

welcome onboard

Australian Navy Cadet News
January 2020

Our New National Commander

by CMDR Stuart Wheeler RAN, Director ANC



CAPT Martin Blume ANC (centre) with CAPT Kerry Rayner OAM ANC (left) and CDRE David Greaves RAN at the recent handover ceremony.

After three years at the helm of the Royal Australian Navy Cadets (ANC), Captain Kerry Rayner OAM ANC handed over the role of National Commander ANC to newly promoted Captain Martin Blume ANC.

Captain Blume's promotion was performed during the handover ceremony by Director General Australian Navy Cadets and Reserves (DGAN-CR), Commodore David Greaves RAN and assisted by Captain Rayner.

Commodore Greaves paid tribute to Captain Rayner who made history as the first female Captain in the ANC, as well as the first Cadet to progress through the ranks to Captain.

"Over the last the three years, Captain Rayner has played a vital role in support of our important national youth development program, and she will continue to serve as Training Officer, Training Ship Bundaberg," Commodore Greaves said.

Captain Blume said he was looking forward to his new role as the National Commander.

"With a lot of exciting opportunities on the horizon for Navy Cadets, and for ADF Cadets more broadly, it is a great time for a new Navy Cadet leadership team to take the program towards our strategic plan contained in ANC - Passage Plan to 2021," Captain Blume said.

Our New National Commander

P2

Westralia Flotilla's Sea Ride

P2-4

Maritime Skills Camp at the Australian Maritime College

P5-6

Continued P2.

Editor: LCDR Barbara Butterworth, ANC

Email: Barbara.Butterworth@navycadets.gov.au

Our New National Commander



CMDR Martin Blume ANC accepts the 'Weight' from CAPT Kerry Raynor OAM ANC just prior to his promotion and taking the position as National Commander, Australian Navy Cadets

"I am honoured to lead and grow the ANC in this significant time of Australia's burgeoning maritime industry, the increasing use of STEM technology and some new, exciting opportunities for our Cadets to be part of the Navy experience" he said.

Captain Blume joined the RAN in 1973 as Electronic Technician rising to the rank of Lieutenant, and transferred to the RAN Reserves in 1996

He has volunteered in the ANC since 1998, holding various positions

as Commanding Officer, Flotilla Commander and ANC Director of Information Technology, and was promoted to Commander ANC in 2015.

Photographs by CMDR Stuart Wheeler RAN

WESTRALIA FLOTILLA aboard the EGS BESANT

By LEUT Robyn Brennan ANC, CO TS ANZAC & LEUT Rowan Bairstow ANC, CO TS MANDURAH

On 20 January, 20 cadets from eight units of the Westralia Flotilla along with FSOs CPO L. Webster and CPO P. McDonald boarded Emergency Gear Ship (EGS) Besant for a four-day sea-ride off the coast of Western Australia.

Also embarking with us for the first day of the voyage were DGANCR, CDRE D. Greaves RAN and FLOTCOM Westralia Flotilla CMDR P Jones ANC.

The Besant is a civilian-manned submarine rescue vessel based at HMAS Stirling, Rockingham.

The cadets were split into four watches, allowing each watch to participate in different duties around the ship throughout the week, including early starts for galley party and a watch-keeping duty on the bridge in the evenings.



EGS Besant off Rottnest Island, Western Australia

Westralia Flotilla's EGS Besant sea-ride

Master of EGS Besant, Gary McIntyre made everyone feel welcome and handed over to the 2nd Mate for all the necessary inductions, cabin allocations and safety briefs.

All of the SERCO crew were introduced to the cadets along with an explanation of their job titles due to the ship being manned by a civilian crew and not RAN. Our first taste of life at sea was to muster with correct emergency equipment for an abandon ship exercise.

Once Besant was fully underway the cadets were treated to a lifeboat ride. This also gave the cadets a feel for how cramped it can be in a lifeboat all be it for only just two hours. Cadets, AVs, guests and Besant's crew enjoyed a wonderful long lunch with the cadets surprised at how much was served.

CDTAB P. Lynch from TS ANZAC commented on how great the food was as well as the choices available.

After lunch CDRE Greaves addressed the cadets explaining what he hoped they would gain from this experience and then held an open question time before we all proceeded to



Cadets enjoying a transfer to Rottnest Island on a Fast Rescue Craft (FRC)

the bridge for more information from the Besant crew. We then sailed into Fremantle Port to allow DGANCR, CDRE D. Greaves RAN and FLOTCOM Westralia Flotilla CMDR P. Jones ANC

to disembark via ship's boat before heading west towards Rottnest Island.

We spent the first night just off the island using Dynamic Positioning (DP). Down time was spent in the lounge after dinner and duty watch doing a two-hour bridge stint.

Day two saw duty watch up early for breakfast prep and then scullery party. After the morning cabin rounds and briefs, a change of plans due to weather factors saw the morning and afternoon activities swapped. This meant a morning on Rottnest Island, transferred there by the two Fast Rescue Craft (FRC) that are attached to EGS Besant.

Today was the first full day of cafe party for the duty cadets which included setting up the dining tables and serving area, assisting the two ships chefs with food preparation, as well as scullery and cafe clean up after lunch.

The cadets were split into three groups and rotated through a number of activities arranged by the ship's crew, a tour of the engine room and auxiliary compartments, rope work on the aft deck and watch-keeping duties along with a short stint at the helm. The cadets were totally amazed by the controls on the bridge which the crew explained in detail. After dinner, another

Continued P4.



Prepping for "My Gallley Rules" aboard EGS Besant. Cadets learn some good galley practices.

Westralia Flotilla's EGS Besant sea-ride

group of cadets spent two hours on the bridge while the others had some free time in the lounge.

Day three saw us conducting man overboard exercises, stretcher drills between decks, first aid evolutions and assisting in the galley. Again, the cadets were split into groups and were rotated throughout the day. Cadets were positioned on the bridge wings communicating with the cadets in the rescue RHIB of the location of the fender (aka man overboard) where they then went to recover said fender.

Duty watch remained in the galley for the whole morning allowing the cadets to assist with morning tea and lunch preparation with chef's Pauly and Dave.

The stretcher evolution required communication and teamwork skills for patient transfer to the heli deck for a medivac, meanwhile first aid skills were refreshed in the SP Lounge with the CPR mannequin. Besant anchored off Rottnest Island which gave the cadets a different if not rougher and noisier night at sea.

Day four and the cadets continued brushing up on their culinary skills in the galley with the ship's chefs. The ship's crew prepared for a fire fighting evolution where the cadets got to suit up in fire fighting equipment with SCBA and also

Welcome Onboard ~January 2020 ~ Page 4



Cadets under some pressure during fire-fighting practice

operated the fire hoses on the aft deck. CDTLS Green from TS CANNING enjoyed every activity and believes he was very fortunate to experience this first ever sea ride onboard EGS Besant.

Many other activities occurred throughout the week, including heaving line competition organised by CPO McDonald and keychain and bracelet-making using paracord with PI (PO) Weeks.

On day five, Besant returned to HMAS Stirling for an early morning berthing.

This was the first for the Flotilla of what is hoped to be many future sea rides in the West for the ANC.



Westralia Flotilla cadets and adult volunteers onboard EGS Besant - a very happy and fortunate crew.

Maritime Skills Camp at the Australian Maritime College

by CDTLS Elijah Bakes ~ TS YORK

The ANC's very first Maritime Skills Camp, was held between 20 and 23 January 2020 at the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Launceston, Tasmania. This pilot activity was attended by 18 cadets from three Flotillas.

The camp was focussed on survival at sea and learning about boats and engines.

We headed off to the Seamanship Centre at Beauty Point where we went on the *Reviresco* (a fishing boat set up for training) for a voyage. Some got to drive it, participate in emergency steering and we conducted a man overboard drill.

We then went into the *Stephen Brown* an ex coal-carrying cargo ship where we got to pull a propeller from a shaft, hand-start engines and looked at various engines including the ship's original engine, which is massive.

The next day we got ready for the day on simulators and in the survival pool. First, we went to see the tow tank and did the pasta boat challenge. We then came up with our solutions to the logistical challenges faced by the maritime industry and Defence in support of the bush



"Man Overboard" drill conducted on the Riveresco



Cadets removing a prop from a shaft on the Stephen Brown



Getting it right on the ship's simulators - oh happy days.

fires and what they can change to help the fire ravished areas better.

Then we went to mini modules in ship simulators on computers where we had to figure out if we were the stand on or give way vessel and put that into effect, one cadet had their screens put on the big screen for everyone to see.

After lunch we went to the survival pool where we received training in lifejackets and life rafts. We got to jump from a 3-metre high platform and then we did a survival simulation where we had to abandon ship as if it was sinking, set off a life raft and enter it without panicking.

Following dinner we went to the Main Bridge and Tug simulators. We were split into groups to operate either one of two tugs or the main simulator which had been setup as a warship. We got to go around Sydney harbour but some cadets had trouble steering the tugs and crashed into the ship we were escorting. The previous training in the mini modules helped us with our navigation and rules of the road.

On the final day of our AMC camp, after our bags were

Continued P.6

Welcome Onboard ~ January 2020 ~ Page 5

Maritime Skills Camp at the Australian Maritime College

packed, we went for breakfast and enjoyed our last meal at the AMC. When we got to fire training ground in Bell Bay, we put on safety gear and weere given a safety briefing.

We then split up into two groups, one group going to the fire hoses and the gas leak, the second group heading to the fire blanket, the flares and the fire extinguishers.

The groups then swapped over after having a 5-minute break.

The camp concluded with a BBQ lunch and we were presented certificates for completing our training.



Some hands-on bridge work on the Riviresco



Cadets surviving well after abandoning ship - no sign of the life raft though!



All suited up at the Bell Bay Fire Training Ground



The obligatory group photo at the Australian Maritime College, Launceston Tasmania.