

HMAS Melville



HMAS *Melville* and her sister ship HMAS *Leeuwin* replaced the now decommissioned vessels HMA Ships *Moresby* and *Flinders* in 2000. Both ships take their names from prominent points on the Australian coast. Melville is named after Melville Island, just to the north of Darwin. Melville was launched midway through 1998. The ships were built by NQEA in Cairns, North Queensland.

Leeuwin and Melville enable the Australian Hydrographic Service to gather high quality hydrographic information at a much greater rate than the ships they replace. The ships are 71 metres in length, with a beam of 15 metres, and a draught of 4.3 metres. Each ship displaces 2,550 tonnes and is manned by a crew of 46 officers and sailors. A state of the art Hydrographic Survey System (HSS) developed by STN Atlas will integrate accurate position information with data from a multi-beam echo sounder, towed side-scan sonar, single beam echo sounder and a forward-looking sonar. The ships will also carry three fully equipped 9 metre Survey Motor Boats for surveys in waters not suitable for the ships themselves. Both ships are capable of carrying a helicopter to assist in survey operations.

HMAS Melville is currently crewed by HS RED.



Commanding Officer	Commander Neil Cheverton
Class	Leeuwin Class
Type	Surveying Ship (AGS)
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrographic survey Support
Pennant	A 246
International Callsign	VLSF
Motto	With Determination
Home Port	HMAS Cairns
Builder	North Queensland Engineers & Agents
Launched	1 June 1998
Commissioned	27 May 2000
Resources	
Datasheet	HMAS Melville
News Articles	Navy Daily
Image Gallery	HMAS Melville
Dimensions & Displacement	
Displacement	2,205 tonnes
Length	71.2 metres
Beam	15.2 metres
Draught	4.3 metres
Performance	
Speed	14 knots
Range	18,000 nautical miles
Complement	
Crew	46
Propulsion	
Machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 x GEC Alsthom 6RK 215 diesel

	generators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Alsthom electric propulsion motors
Armament	
Radars	STN Atlas 9600 ARPA navigation radar
Sonars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C-Tech CMAS 36/39 • Atlas Fansweep multibeam echo sounder • Atlas Hydrographic Deso single beam echo sounder
Helicopters	1 x AS 350B Squirrel (not permanently embarked)

