

welcome onboard

Australian Navy Cadet News
August 2019

RSS Resolution Ship Visit

CDTSMN Bianca Jacobs ~ TS DARWIN

On Monday 12 August TS DARWIN Cadets, Officers of Cadets and members of the USC were invited on board RSS *Resolution* for an hour-long guided tour.

RSS *Resolution* one of the Endurance-class landing platform dock ships (LPD). They are the largest class of ships in the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

The ships provide sea transportation for personnel and equipment for Singapore Armed Forces' overseas training, as well as a training platform for RSN's midshipmen.

The midshipmen, were under training and on their first deployment. Their trip is for one month, so they were telling us how they went shopping to stock up on Cadbury chocolates and biscuits. Many of the crew were around 19 years old and we were amazed at how much knowledge they had about their ship. We toured through the bridge, looked at their fire power, communications room, mess areas and spent some time on the landing deck.

We were then

invited into the wardroom for cold drinks, where the Midshipmen presented our CO, LEUT Jane Reptik, with a book about the Singapore Navy training program and a challenge coin.

We thanked the crew for a really fantastic experience on board and presented them with an ANC Challenge coin, TS DARWIN coffee mug, some hats & pencil cases.



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Editor: LCDR Barbara Butterworth, ANC

Email: Barbara.Butterworth@navycadets.gov.au

Port Ash Adventure ... Torrens Flotilla

By LCDR Tony Vidorin, ANC ~ FLOTCOM, Torrens Flotilla, sharing the reflections of the cadets involved

Six cadets from both metro and country units in Torrens Flotilla had the opportunity to travel to the boat handling and training centre located in Port Ash, to experience and develop ship handling skills.

Over the course of two days the cadets, with the assistance of the experienced ship handlers, Cliff, Barry, Andrew, Jason and Martin learnt the basics of manoeuvring a large vessel and various techniques of basic bridge training.

The facility, Port Ash, is a model training centre at a scale of 1:25, making it the perfect location to train Navy personnel from all over the world to practise berthing and casting off a ship in a controlled environment. The original five-day course was compressed into two jam-packed days of significant learning and incredible fun.

Practising in both a classroom and real world environment enabled us

to take the classroom logistics into tactile situations effectively. Using two miniature replicas of Navy Ships, HMAS Sirius and a smaller training vessel, meant a greater understanding of the ship's mechanics, such as how to work the STBD and PORT thrusters, the rudder and appropriate uses of ahead and astern, could be gained.

We also learned the importance of pivot points and how to effectively use the small tug ships, Tantrum and Rattler, to manoeuvre and berth a ship. On the second day, our knowledge was extended even further as the one-man tug boat, Winner, was brought out to use, whose propellers consisted of two pod's that could rotate 360o, much like the HMAS Adelaide system, which enabled us to further understand the different mechanics of Navy vessels in a challenging way.

Experiencing the difference between turning circles in shallow and deep

water, berthing both stern and bow first into both Fleet Base West and East mock replicas and passing another vessel in a channel concluded the bulk of the second day.

Overall each and every cadet enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and were also grateful for the entertainment of Eric the eel.

The Torrens Flotilla Naval Cadets would like to thank the staff of the Port Ash Ship Training Centre for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and facilities throughout the course, and their entertaining tales of life as a ship pilot.

ADFC adults and cadets wish to thank the ANC Foundation for the support of this adventure and a big thank you to CMDR MANN, ANC.



Group photo with ADFC adults, cadets and Port Ash trainers

DANC's visit to TS DARWIN

LEUT Jane Reptik ANC ~ CO, TS DARWIN

CMDR Wheeler then told some funny and interesting stories – one was about the original HMAS Darwin's hull being burnt during construction – hence the reference to the bird Phoenix, rising from the ashes

DANC presented some special promotions, including CDT Rhys Harley's promotion to PO. CMDR Wheeler surprised us with new DANC excellence awards.

Citizenship Award LS Jemma Beyer an LS Alyssa Tebag – for going above and beyond volunteering for all external ceremonies and community events. They featured in the Overture to Peace Concert by reading the ODE on stage. This involved giving up 2 nights of 4 hours for rehearsal. They received great recognition from John Foreman OAM for their performance.

Most Improved Cadet SMN Brandon Baxter – Joined Feb this year, showing strong leadership ability, gets involved, great team player, quick to learn

Staff recognition – LEUT Ric Mingramm RAN –For his ongoing support of cadets, bookings for events, admin, cadet training in powerboating, TOET and sailing

Parents and supporters stayed for a BBQ dinner and a chat with CMDR Wheeler.

The cadets then led two challenging ABL's. One that required non-verbal communication – CMDR Wheeler became really involved with the activities and commented "I have never seen cadets so quiet before."



Cadets and ADFC Adults at TS DARWIN were privileged to receive a visit from the Director the ANC, CMDR Stuart Wheeler RAN on 7 August 2019. Many RAN personnel from FLSE Darwin and HMAS Coonawarra also joined us.

After colours, DANC and CMDR Darren Rushworth, CO HMAS Coonawarra inspected the ships company.

All gathered by our new boat for the officially blessing and naming ceremony. This was led by CHAPLAIN Shaun Foster with a brief background about the name chosen. The new boat is now named 'PHOENIX', symbolic of the TS DARWIN and HMAS Darwin's ships crest. We took this opportunity to name our newly reconditioned Poly craft 'ARROW' after HMAS Arrow that was tragically destroyed and sunk at Stokes Hill Wharf during cyclone Tracey.

Ceremonial Sunset - Darwin.

By CDTLS Alyssa Tebag - TS DARWIN

Mid-August was Navy Week in Darwin, Northern Territory and TS DARWIN were excited to join in with HMAS Coonawarra on a few activities.

Thursday 8 August was Ceremonial Sunset. All Royal Australian Navy members based in Darwin, from Patrol boats and Fleet support at HMAS Coonawarra, marched onto Mindil beach for one of the most spectacular events we have seen as cadets.

We were asked to be ushers and escort VIPs to their seats. This involved waiting for the cars to pull up, saluting the VIPs and escorting them to their seats on the beach ready for sunset. There were about 19 cadets from TS DARWIN, so the rest formed up in squad facing the ship's

company as some 150 RAN members marched onto the beach.

Navy band played and the guard entered, all commanded by the XO of HMAS Coonawarra LCDR Kate Woodall. It was great to see the ceremony on a larger scale to what we present for annual inspection. The junior cadets made comments around how it now makes sense what we have practiced at the unit when you see the navy forming up and marching.

CMDR Darren Rushworth CO of Coonawarra presented a from-the-heart speech about the beauty of Darwin, its location, how proud the navy are to be serving Australia and how fortunate we are to watch such a special ceremony in the most perfect conditions.

The crowd on the beach were surprised as the guard fired a blank round. It was a moving ceremony with the Darwin sunset in the background. We all felt proud to be involved.

