

A year in the life of Reserve News

Many stories and many achievements helped shape 2006. Here, we reflect on the year's highlights, and there is a selection of images which help tell the story of a year in the life of *Navy Reserve News*.

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August 10: Out in force on Reserve Forces Day, Victoria



March 23: Window on divers - Cerberus hosts dedication, Victoria



February 23: Stretching executives at HMAS Cerberus, Victoria



June 15: Coral Sea commemorations, Qld

February 23 CN lays down the challenge

Capability statements will guide Navy and Reserve managers on what Reserves are expected to train for and how they will be employed. In his address to the Naval Reserves Symposium on February 3, the Chief of Navy, VADM Russ Shalders, AO, CSC, RAN, drew into sharp focus what he expects from the Naval Reserve Capability Enhancement Program. The Reserves will be trained and expected to provide a greater contribution to capability in operations as part of a totally integrated Naval Reserve.

More funding will be provided for training, travel to address manning needs, administration, leadership and the opportunity to maintain professional currency and more fully use existing skills.

Stretching executives at HMAS Cerberus

Exercise Executive Stretch No. 23 at HMAS Cerberus late last year produced some morale-building experiences for a group of Victorian executives as well as high praise for the Navy Reservists who led them through the course. The individual exercise activities placed emphasis on the team work and leadership skills Reservists can bring to their civilian employment.



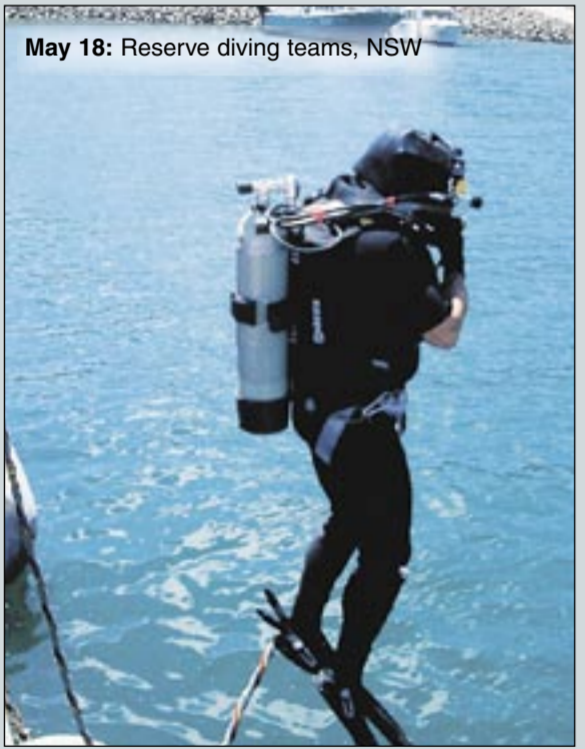
July 13: Angel takes wing, Qld

March 23 Window on divers - Cerberus hosts Dedication

As Reserve divers prepare for an expanded role in support of the Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Force Element Group (FEG), the Clearance Divers' Association has dedicated a CD Branch memorial stained glass window at HMAS Cerberus. The ceremony took place at the establishment's St. Mark's Chapel on February 26.

Goorangai marked by restored mine

Mine Warfare Group 54 has unveiled a memorial, including a restored inert mine, 65 years to the day after the minesweeper, HMAS *Goorangai*, sank off Queenscliff, Victoria. Mine Warfare Group 54 donated a MK48 inert mine to the memory of those past, present and future mine warfare personnel.



May 18: Reserve diving teams, NSW



November 2: Australian Navy Cadets boost SA Navy Week

April 20 Reserve medal backlog set to clear

It was red-letter day for veteran Naval Reservist LEUT George Main. And it vindicated the decision to appoint a special project team to help clear the backlog of thousands of long service awards many Naval Reservists are entitled to. The Reserve Regional Pool Manager - WA, LCDR Louise Oakley, visited LEUT Main, now living in peaceful retirement with his wife, Beryl, at St. Ives Centro retirement village in Perth on April 10.

"George Main submitted a form in 2003 applying for a review of his long service award entitlements," said a member of the team, WO George Wall. "He'd obviously had a long naval career but he started in the Royal Navy during World War II and had not come to the RANR until some time afterwards."

Rub-a-dub-dub - from tuba to tub

Sometimes you will find 25-year-old ABMUSN Barrie Mead deep in a lather of foam as he washes and preens a client's dog in his special Hydrodog trailer parked at the kerb. At other times, you will find him spotlessly turned out in the dress uniform of a Royal Australian Navy sailor.

He is also a musician with a love for the tuba and bass guitar. He played in the school band at Maroochydore State High and, at the age of 17, joined the RANR. He now is a busy member of the Queensland detachment of the RAN Band.

May 18 Reserve diving teams

Australian Naval Reserve Diving Teams (ANRDTs) are manned by:
• civilians recruited 'off the street' as Australian Naval Reserve (ANR) divers;
• ex-Permanent Navy (PN) clearance divers (CDs); and

• ex-PN personnel (previously qualified and non-qualified divers)

They are based at or near all coastal capitals except Darwin. Many remember the days of the old 'Port Divisions' where the ANRDTs rarely contributed to capability and mainly revolved around themselves. Since integration of the Navy Reserve into the PN in 1993, the ANRDTs have increasingly provided a real, measurable and accountable capability.

Anzac Day tradition alive and well

Once again Adelaide managed to turn on brilliant autumn weather for this year's Anzac Day march which according to RSL executive director John Spencer comprised 7,779 people who marched before a crowd estimated at 25,000.

Despite Navy's small presence in South Australia, it was well represented by PN and NR members at this year's commemorations. Personnel from Navy Headquarters-SA and HMAS *Dechaineux* proudly flew the flag at numerous

locations across Adelaide and metropolitan areas including some near country towns such as Victor Harbour, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Mount Barker.

June 15 Coral Sea commemorations

At least two Naval Reserve bands - in Queensland and South Australia - were augmented by musicians from the US Navy's 7th Fleet Band to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

There were inspections and speeches by the State Governors, more words of praise for the sacrifice of those more than 60 years ago by representatives of the navies, the governments and the Australian-American Association which organises the annual events.

Dedicated duty gains CSM

Reservist CPOMTE Greg Dunnicliff of Cooks Gap, near Mudgee, NSW, was presented with the



April 20: Reserve medal backlog set to clear, WA

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) in a ceremony at Government House in Sydney on May 4.

The CSM is '... in recognition of meritorious achievement or devotion to duty in non-war-like situations'.

July 13 Angel takes wing

Forty-seven-year-old Douglas Heath is now a 'Reserve Angel.' For the past 16 years the Brisbane father has been pulling on the epaulettes of an officer of the Royal Australian Navy.

On June 27 he strapped on a pair of angel's wings as he did his first flight as a volunteer pilot with Angel Flight, a three-year-old Australia-wide charity organisation which flies, in non-urgent situations, people who need medical treatment in major centres. LCDR Heath carried out Angel Flight Mission No 1043.

It saw him take the controls of a single-engine Cessna at Redcliffe Airport on June 27 and fly 133 nautical miles to Chinchilla in rural Queensland.



July 13: Reservists on Operation Astute in Timor-Leste



September 7: Like dad like son, ACT and SA

Astute Reservists on Operation

A Naval Reserve medical officer donned body armour and a helmet and carried a firearm for work ashore in the early stages of Operation Astute, the operation to restore order in Timor-Leste.

"In my first couple of days I was asked whether I would see an Air Force officer at the headquarters," said CMDR Bruce Greig.

"Just to get to him from the ship, I had to don body armour, helmet and carry a weapon. I just wonder what my civilian patients would say if I turned up to do a house call at home dressed like that?"

August 10 Out in force

Thousands of Reservists from around Australia paraded the streets for Reserve Forces Day 2006

The Governor General, MAJGEN Michael Jeffery, was the reviewing officer for a parade of more than 1500 men, women and teenage cadets marking Reserve Forces Day in Brisbane. South Australian Reserve Forces Day (RFD)

activities showcased local Reservists who had participated in peacekeeping and disaster relief operations, thanks to the combined efforts of the RFD Council and Defence Reserves Support Council.

The profile of the ADF was raised when Reservists turned out for their one big day of the year with a parade through the streets of Sydney for Reserve Forces Day.

Naval Reservists, Australian Naval Cadets and former RAN personnel joined in the Reserve Forces Day celebrations and paraded along the foreshore of Newcastle.

Victorian promotion at the home of Naval gunnery

POB Michael Blake received his promotion certificate from the Executive Officer HMAS *Cerberus*, CMDR Andrew Gordon, on June 27.

POB Blake served in the PN from 1975 until 1999 serving in HMA Ships *Leeuwin*, *Lonsdale*, *Cerberus*, *Derwent*, *Advance*, *Cairns*, *Whyalla*, *Supply*, *Assail*, *Penguin*, *Kuttabul*, *Success*, *Brisbane*, *Hobart* and *Newcastle*.

On leaving the PN, POB Blake joined the NR and has undertaken a number of postings, including periods of CFTS. In his civilian occupation, CPOB Blake is still actively associated with the Navy in the Small Arms Training Section simulator at HMAS *Cerberus*.

September 7 Like dad like son

Former Navy observer and pilot CMDR 'Max' Speedy, now working as a Reservist, had the opportunity of a lifetime when he got the chance in Adelaide recently to crew an S-70 Black Hawk helicopter piloted by his son MAJ Nigel Speedy as it took part in commemorative celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Long Tan day.

The flight had particular significance for CMDR Speedy - a former member of the RAN Helicopter Flight who was decorated with the DSC as well as two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry and twelve US Air Medals during his tour of duty in Vietnam - as it was his first opportunity to fly in a military aircraft with his son.

Medics work in US hospital ship

The culture of readiness among RAN personnel was again superbly demonstrated when a contingent of Navy medical Reservists deployed on board USNS *Mercy* to participate in a humanitarian mission to South-East Asia in the period July 17-31.

The detachment visited the island of Nias and Banda Aceh, the two regions to which the ADF provided assistance after the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004 and the 2005 earthquake.

October 5 Sunset in SE Qld

Naval Reservists in South East Queensland have been active in Navy Week activities involving visits by Permanent Navy units such as HMA Ships *Tobruk* and *Adelaide* to Brisbane, and of 816 Squadron, together with three of their S-70B-2 Seahawk helicopters, to exercise Freedom of Entry to Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast, north of the state capital.

Biking through the bishopric

The Padre's Bicycle has been an institution in the RAF and RAAF virtually since these services became armed forces in their own right.

I know it has been in the RAF because 'the padre's bicycle' has been mentioned in a few old B&W movies (usually in the context of having been stolen).

And virtually every RAAF chaplain I've met has had this form of conveyance as a faster means of transport across the vast expanses of an air base than shanks's pony.

It probably stems back to the era when automobiles were more expensive, less common and less reliable than they are today and priests or vicars became bicycle-borne, showing their adherents a cheap, reliable and healthy form of transport.

November 2 ANR boosts SA Navy Week

South Australian-based NR members have once again turned out in force in support of South Australia's recent Navy Week celebrations, the most successful yet according to Director Naval Reserve Support - SA, CMDR Steve Dunning.

CMDR Dunning said NHQ-SA has a core of dedicated and experienced NR members who provide a niche capability in support of Navy activities in South Australia.

The Top End challenge for XO Coonawarra

Executive Officer HMAS *Coonawarra* LCDR Royce Spencer is one of the many believers in the capability of Reservists and the value they add to Navy. A Reservist on continuous full-time service (CFTS), he has been the XO since July 2004.

"There are many challenges to being XO of *Coonawarra*," he said, "because of the frequency of patrol boat movements, major fleet unit (MFU) visits, national and international exercises, and being the major base for border protection operations rates it as perhaps the busiest operational RAN port in Australia."