

welcome onboard

Australian Navy Cadet News
March 2019

Bangka Island Commemoration

By POANC Steve Cornell ~ Training Office, TS RUSHCUTTER

TS RUSHCUTTER cadets attended the Bangka Island Commemoration Service held recently at the Port Macquarie War Memorial by the Port Macquarie RSL. The cadets attending wore full white ceremonial uniform and formed the Catafalque Party (full female for the nurse recognition) and laid a wreath in memory of those who fell during this time.

Bangka Island commemoration was established to remember the events in between February 12-16, 1942, where sixty-five Australian Army nurses were evacuated from the besieged city on the small coastal steamer Vyner Brooke. In addition to the Australian nurses, the ship was crammed with over two hundred civilian evacuees and English military personnel.

As the Vyner Brooke was passing between Sumatra and Borneo, Japanese aircraft bombed and strafed the overloaded ship and it sank quickly. The survivors in lifeboats were strafed by Japanese aircraft but some reached Bangka Island off the coast of Sumatra.

The full story is a heart-breaking one and there was only one surviving Australian nurse.



Darwin Last Post Ceremonies

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DARWIN LAST POST CEREMONIES

By CDTLS Adam Christensen ~ TS DARWIN



Cadets from TS DARWIN were invited to assist in the Last Post Ceremonies. This was a first for most of our cadets and we were very excited about the event. Practice commenced every week at parade night for 4 weeks.

Last Post Ceremonies commenced on Tuesday, 19 February and will run through to Tuesday, 9 April on Tuesdays (8 ceremonies). Then they will then be held daily between Tuesday, 16 April through to 25

April 2019 as part of Territory Tribute. Each ceremony is held at sunset in the lead-up to ANZAC day at the Darwin Cenotaph, lasting approximately 20 minutes.

The army cadets provided the guard for the first ceremony on Tuesday 27 February 2019. TS DARWIN cadets provided the guard on the second date of 5 March 2019.

After an introduction and welcome, the Ceremony commenced with the

National Anthem followed by the piper's lament. Wreaths by attendees were laid and the honourees story was told. The Ode was then recited by Australian Defence Force personnel, and the ceremony concluded with the playing of the Last Post.

Our last ceremony will be on 17 April and we are looking forward to it again



TOP END SURVIVAL

By CDTAB Edwin and CDTAB Tebag ~ TS DARWIN

In March, TS DARWIN cadets got together for a survivor themed camp. Our accommodation was in the junior sailors cabins at Defence Establishment Berrimah. Friday night was our traditional, very funny monthly trivia competition. Our two divisions, Waramanga and Melville are going head to head to win the Best Division trophy at the end of the year.

On Saturday 10 cadets went to Larrakeyah pool to do their bronze medallion course with Royal lifesaving. This will go towards getting their Duke of Edinburgh cuff rate and certificate.

The remaining cadets attended survival evolutions for day. We had basic first aid, minefield, orienteering, navigation, radio skills.

Saturday night our CO, LEUT Jane Reptik organised for Adam Drake to run a motivational, leadership development session with us. Adam has received various NT Youth Development Awards for his work with troubled teenagers, he has also recently competed on Ninja Warrior – extremely fit man. The workshop was really enlightening and we all took very positive thoughts and skills away from the session.

The second day all cadets were together for more rotational classes on phonetic alphabet, damage control centre and various ABLs. Damage control centre was really challenging.

We had a pipe with holes and ran the fire hose through it to simulate a sinking ship. Cadets were tasked with a time frame to plug it up and all were wet and laughing, while our leaders were yelling out 'the ship is sinking, plug the holes!'



The next challenge was a blind eating competition of survival food like sea slugs, fish eyes, grasshoppers and jelly fish. It was really a mind game as the food was gherkins, pickled onions, Pavlova with cream and jelly. It was so funny watching everyone eating the food.

The camp was totally planned and run by our CDTPO Kellner and leaders, CDTLS Christensen and CDTLS Harley, with guidance by our staff. All had a great time and a heap of fun!

