

SM promotion milestone

By Rachel Irving

After some 21 years with the submarine squadron, one sailor has been rewarded for his service with the first promotion of a Reserve submariner.

CPOAWASM Michael Turnbull was promoted at a ceremony in Adelaide last month, after 12 years in the Permanent Navy and nine years as an Active Reservist.

"Submarine service is still important to me," CPO Turnbull said of his devotion to duty.

"I come back each year - it keeps my individual readiness and my qualifications for duties in date so that if I had to come back full time I could. I just love it."

For the past nine years, CPO Turnbull has devoted at least 30 days a year to the squadron, either temporar-

ily leaving his job as a police officer in South Australia to live at HMAS *Stirling* for the month or taking on a project in Adelaide.

"Working the two roles gives me a sense of achievement. It's always good to catch up with friends of course but it's also true that it's nice to not deal with crooks for a while."

Earlier this year, CPO Turnbull contemplated leaving the Reserves. He said his enthusiasm for the job began to wane when his PNF counterparts had long passed him in the promotion line.

"I just thought it was time to go - I was stuck in a rut while others were chiefs and warrant officers."

Warrant Officer manpower for the submarine force element group, WO Craig Barnett, said that despite the merits of promotion, it was a challenging process to actually complete.

"Over the years CPO Turnbull has always given of himself and his time, but when his former able seamen became chiefs, his Service was no longer providing him with the right drive to continue," WO Barnett said.

"There was no precedent for promotion. In the end I submitted a business case for CPO Turnbull's promotion, outlining all of his roles and responsibilities, and the case was rightly accepted," WO Barnett said.

A milestone achievement for the squadron, WO Barnett said he hoped this would be the first of other promotions for Reservists within the squadron.

"I'd like to think this will pave the way for other Reserve promotions. It's important to give something back to those who give of their time every year and who make themselves available."



RECOGNITION: CPOAWASM Michael Turnbull receives his 'but-ton' from CDR Andrew Jackman. CPO Turnbull is the first Reserve submariner to be promoted. Photo: CMDR Steve Dunning



ALL SMILES: PO Nicole Gallagher enjoys the best of both worlds, combining her career as a NSW policewoman and 15 years of naval experience. Photo: ABPH Paul Berry

Cops tops for Reserve support

By LCDR Antony Underwood

When it comes to employers willing to support Defence Reservists, PO Nicole Gallagher reckons there are few as helpful as the New South Wales Police Force.

Nicole's a veteran of some 15 years naval experience and, although she's been in the NSW Force for about five years now, she was able - with the help of her police superiors - to undertake a wide variety of Naval Reserve duty including participation in the most recent Exercise Talisman Saber 07.

Trained as an electronic warfare specialist and combat systems operator, Nicole left the Permanent Navy after about 10 years service including sea postings in HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Sydney*.

"I discharged from the PN in 2002 and decided to become a police officer in New South Wales and am currently attached as a constable to the Miranda Local Area Command," Nicole said.

"I also transferred to the reserves

on discharge and have been very active in the reserves since."

In fact, Nicole has participated in Exercise Talisman Saber twice, Exercise Sea Eagle and Exercise Swift Eagle twice, both times in HMAS *Kanimbla*.

"I also had the opportunity of spending three weeks in the big amphibious assault ship, USS *Boxer*, and six days in Hawaii during the planning for Talisman Saber 07 (force protection)," she said.

A mother of two, Nicole is studying for her Bachelor of Policing degree as an external student of Charles Sturt University. She's also expecting changes in both her police and navy activities.

"Hopefully a change as a detective is coming in the near future," she said, "and I've passed the board to become a commissioned officer in the Naval Reserve and am currently awaiting advice from DGNPT-C and looking forward to bringing my policing skills to bear in the Navy area of the new ADF Investigative Service."

As a police officer, Nicole has

worked in the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Command and found work, involving the arrest of nine terror suspects in Sydney in 2005 "an amazing experience".

"I love being in the reserves too," she said. "I think transferring to the NR was one of the best decisions I have made."

"I have the ability to choose my work and I have met some wonderful people."

Currently Nicole is working in the Naval Officer Development Program in Defence Plaza, Sydney and has served about 80 reserve days in the past year - as a government employee in the NSW Police Force, she's allowed five weeks a year for Reserve service and she's able to work week-ends as well.

"The Navy has given me opportunities and opened doors that I never thought existed and I am very grateful and proud to be part of it," she said.

"It has changed significantly since I left (full-time service) and I am amazed at the conditions of service that are available to the PNF."

Big benefits for being back in black

By Rachel Irving

Working seamlessly among the crew of HMAS *Collins* is one Reservist who's leading the way for others.

POMTSM Bryce Jackson, who discharged from the Permanent Navy in August 2005, has just completed 11 weeks onboard HMA Submarines *Collins* and *Waller*, where he became an integral member of the engineering departments.

After a break of almost 18 months, PO Jackson said there were some difficulties in resuming his position in the department.

"The biggest thing was trying to regain my level of technical knowledge," he said.

"Lots of systems and ways of doing

business have changed, so it's been a steep learning curve.

"I've learnt to take baby steps and ask lots of questions."

PO Jackson is completing 'diary days' as part of an initiative of the Submarine Force Element Group (SMFEG).

Warrant Officer manpower for the submarine FEG, WO Craig Barnett, said a pool of Reservists was forming to complement the permanent submarine squadron.

"The idea is that we have a pool of qualified people who can complement the squadron, allowing PNF members to take leave and complete courses that they may not otherwise get a chance to do," he said.

"Like the rest of the fleet, we are stretched with our manning, and being able to call upon people who already have a working knowledge of the boats is a great resource for us."

"I've learnt to take baby steps and ask lots of questions."

PO Jackson said that Reserve submariners are required to complete their re-qualifying task-book upon joining a boat, to ensure they are familiar with

safety systems and valves onboard the boats. This also applies to PNF members who must complete the book annually if not posted to a submarine.

"There is a degree of homework involved so that if something goes wrong you know what to do and your system knowledge is at a level that you can contribute effectively.

"But it's been very rewarding."

His role with *Waller* included working with the SubSafe functionality and supplementing the engineering team during harbour acceptance trials, while in *Collins* he has become 'the horse', looking after main propulsion.

As a civilian business owner, PO Jackson said the opportunity to build on

his technical skills was invaluable, skills he can transfer back to his business.

"Navy helps to work on the bigger picture, something you don't always do working for yourself, at least it's on a far-lesser degree."

"I've enjoyed the time and will be keen to do more," he said, noting that the employer support program afforded him top end protection, "but next time perhaps in an area of future projections."

"It's been great to catch up with friends, regain my skills, and of course, make some extra money. And being part of a crew again is always nice."

Anyone wishing to take up Reserve opportunities within the squadron should contact WO Craig Barnett on (08) 9553 3717 or craig.barnett@defence.gov.au