RAN held a memorial service during the harbour phase of Exercise Kakadu to commemorate the lives lost in Darwin by both sides during WWII.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony, which was held in Darwin Harbour on the flight deck of Japanese Ship Fuyuzuki.

Darwin deputy mayor Bob Elix and CO HMAS Coonawarra CMDR John Navin joined CO JS Fuyuzuki CMDR Kuniaki Orto to lay wreaths in memory of the fallen.

CMDR Orto spoke to the gathering saying Japan has deep respect for both sides of the conflict.

“Whether Australian or Japanese, all fought with the faith their country would win the war. I hope Japanese-Australian relations will flourish in the years to come and I offer my respects to all those who sacrificed their lives. May their spirits rest in peace forever.”

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Fuyuzuki and her crew of 190 were in Darwin to participate in Exercise Kakadu, the Australian premier maritime exercise.

CO JS Fuyuzuki CMDR Kuniaki Orto and CO HMAS Coonawarra CMDR John Navin lay a wreath during the memorial service on board Japanese navy ship JS Fuyuzuki during Exercise Kakadu.

Photo: A3IS Kajla Hayes

Workshop demonstrates incorporation of gender perspectives
and respect

INTERNATIONAL observers made time during Exercise Kakadu to appreciate Australia’s military and cultural history, touring the Darwin Military Museum and WWII oil storage tunnels.

The observers from India, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea discovered memorabilia including artillery pieces, vehicles, uniforms, models and paintings in the exhibitions on the 1942 bombing of Darwin, WWI and the Vietnam War.

They found the Bombing of Darwin re-enactment a stirring and exceptional experience, recreating the time Australia was brought to the forefront of the WWII conflict.

And they learned the Japanese aircraft carrier-borne forces that attacked Darwin on February 19, 1942 were the same forces that attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, dropping more bombs on Darwin than they did on Pearl Harbor.

Indian Navy CMDR Dinesh Singh Rana said he enjoyed the experience.

“Our visit to the Second World War heritage sites was educational and clearly depicted the grit and resolve of the Australian people in standing up to the imperial designs,” he said.

“The tour gave them an opportunity for greater international engagement and a more broad appreciation of Australia’s military history,” she said.

“This included the impact of military operations in Darwin.”

The International Observer Program was designed to build relations among participants and to share experiences around the planning and conduct of military exercises.

Nations participating in the 13th iteration of the exercise included Canada, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and the United States. Working alongside RAN and RAAF assets were observers from Fiji, India, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vietnam.

What They Said

“I was impressed by the professionalism of the Australian military and the dedication to preserving Australia’s history. The crews were exceptional in their cooperation and respect for the historical sites and events.”

– CMDR Tepparit Kamler, Royal Thai Navy

“The Australian Navy is very professional and a pleasure to work with.”

– COL Rahman Nazi, Royal Malaysian Army

“The fleet looked fantastic in full formation during the major in-company serial.”

– CMDR Mark Chadwick, Royal New Zealand Navy

“Kakadu is a good opportunity for other navies to learn how each other operates together in an exercise environment.”

– LCDR Hoang Anh, Vietnam People’s Navy
ON the hot and humid sports fields of Defence Establishment Berrimah, Northern Territory, 300 military personnel from eight countries battled for the honour of the Kakadu Shield at the Exercise Kakadu All Ranks Sports Day.

Navy’s Fleet Sports Officer and event organiser CPOPTI Stuart Rowe, said it was more than just having fun.

“At sea and in the air, you are constantly tested and you have to learn how to bounce back and play on.”

Another goal for the day was to encourage social interaction and develop esprit de corps between sportsmen and women from the participating nations.

“Sports days are a great way to progress the multinational force integration in a relaxed environment, with goodwill on both sides, before the ships set to sea and conduct war fighting scenarios,” CPO Rowe said.

The sports were chosen to be inclusive of the counties visiting for Exercise Kakadu, including futsal and softball (Japan, Singapore and Malaysia); beach volleyball (United States and Canada); and touch football, giving the host nation a hometown advantage.

As winners of the round robin competition, the team from the HMAS Newcastle Task Group took the shield to sea for the first time.

“At sea and in the air, you are constantly tested and you have to learn how to bounce back and play on.”

Crew members from HMAS Newcastle cook a BBQ lunch for the servicemen and women participating in the Exercise Kakadu Sports Day held at Defence Establishment Berrima.

HMAS Coonawarra crew and Japanese sailors challenge each other with a game of touch football.

Crew members from HMAS Newcastle cook a BBQ lunch for the servicemen and women participating in the Exercise Kakadu Sports Day held at Defence Establishment Berrima.

Right: Personal trainer SGT James Hood refrees a game of touch football.
TOP-END
WAR FIGHT

EXERCISE KAKADU
A special 12-page lift-out

ABBM Matthew Barton and SMNBM Charlie Quinn prepare the .50 calibre machine gun on board HMAS Warramunga during Exercise Kakadu. Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes

Operation Render Safe – Centre
Domestic violence strategy – P3
A star for a star

LEUT Adam Grover

NAVY Headquarters – Tasmania’s CO CMDR Lewis Gaha is an exemplar of personal character and professional commitment.

In a formal ceremony in the exquisite setting of Tasmania’s Government House in Hobart, CMDR Gaha has been awarded the Federation Star by the Governor of Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner. The Federation Star recognises CMDR Gaha’s 40 years of service to the Navy and to the nation. Reflecting on his service CMDR Gaha said he had experienced many periods of rapid change in Navy. “When I joined in 1975 as a general entry recruit Navy was still recovering from the Vietnam War experience, had a comparatively old fleet, and had a strongly male-dominated culture,” he said.

“Today Navy has a rich and diverse culture of inclusion, a growing, highly capable fleet and superb opportunities for its people, who are sophisticated, professional and focused.

“Given this, it is no coincidence that we are able to maintain our recruiting targets as we are an employer of choice,” CMDR Gaha said.

His career has had a number of notable highlights including the role of Navy Reserve Career Manager, Director of Navy Ministerial Coordination, and Director of Navy Reputation Management.

His role in Baghdad, working as the Elections Liaison Officer embedded in the Multinational Force Iraq is particularly memorable. “Working with, and learning from coalition partners in a demanding and complex environment and being able to deliver solutions in Iraq to help those on the ground was rewarding,” CMDR Gaha said.

His personal and professional commitment to achieving the very best for Navy and its people is the defining characteristic of CMDR Gaha’s service.

“My approach has always been to deal with people with integrity and honesty. For me it’s always been about serving others, most particularly by ensuring that I understand their needs and by doing everything I reasonably can to assist in others reaching their goals,” he said.

“I’m looking forward to my remaining time as Senior Naval Officer Tasmania.

“I work with a small group of talented, flexible and optimistic staff, with a real ‘can-do’ attitude.

“I would like to think that this is, in part, a reflection of my leadership style.”

Submarine conference shares ideas

Andrew Bujdegan

THE RAN has hosted the 16th iteration of the Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference discussing submarine survivability, escape and interoperability of rescue assets.

The conference was conducted at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle from September 19-21, with 53 representatives from 21 nations and agencies in attendance.

Established by Commander, Submarine Force, United States Pacific Fleet in the wake of the 2000 Kursk disaster, the annual forum is hosted on a rotational basis by selected submarine-capable nations.

Bringing together regional submarine operators, as well as other navies, the forum helps to foster mutual understanding and cooperation, offering an important knowledge-exchange platform for all participants.

The three-day event was chaired by the Australian Director General Submarines CDRE Peter Scott, and officially opened by Head Navy Capability RADM Jonathan Mead.

“We are all here, bound and glued by a common cause – the safety of our sailors at sea,” RADM Mead said.

“We take this opportunity to come here, cross-pollinate ideas, learn from each other and essentially reduce the risk for our people.

The format of the conference allows for each represented nation to give a presentation, highlighting achievements and progress in the field of submarine escape and rescue, as well as to have frank discussions on the topic in a less formal environment.

This year the conference was preceded by Exercise Black Carillon, Navy’s annual submarine escape exercise. This was completed the week before with some of the foreign observers who attended Black Carillon also attending the conference.

Australia last hosted the Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference in 2004.
CN launches Family and Domestic Violence Strategy

Mission: protect families

THE Australian defence industry has welcomed Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne’s announcement that Lockheed Martin has been selected as the program Combat System Integrator for the Australian Future Submarine Program.

Australian Made Defence spokesperson Kerryn Smith said awarding of the contract was a significant step forward in the program and would boost opportunities for local industry.

“Lockheed Martin will partner with Australian industry to deliver and support the Combat System Integration, which will be significant for Australia’s defence industry supply chain,” she said.

“This program will ensure many businesses can reinvest in themselves and make industry more competitive, ahead of other major Defence projects to come.”

“Combat systems are the cornerstone of submarine operations, and it is critical that our submarines have the most capable and up-to-date technology available to them.

“The awarding of this contract showcases the capabilities of Australian companies in participating and collaborating on crucial projects”.

Mr Pyne has also announced a three-year extension to the Global Supply Chain Program, further bolstering opportunities for local industry.

“The Global Supply Chain program supported by the Prime Defence Contractors here in Australia has been enormously successful and has provided access to export markets and global supply chains for Australia’s defence industry, particularly our SMEs,” Ms Smith said.

“It is also encouraging that the announcement was handed down in Thales’ Bendigo facility, highlighting the importance of regional communities in Australia’s future economic prosperity, which will be boosted through this and future defence programs, such as Land 400.

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Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne.
Security in paradise

**Missiles represent new era**

The first upgraded standard missile (SM-2) has been produced for use in Hobart-class destroyers.

The Missile materiel Branch of Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group has delivered the first SM-2 in a canister for use in a Vertical Launching System (VLS) to Navy.

The production of the first SM-2 All-Up Round marks the culmination of years planning and dedicated work by multiple stakeholders within Defence and represents the introduction of a significant capability investment into Navy.

The SM-2 is an air-defence missile, used to defend ships from attack by anti-ship missiles and aircraft and can be used against surface vessels.

It was introduced into Navy in 2009 in the Adelaide-class Frigates (FFGs) to replace the obsolete SM-1.

In the FFG, SM-2 is stored inside the Mk13 Guided Missile Launching System magazine. Navy’s new Guided Missile Destroyers (DDG) will use the Mk41 VLS, where each missile is stored vertically in its own canister until launched.

The existing stock of SM-2 missiles will be converted from rail launch to vertical launch configuration to be used in the DDG.

All SM-2 maintenance is conducted at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills, where missiles are tested using the Guided Missile Test Stand to verify their performance and effectiveness.

The development of international friendships was a highlight for Leadership in the campaign, with cultural links between PNG and Australia and Papua New Guinean navies to work together in maritime security is stronger than ever following the conclusion of Exercise Paradise.

The ability of the Royal Australian and Papua New Guinean navies to work together in maritime security is stronger than ever following the conclusion of Exercise Paradise.

The exercise is the RAN’s primary bilateral maritime engagement activity with the PNG Defence Force Maritime Element.

This year it involved Armidale-class patrol boat HMAS Wollongong from Australia and Pacific-class patrol boats HMPNGS Seeadler from PNG. At the closing ceremony, representatives from both countries highlighted the strong historical, geographical and cultural links between PNG and Australia and pledged their ongoing support for each other.

LSBM James Pryor said the Wollongong crew performed professionally during the week-long exercise.

“We remained focused and motivated on delivering the required outcomes and supporting the local forces,” he said. “I am incredibly proud of the conduct and effort shown by all personnel across.”

It was the first international exercise for SBLT Daniel O’Neill, who joined Wollongong as part of Maritime Warfare Officer training.

“Wollongong command team allowed me the opportunity to take charge during multi-ship Officer-of-the-Watch manoeuvres, close-in station keeping, and harbour patrolling,” he said. “The experience and knowledge I gained during Exercise Paradise will benefit me significantly as I continue my training.”

A Maritime Warfare Officer is responsible for the control and safety of ships at sea and alongside.

The development of international friendships was a highlight for LSMT Stuart Macfarlane.

“I was able to visit HMPNGS Seeadler and provide engineering support,” he received a local carving from the Second Engineer in return,” he said.

On return to Australia, Wollongong will continue to support border protection activities and to police illegal fishing.

LEUT Mark Doggett

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Veterans’ film festival at AWM

THERE second annual Veterans’ Film Festival (VFF) returns to Canberra with a three-day program on October 13, 14 and 15 at the Australian War Memorial. The film festival is a not-for-profit event designed to promote a greater understanding of veterans, their families and the impact war has on society.

This year’s festival will kick-off with Afghan war epic Hyena Road, a Canadian drama written, directed and starring Paul Gross and Rossif Sutherland, the son of legendary actor Donald Sutherland.

The screenings include dramas, comedy, animation and science fiction in feature-length, short film and documentary form.

Submissions are selected from independent and emerging filmmakers, featuring talent from 13 countries including Australia, Serbia, the UK, Germany and Iran.

The stories explore diverse perspectives, outcomes and influences relating to veterans’ lives and issues.

The Red Poppy Awards in 2016 represent the high point of the festival program. Hand-blown glass trophies will be awarded to four film categories: Best Australian Feature Film, Best International Feature Film, Best Australian Short Film and Best International Short Film.

For further information and to order tickets, visit www.veteransfilmfestival.com

MINEHUNTER HMAS Yarra has visited one of the world’s youngest nations, Timor-Leste, as part of her South-East Asian deployment en route to Exercise Bersama Lima.

The visit provided an opportunity for not only respite and friendship-building, but also working to enhance military capability.

Yarra’s leadership group met with some of the senior defense members in Dili, including the Senior Naval Adviser and Defence Attaché to share insights with the Timor-Leste military officers residing in Dili.

The Australian ship also provided tours while alongside, hosting military members, Australian and East Timorese officials, and students from the local international school representing more than 15 countries.

SBLT Kylea Jones, a phase III MWO trainee who has recently been recommended to attend fleet board, headed the team conducting the tours of Yarra.

“The enthusiasm shown by the East Timorese sailors and officers who attended was impressive, they were eager to learn about how we run things daily here on Yarra,” she said.

While the ship tours were being conducted the clearance divers took advantage of an opportunity to train, advise and assist the Timor-Leste dive team.

The ship’s embarked dive team demonstrated basic dive techniques and safety procedures culminating in teaching emergency responses and first aid.

A great experience working with the East Timorese Navy,” he said.

“They were very appreciative of what we had to offer in terms of training and we were glad when they reciprocated by showing us one of the most stunning dives I’ve ever been on.”

ABCD Dominic Blond was another of the Australian team sharing his knowledge.

“I feel we have created an important ongoing and productive relationship with the dive branch of our close neighbour, one that I hope to be involved in further,” he said.

Yarra plays host to a curious crew of East Timorese sailors and officers en route to Exercise Bersama Lima.
HMAS Perth is conducting counter-terrorism operations in the Indian Ocean region, under the command of Combined Task Force 150. In this region, narcotics smuggling has a global impact, but one small multinational agency located in the Seychelles, the National Drug Enforcement Agency (NDEA), is making a stand.

During Perth’s visit to the islands, two RAN officers, LEUTs Tim Russell-Cook and Richard Morris, conducted a goodwill visit to the Maritime Element of the NDEA. The visit included tours of NDEA facilities and seized vessels, and provided excellent insights into the complexities of narcotic trafficking across the Indian Ocean.

The visit also provided the officers with a new-found appreciation of the impact that the black market drugs trade has on small island communities.

The Seychelles authorities have had a positive impact on regional maritime security operations in the Indian Ocean. They play a prominent role in countering maritime piracy and are now making significant progress towards law enforcement-led successes against drug traffickers.

In April, the NDEA seized a dhow transiting through its waters carrying 98 kilograms of heroin. LEUTs Russell-Cook and Morris were offered a tour of the seized dhow and were impressed with NDEA capabilities.

“The NDEA has achieved a lot, especially when you consider the huge island archipelago it has to patrol,” LEUT Russell-Cook said.

To reciprocate, the officers invited agents for a tour of HMAS Perth, which included an informal brief on the challenges of counter-narcotics operations in the Indian Ocean region.

CO HMAS Perth, CAPT Ivan Ingham, with the ship’s youngest member, SMNBM Bridgette Hopkins and oldest member POML-C Renato Franz on Perth’s 10th Birthday.

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Asia-Pacific navies in warfare law debate

AUSTRALIAN representatives were among 37 senior naval officers from around the Asia-Pacific to participate in the third Asia Pacific Workshop on the Law of Armed Conflict at Sea, held in Surabaya, Indonesia.

The Indonesian Navy, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), hosted navy officers from 22 nations last month to debate the law of naval warfare.

ICRC’s regional delegation head for Indonesia and Timor-Leste Christoph Sutter said the aim of the five-day event was to facilitate operational dialogue on maritime security issues, especially on the laws of naval warfare.

“Maritime and territorial disputes feature prominently in the Asia-Pacific region,” Mr Sutter said.

“If tensions continue to rise, there could be an increasing risk of clashes at sea in a region which has the world’s busiest maritime trade route.

“Naval forces in the region are already routinely involved in a range of maritime operations.

“Through such events, the ICRC is seeking to share with the participating countries its expertise on laws of naval warfare and stimulate exchanges on its applicability in the region.”

The workshop also covered other maritime security operations, which are below the threshold of armed conflict, such as anti-piracy, rescue, and movement of people at sea.

“This is a rare opportunity to exchange our ideas so that we acquire a better knowledge and understanding of those particular issues,” Chief of the Indonesian Navy ADML Ade Supandi said.

“It will also allow us to identify the challenges and opportunities of cooperation in our region, especially in what relates to the application of the laws of armed conflict.”

The workshop gathered naval officers from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, South Korea, North Korea, India, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United States of America and Vietnam.

The sessions were facilitated by military experts from Indonesia, United Kingdom and Australia, as well as ICRC armed forces delegates and law-of-the-sea specialists.

Ballarat’s warm welcome

LEUT Gary McHugh

FAMILIES, friends and well-wishers lined the wharf at Fleet Base West recently as HMAS Ballarat returned home from a six-month Pacific deployment.

After steaming more than 24,000 nautical miles, the officers and crew of Ballarat were more than happy to be home and justifiably proud of their achievements over the past 25 weeks.

CO Ballarat CMDR David Landon said the deployment had a number of highlights, including acting as consort to one of Navy’s newest ships HMAS Adelaide during her work-up, and taking part in Exercise Nanchi Gou Trident with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force.

“But the real highlight was participating in Exercise Rimpac off Hawaii,” he said.

During Rimpac, Ballarat joined more than 40 ships and submarines, and 200 aircraft from 26 countries in the world’s largest international maritime exercise.

Following Rimpac, and before returning to Australia, Ballarat took part in Exercise Northern Shield, which saw all three arms of the ADF deploy to remote North Western Australia to counter a fictitious threat to the country’s national security.

The exercise incorporated force preparation activities, land force manoeuvres, air operations and maritime evolutions.

This was Ballarat’s first deployment since she underwent the Anti-Ship Missile Defence upgrade in 2014/15, and CMDR Landon said his crew performed admirably during the entire six months.

He said family support had a lot to do with the ship’s company being able to keep their minds on the job for such an extended period of time.

“The support of family and friends makes a deployment like ours possible,” CMDR Landon said.

“The Ballarat families have been exceptional in their support throughout our time away, and to have them share in our homecoming was very special.”

Ballarat will now head into a short maintenance period, giving the ship’s company a chance to take leave and undertake various courses before preparing for a busy 2017.

Crew members of HMAS Ballarat search for familiar faces among family and friends on the wharf.

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Daniel Healey gets a hug from daughter Natasha as partner Chiarina Hill wipes away a tear.
Navy medics stand out

Medical officers LCDR Anthony Dilley, left, and CMDRs Janine Gregson, Anthony Holley and Ian Young.

CPL Max Bree

STANDING out in the sea of khaki as part of the Army’s 7 Brigade welcome home parade in Brisbane was CMDR Janine Gregson and three other Navy medical officers.

“It’s kind of handy that we stick out because I can find the rest of them, but it’s also good to show our triservice approach here,” she said.

A pair of Bushmaster vehicles led the way through the city ahead of about 1000 ADF members as part of the parade on September 17, honouring those recently returned from the Middle East.

Brisbane locals, along with family and friends, lined the city streets for the official welcome home by Defence Minister Marise Payne and Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey.

7 Brigade recently stood down as Army’s ready brigade, but not before a large number of its soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East.

But this wouldn’t have been possible without the help of families, according to COL Galton.

“We join up, we’re trained for what we do, and trained to go and deploy,” he said.

“Families don’t sign up to the military – they inherit it – and the support we get from families is what keeps us going overseas,” COL Gregson is no stranger to working with Army, having also deployed to East Timor, Solomon Islands and Afghanistan.

“I actually enjoy deploying with the Army units,” she said. “I’ve probably done more Army deployments than Navy ones.

“They also have a can-do attitude that I really like, and it’s great being part of the military culture.”

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**Maximising Reserves**

**MAJ Kathryn Ames**

DIVERSITY, service conditions, and integrating Reserve expertise to deliver capability were some of the key discussion points at this year’s Defence Reserves Association (DRA) conference, held recently in Brisbane.

CA LTGEN Angus Campbell, Director General Australian Navy Cadets and Reserves CDRE Bruce Kafer, and Director General Reserves - Airforce AIRCDRE Bob Rodgers provided updates on how the three services intend to maximise Reserve forces as part of an integrated force as new service categories were implemented Defence-wide.

LTGEN Campbell acknowledged the importance of the Reserve, saying a well-trained Reserve force was critical to Defence capability.

“We quite simply can’t sustain a prolonged presence without the Reserves. A strong Reserve force is vital,” he said.

CA reinforced the need for diversity and flexibility, something for which, he said, the Reserves was already acknowledged. Government representative Stuart Cotton and Shadow Defence Minister Richard Marles demonstrated the bipartisan approach to Defence matters by engaging in an open panel, and acknowledged complexities of debating Reserve conditions, such as taxation and superannuation. “There is no easy answer, but government is ready to listen to different options,” Mr Robert said.

“The Reserve community, represented by organisations such as the DRA, needs to come to some form of agreement, but to date that agreement has been hard to come by. This represents how complex some of the issues are, particularly when growing a diverse organisation.”

Conference organiser Queensland DRA President COL Jenny Cotton said she was pleased to see so many serving members from Army Reserve units attend the conference.

“The conference provides a rare opportunity to hear directly from senior officers about what is happening across the three services that directly impacts their Reserve service,” COL Cotton said.

“Having informed representatives from parliament, who were able to provide an update on matters impacting Reserve service, was a bonus.”

“We also hosted seven members of the Thai Territorial Defence Reserve Force Association, led by COL Phillips Sucholchaikul, which provided a great opportunity to learn from one another.”

More information about the DRA can be found at www.dra.org.au. Membership is open to individuals and organisations with an interest in Defence.

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**Competition keeps sailors fit to fight**

**LEUT Fitzgerald**

HMAS Kuttabul is driving a team sport and physical fitness focus with the introduction of dragon boating, gladiator games, sea kayaking and lunch-time fitness classes at the Sydney Navy base.

The push to reinvigorate participation levels was aimed at securing a ready resource of resilient, fit-to-fight crew for the fleet, according to National Sport and Recreation Manager LEUT Ian Rushston.

He said he had created the new fitness program in consultation with Navy physical training instructors to cater for all capability levels and interests to improve teamwork skills.

“With the response from Navy personnel has been extremely positive and a sound base line has been established,” LEUT Rushton said.

“We are now transitioning into Fit to Fight - Fleet Resilience Plan with more challenging activities that positively contribute to teamwork and resilience.”

LEUT Rushton said he “would not take the foot off the pedal” when it came to motivating more Navy personnel to improve their fitness.

He said more demanding activities would develop and improve individual resilience and confidence.

“We have moved ahead in a positive direction but there is still plenty of room for expansion with these activities,” he said.

“The key is to undertake challenging activities on our doorstep to alleviate travel time and to ensure the assets we hold, such as the dragon boats and kayaks, are used to their full potential.”

The Gladiator Games were held at Fleet Base East Gym on September 21.

Sea kayaking occurs every Wednesday, cycling each Friday from 8.30am to 11.30am and dragon boating is conducted each Tuesday and Thursday from 7.30am to 8.30am at Garden Island boat pound.

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Kuttabul under new command

Natalie Staples

TWENTY months after posting in, CMDR Rebecca Jeffcoat has handed over command of HMAS Kuttabul to CMDR Andrew Fraser. More than 100 personnel lined the quarterdeck to see the transition.

“HMAS Kuttabul now holds a very special place in my heart; she is complex with multiple personalities. She is old and needs much care, but with such a great team working here each day she provides an incredible capability to the Navy. I am honoured to now form part of her history,” CMDR Jeffcoat said.

“It’s been an incredible privilege to have had command of such a knowledgeable, professional, and impressive group of people.”

CMDR Andrew Fraser brings a wealth of experience to the role both at sea and ashore. He served as XO HMAS Tobruk and has worked in New Generation Navy and Navy Continuous Improvement reform programs.

Most recently CMDR Fraser completed postings as Deputy Director Individual Training, and Staff Officer One Mine Clearance Diving Platforms.

In his address to Kuttabul ship’s company, CMDR Fraser thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

“Kuttabul is key to supporting the fleet and that role cannot be understated. I was impressed by the changes around the base that have been ongoing for some time,” CMDR Fraser said.

“I was afforded a warm welcome and received a positive vibe from all those that I have met this week. That reflects well on CMDR Jeffcoat and her command team. I wish her the best for her new posting in Canberra and hope that she keeps Kuttabul close to her heart.”

CMRD Rebecca Jeffcoat hands over the weight of command of HMAS Kuttabul to CMDR Andrew Fraser at a ceremony on HMAS Kuttabul’s quarterdeck.
REMOVING REMNANTS OF WAR

More than 70 years after WWII drew to a close, Navy Clearance Divers are helping to clean up the hazardous munitions that still remain, MAJ Cameron Jamieson reports.

In the Solomon Islands, you can’t walk too far without hitting a 105mm artillery shell, and clusters of mortar rounds still pierce the atmosphere. In the bush, theユニット フレームでなく、通常の移動方式を使用するシーンを模倣。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。コンフューターエンジンを搭載する車両を用いることで、従来の移動手段を超越した効率的で効果的な移動が実現できる。
DEFENCE is bringing a new food processing technology, microwave assisted thermal sterilisation (MATS), to Australia.

This technology rapidly processes meals in sealed food trays to better preserve the tastes, textures and nutrition in the form of a ready meal that does not require refrigeration.

While Defence does not currently have an established requirement for MATS products, Defence scientist Ross Coad said the establishment of an industry base for MATS foods would open opportunities for improvements to military feeding systems.

“The potential for microwave technology has been known for decades. In the 1960s, a Swedish scientist invented and built a commercial system in which food was sterilised by a combination of microwave energy, pressurised hot water and steam,” Mr Coad said.

“The microwaves in this system had a frequency of 2450 MHz, the same as that used in the common household microwave oven. "Although capable of producing sterilised foods, the technology had technical shortcomings and ceased production.”

In response to the need to improve the quality of military meals, a development program on microwave food processing was started at Washington State University (WSU) in 1997.

An important improvement was changing the microwave frequency to 915 MHz. In Australia, 922 MHz will be used so the equipment operates in the industrial, scientific and medical bandwidth - not in mobile phone frequencies. MATS was patented in 2006 and is now licensed and manufactured by American company 915 Labs.

Centre for Food Innovation director Prof Roger Stanley said the system operates as a continuous process with sealed trays of food, weighing up to 2kg, being moved on a conveyor through pressurised heating and cooling zones to kill all microbial contamination in a process which takes about 10 minutes.

“The 922 MHz microwave energy can penetrate about twice as far as the domestic microwave, enabling effective heating of the centre of the food,” Prof Stanley said.

“With good packaging the meals can be designed to maintain their quality for more than two years without refrigeration.”

Defence organisations have a long history of providing the momentum for key advancements in many fields of endeavour; food and nutrition is no exception. The MATS project at WSU was supported by US Army Soldier Systems in Natick, Massachusetts, along with a consortium of food and packaging industry partners.

“The first Australian MATS plant will be on a research scale, and is expected to arrive at the Defence Science and Technology Group site in Scottsdale, Tasmania in 2017,” Defence scientist Dr Lan Bui said.

“A small, production scale, MATS plant will follow approximately 12 months later for installation at a Launceston, Tasmania site.

“A research program is being developed by the Centre for Food Innovation – a body comprising the Defence Science and Technology Group, CSIRO and University of Tasmania – to support the Australian MATS project and transition research outcomes to industry”

Prof Stanley said successful introduction of the MATS to Australia will hinge on government funding through Defence, together with strong interest and support from industry.

He said there would be a significant learning curve, supported by research and training, to develop the knowledge and skills to safely exploit the improvements in meal quality.

“This will include optimisation of formulation, processing, flavour, texture and validation of food safety, nutritional value and consumer acceptability,” he said.

“The potential benefits to the Australian food industry are considerable, including opening up both domestic and export markets for higher quality, ‘heat and eat’ style food products.

“It has potential for a wide range of military applications, including use in rations packs, field catering, and voyage extension for submarines and patrol boats.

“Defence opportunities will be investigated over the coming years as the industry production base develops and Australian products and application opportunities emerge.”
CADETS have enjoyed an ‘at-sea’ experience with Hydrographic Survey Red Crew embarked in HMAS Leeuwin.

Leeuwin deployed from Cairns on September 5 to undertake a 10-week survey task off Western Australia’s North West Shelf.

When Leeuwin sailed from Cairns for trials, the ship’s company took the opportunity to embark cadets from Training Ship Endeavour, located in Cairns, the majority of whom had never been to sea on a RAN vessel.

Every Navy ship is twinned with a Navy Cadet Unit within Australia to enable a rapport to be developed between the cadets and the crew, and to encourage cadets to gain an understanding of Navy life.

Leeuwin is twinned with Training Ships Ganning, Marimon, Morrow, Perth and Pilbara, all of which are quite a distance from Leeuwin’s home port.

Fourteen cadets and two staff members from TS Endeavour embarked in Leeuwin to experience a day at sea.

XO TS Endeavour SBLT Lesa Jarvis said in her time at the unit they had undertaken many ship tours.

“This is the first opportunity for the cadets to have a sea ride,” SBLT Jarvis said.

On arrival, the cadets were greeted by CO CMDR Nic Zillman, and then participated in a Colours ceremony on the quarterdeck.

The cadets were escorted by two members of the ship’s company who were former cadets.

Throughout the day the cadets participated in a variety of activities including observing the ship depart from HMAS Cairns, dressing in thermal protective suits and using firefighting equipment.

The visitors watched as the ship’s company responded to a simulated fire, recovered a Survey Motor Boat and received briefings on the various pieces of hydrographic equipment.

The day was topped off with a scrumptious meal served by the Navy chefs.

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IT WAS up, up and away for the EC135 helicopter, the latest aircraft to be acquired by the RAN and Australian Army as part of the new Helicopter Aircrew Training System (HATS).

The first aircraft lifted off from HMAS Albatross on September 22 with the first tranche of flying instructors from the Navy, Army and Boeing Defence Australia.

The modern twin-engine helicopter will provide a generational change in training to what both Army and Navy have been able to achieve with existing training systems.

Senior Army Instructor MAJ Anton Leshinskas said it was exciting to be part of the team to have commenced flying operations.

“The EC135 is a great aircraft to fly and it is exciting to be part of the initial team of instructors getting this training system off the ground,” MAJ Leshinskas said.

“We are now on the path to realising an excellent training capability for both the Navy and Army.”

EC135 helicopters will provide the Live Training Environment as part of the new system being delivered under Joint Project 9000 Phase 7 by both Boeing Defence Australia and Thales Australia.

HATS Pilot Instructor LCDR Tony Hammond said the aircraft would deliver state-of-the-art, contemporary training to Navy.

“The array of systems embedded in the new EC135 means that we are going to be able to much better prepare aircrew for the more complicated operational helicopters to which they will then transition,” LCDR Hammond said.

“The HATS concept is all about providing better training in a more efficient manner.” Along with a suite of simulator training devices, the EC135 will provide initial helicopter conversion training to Army and Navy pilots and aircrewmen, along with Navy Aviation Warfare Officers and Sensor Operators. The first students will begin training on the EC135 in 2018, with the focus now on aircraft familiarisation and training design efforts.

The EC-135T2 being prepared for flight trials at HMAS Albatross.

Photo: ABIS Sarah Ebsworth
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Inspiring our future sailors

LCDR Alan Parton

RECRUITS from the Defence Indigenous Development Program got a chance to take a closer look at what life is like on board a minehunter when 16 participants visited Sydney recently.

The visitors spent the day at HMAS Waterhen visiting MWT16 and AUSSCDT1, before embarking HMAS Gascoyne.

RCT Jeremiah Maitie Manning said he was impressed by how much could be packed into a small space.

“The tour was pretty inspiring. It motivated me even more to join the Navy as a marine technical sailor,” RCT Manning said.

“The best thing about the visit was meeting the ship’s company and witnessing firsthand how they live and work on such a small ship.”

Members of Gascoyne’s ship’s company explained the important role Hoon-class coastal minehunters play in protecting the nation’s waterways from the threat of sea mines.

RCT Shakira Thaiday said she learned a great deal from the visit.

“During the tour, I learned that minehunters look for the old mines that may be still active and floating in the oceans,” RCT Thaiday said. “While Gascoyne was interesting, I would prefer to work on bigger ships as there is more room.”

CPOML-S Trevor Maybir, a Senior Divisional Instructor who travelled with the students, said by getting to see Navy life firsthand the students could decide if Navy would be a suitable career for them.

“This is a great way for the recruits to get an insight into possible careers,” CPO Maybir said.

“The recruits really enjoyed their visit. They have now returned to Cairns and will start their TAFE Year 10 Education and then graduate at the end of the ‘living-in’ program.”

Defence Indigenous Development Program recruits come from all over Australia. They join the Navy on a six-month enlistment term.

“Before they graduate, the recruits have the option of extending their enlistment allowing them to join the next Recruit School Division,” CPO Maybir said.

Above: ABIS Kayla Hayes on board HMAS Warramunga during Exercise Kakadu 2016. Photo: LSLJ Jayson Tufrey

Left: ABBM Dylan Veldman of HMAS Adelaide prepares for his first replenishment at sea. Photo: LSLJ Sarah Williams

Command WO Career Management WOATA Sean Campbell, right, presents RCTMTSM Luke Moir with the ‘Warrant Officer of the Navy Excellence Award’ during his graduation ceremony from General Entry 345 – Taylor Division. Photo: LSLJ Dove Smithett

General Entry 347 Shipp Division at Recruit School of HMAS Cerberus. Photo: LSLJ Dove Smithett

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Australian Government
Department of Veterans’ Affairs
The Battle of Jutland highlighted the challenges of technological evolution, SGT Dave Morley reports.

ADM John Jellicoe's British Grand Fleet at the Battle of Jutland (above). There were 151 ships in total in the British formations and 99 in the German. VADM Franz von Hipper's flagship SMS Seydlitz (inset), of the German fleet, was heavily damaged during the Battle of Jutland.
Don’t be a bystander
Zero tolerance for bad behaviour

Carla Roscoe

A BYSTANDER is a person who is aware of unacceptable behaviour, and is neither the perpetrator nor victim of that behaviour.

Bystanders tend to fall into one of two categories: an active bystander is a person who does something to intervene; and a passive bystander is the person who does nothing.

Head of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office (SeMPRO) CAPT Christine Clarke said bystanders had a responsibility in maintaining zero tolerance of unacceptable behaviours, because bystander inaction condoned behaviour and reinforced to the victim that they were at fault.

“If a bystander sees someone engaged in any act of unacceptable behaviour and does nothing, then that behaviour becomes accepted. Being an active bystander makes our workplace safe for everyone,” CAPT Clarke said.

The program was developed to measure attitudes towards, and experiences of, unacceptable behaviour in Defence. Unacceptable Behaviour Surveys are administered each year to a sample across the whole of Defence. The survey is a component of cultural reform efforts and contributes to reporting for Pathway to Change.

CAPT Clarke said the survey revealed crude behaviour was the highest reported type of incident in the workplace.

“This presents a significant opportunity for all of us to speak up against unacceptable behaviour that we witness, or know about, in the workplace,” she said.

CN VADM Tim Barrett confirmed bystander action reflected Navy’s signature.

“Intervention can sometimes take courage, but be confident that reporting unacceptable behaviour will be supported by your Command and the Navy leadership team. I’m asking each and every one of you to step up and take action when things aren’t right.”

“I’m asking each and every one of you to step up and take action when things aren’t right.”

“Without your input, change is difficult to achieve. So be a part of creating a future workplace that you are proud of by having your say on unacceptable behaviour.”

Bystander training is being rolled out as part of the Defence Safety Stand Down Day. The package is available to download on the Navy’s Divisional Toolbox.

USE YOUR VOICE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HAVE you been invited to participate in the 2016 Defence Unacceptable Behaviour Survey?

The survey is held twice a year to measure attitudes towards and experiences of unacceptable behaviour in Defence.

Director General Workforce Planning Branch BRIG Natasha Fox said maximum input from ADF and APS personnel was instrumental for Defence’s leadership to gain a better understanding of personal views on unacceptable behaviour matters within Defence.

“Your feedback ensures that positive change and progress can be made in your workplace,” BRIG Fox said.

“Every response counts and every response has an impact on the decision and direction Defence takes in reducing unacceptable behaviour across the organisation.”

“Without your input, change is difficult to achieve. So be a part of creating a future workplace that you are proud of by having your say on unacceptable behaviour.”

The survey was distributed via email on September 16, and participants have until October 14 to complete it.

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Youth get taste of life at sea

LEUT Kathryn Sykes

A NUMBER of Navy sailors had the time of their lives this year in a ‘try before you buy’ scheme allowing young Australians to experience life in uniform.

The ADF Gap Year – Navy (ADFGY-N) provides the opportunity to experience military training and lifestyle for up to 12 months, with no further obligations on the participant to continue to serve.

The program allows members to experience Navy life with the potential to be considered for transfer to Permanent Navy workforce categories, subject to sustainability and vacancies.

The program targets individuals aged 18 and 24 who have completed their Year 12 (or equivalent) education.

Over the following 14 weeks she completed the General Service Duty Recruit Course and the ADFGY-N Basic Seamanship Course, which allows participants to work safely within Navy units.

“By the end of it I was emotionally, mentally and physically drained,” she said.

“But during those months of cold weather, drill and conditioning to make new recruits into Navy sailors, I learned things about myself that I never knew before.

“I have never been more proud of myself than I was when I graduated Recruit School and became a SMN**

The ADFGY-N experience includes a programmed visit to various shore establishments conducted over two weeks that exposes members to a range of RAN environments including those officer training and submarine service opportunities.

Following the establishment tour is the Sea Training Phase to allow members to participate in life at sea for a minimum of four weeks so they can make a more informed decision on whether or not to seek an extension of their service.

SMN* Prewett spent eight weeks in HMAS Adelaide.

“My time in HMAS Adelaide has been full of amazing opportunities for learning about the many different career paths the Navy has to offer,” she said.

The final employment component of the ADFGY-N is being assigned to shore establishments and fleet support units undertaking meaningful employment within the base/unit for experience in areas of vocational interest.

“Working at HMAS Cairns has been incredible and I plan to continue to take full advantage of the amazing opportunities that are on offer,” SMN* Prewett said.

“My time in the program has been incredible and I plan on furthering on my career in the RAN.”

*Rebate available for those who meet required criteria. See website for further details and how to claim rebate.

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The information gathered by the survey is unique in assessing the importance of the package’s benefits to members. The electronic survey will also provide individual feedback on your preferences compared with other survey respondents.

We will send you a reminder by e-mail before the survey opens. By the way, this is a good time to make sure your e-mail address in PMKeyS is up-to-date, so your invitation does not go astray.
Mental health focus of ADF

Talk and provide support

A THE ADF prepares to mark World Mental Health Day on October 10, Defence’s senior leaders have encouraged personnel to take note of this year’s theme “Let’s Talk” and use the activities as an opportunity to chat with their mates.

World Mental Health Day is dedicated to mental health education, awareness and advocacy. Every year since 2012, the ADF has conducted an activity to coincide with World Mental Health Day to highlight a particular aspect of mental health.

VCDF VADM Ray Griggs said the health and wellbeing of all Defence personnel was an ongoing priority and throughout the month of October Defence would conduct a range of activities to focus on mental health and wellbeing.

“This year’s theme ‘Let’s Talk’ is about reinvigorating the conversation about mental health issues, how to provide support to others and how to seek support when needed,” VADM Griggs said.

Defence’s senior leaders encourage all personnel to use the Mental Health Day activities as a reminder to talk about:
- treating everyone with respect and dignity to ensure a positive and supportive work environment;
- the range of support services available;
- when to provide support to others and being able to reach out and accept support when it’s needed; and,
- the shift in culture Defence is making – a shift that needs to be maintained to reduce stigma and other barriers to care.

“Service in the ADF can pose significant pressure on our people and their physical and mental health,” VADM Griggs said.

“Frequent relocations, long separations from friends and family, demands and sometimes dangerous working conditions, can all place demands on ADF people and their families.

“Defence continues to make significant investments in resilience training, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation programs, and building on our understanding through research programs to ensure people are prepared and supported throughout their careers.”

Have your say on services

Darryl Johnston

JOINT Health Command (JHC) has embarked on an ADF-wide consultation program to shape future Defence health services.

The program involves a series of workshops and feedback sessions for ADF members at selected Defence bases and opens with the first session at HMAS Karrabul on October 10. Commander JHC AVM Tracy Smart said the current ADF Health Services project, workshop dates and venues click on the NGHS link on the JHC intranet homepage.

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For more information and details on the project, workshop dates and venues click on the NGHS link on the JHC intranet homepage.

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REACH OUT FOR HELP

- More information about the mental health services available for ADF personnel can be found at www.defence.gov.au/Health/HealthPortal.
- The Defence All-hours Support Line is a confidential telephone service for ADF members and their families that is available 24/7 by calling 1800 628 036.
- The Defence Family Helpline is available 24/7 by calling 1800 624 608.
- Crisis support and confidential counselling is available by calling the Veterans’ and Veterans’ Families Counselling Service on 1800 011 046.
- You can also speak to your chain of command or base chaplains about the support services available.
Players honour former comrade

NAVY Tridents ended a successful week of training and public engagements in Wagga Wagga by defeating Combined Wagga RAAF/Army 2-0 on September 17.

The LS Damien Rex Memorial Rugby League Game was dedicated to the memory of a former Wagga local and Trident who died in tragic circumstances in June 2015.

RANRL president LCDR Darren Nembach said the performance was a tribute to LSPTI Damien Rex, who was uncompro-
mising on the field.

“The game was an important event for the Navy Tridents and Damien’s family,” he said.

“It provided us with the opportunity to celebrate Damien’s life on and off the rugby league field and provide closure for both the family and Damien’s former shipmates.”

The unending efforts of Damien’s father Peter, team manager WO1 Mark Donlan and support from the local community and the Air Force and Army ensured a successful game.

Tridents captain ABM Jack Le Prou, of HMAS Adelaide, said the best player was hooker LEUT Tom McKenzie, of HMAS Choules.

“But I’d say the whole team were the best players,” he said.

“They were fantastic – everyone put in 100 per cent effort and played with their hearts on their sleeves, they did Rexy proud.”

Ab Le Prou said it was important the Tridents came to Wagga and play at LS Rex’s “home ground”.

“It just shows the community of Wagga that he was a big part of our team and we really care about him,” he said.

LS Rex’s father Peter Rex said it was “absolutely fantastic”.

“Damien was born and raised in Wagga Wagga and lived here until he was 16,” he said.

“I remember putting him on the bus when he was just 17, to train in the Navy at HMAS Cerberus.

“I couldn’t have been more proud than I am today of what the Navy, Air Force and Army have done as a combined Defence Force to honour Damien’s memory.”

Mr Rex said people never healed from something like suicide.

“It’s something you go through in your life, what nobody plans to bury their son, it’s always going to be living in my memory every day,” he said.

“So days like today are so important as part of the healing process, and the Navy, the Army, the RAAF are all to be congratulated for what they’ve done.”

Mr Rex presented the ‘Spirit of Rexy’ award – the player who best played in the spirit of LS Damien Rex – to LEUT Tom McKenzie, and the Peter Rex Encouragement Award for uniting effort and devotion in support of the team to LEUT Lloyd Gray, of HMAS Kuitabal.

Trans-Tasman rivalry strong

AB Jason Priest

WHILE day-to-day Anzac friendships remain strong things in the nations of Australia and New Zealand, on the sporting field it is war.

During the recent maintenance period for Kiwi ship, HMNZS Canterbury at Garden Island, Sydney, the visitors challenged Australian crews on HMAS Ships Anzac, Choules, and Darwin in touch football and indoor soccer round robins.

The six teams proved competitive across the afternoon, with Darwin and Canterbury edging out the competition and reaching the finals. The last game was close, but Canterbury was able to hold out against Darwin, winning both matches 1-0.

Fleet Personnel Officer CMDR Paul Hines presented Canberra with the ‘International Fleet Challenge’ trophy.

“The re-inoguination of the ‘vis-

iting ships sports day’ produced a competitive and level-headed environment enjoyed by those playing and those cheering from the sides,” he said.

“These sports challenges are a good way to build lasting bonds and friend-

ship through friendly competition.”

Following the trophy presentation, the ship’s crests were exchanged to show mutual respect.

Anzac wins in a penalty shoot-out

From Page 24

“Everyone was pretty lethargic before the game,” PO Sheakley said.

“Knowing how well we played in the previous games, we knew if we stuck to our game plan that it would probably come close.”

The final was tightly contested and at full-time neither team managed to get points on the board.

“They played a pretty attacking style while we were playing a coun-

ter-attacking form of football and you saw that in the final scores,” he said.

This led to another penalty shoot-out where Anzac’s shooting skills shone through for them to take the win 4-2.

“It’s the first time Anzac has won and it was great to lift the trophy for the ship,” PO Sheakley was also awarded the most valuable player of the tournament.

Co-captain LCDR Luke Van Aaken said PO Sheakley saved four of eight goals in the shoot-outs.

“She was like the base of the spine, everything ran out of his defence,” he said.

“He was easily the best player on the ground in every game we played.”

ABCsO Kaflin Shaw in action during the Australian Services Bowls Association National Interservice Carnival and (inset) female player of the series ABRO Anita Jenkins.

CPL Max Bree

NAVY’S dominance of lawn bowls was shattedered by Air Force with an upset at the national interservice championships.

A young Air Force side ended Navy’s five-year reign during the Australian Services Bowls Association National Interservice Carnival held at Windsor, NSW, from September 18-23.

ABCsO Kaflin Shaw, Navy player and team selector, said it was difficult to match the talented airmen.

“AIR Force really had the stronger side this year,” she said. “And that’s fantastic. For them.

“We still had some confidence from last year even though we were missing people unable to attend this year.”

RAAF won three from four rinks and beat Navy by 28 shots overall. Navy did get the better of Air Force by winning two rinks, drawing one and losing another.

“We watched them play against the Army and they were playing really well so it was always going to be a hard game for us,” AB Shaw said. “And on the day they just had the better team.

“We picked the best team we could and that’s all you can do.”

It wasn’t all bad news for the sailors on the green with ABRO Anita Jenkins picking up the female player of the series award.

“It was held near a RAAF base and they had big Heros flying over the top of us and I though the RAAF had set it up,” she said.

AB Jenkins was again selected for the ADF representative bowls side this year and was the first woman to make the side four years ago.

“Once you get over the fact there’s so many blokes here and see yourself as equal, you let your bowls do the talking for you,” she said.

“Guys will go out and play a hard game but girls will go out and play very level-headed.”

AB Jenkins was happy with her performance but hoped to get more women into the sport.

“The girls get stronger and stronger every year,” she said. “We don’t let it get to us that the blokes dominate the field.”

WA won the state-based competition that also ran during the event.

The ADF lawn bowls team will play against the ACF side in October and in Queensland next year.

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SPORT

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Anzac wins final in penalty shoot-out

LCDR Paul Williams, of HMAS Anzac, heads the ball during the final against HMAS Albatross at the Nirimba Cup field at Randwick Barracks.

Photo: ABIS Nicolas Gonzalez

Cpl Max Bree

HMAS Anzac took home the Nirimba Cup following several nailbiting matches and penalty shoot-outs at Randwick Barracks on September 14.

Teams from nine different ships and establishments came together for a shot at the cup but Anzac co-captain POET Steven Sheakey didn’t expect his side to dominate.

“I wouldn’t say we were confident going in,” he said. “We knew we were up against some strong establishment sides.

“We’d played together in South-East Asia last year so we knew we had a good team.”

Anzac was rattled early after they lost to HMAS Stirling 1-0 in a group round match.

“We fully expected them to kick on and go the full distance,” PO Sheakey said.

Despite the setback, Anzac made it through to the semi-finals and defeated HMAS Kuttabul FSU 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out. This brought Anzac into the final against HMAS Albatross.

Continued Page 23