



## **HMAS COLLINS Australian Deployment 2010 Cairns to Sydney**



HMAS COLLINS alongside in Cairns Naval Base

So after our stint at sea we were heading into Cairns for a much anticipated port visit for some good old fashioned rest and relaxation. But before we could enjoy the great delights of Cairns we had to get the boat alongside safely. Cairns is well known for its pristine SCUBA diving, which comes hand in hand with the coral reef and shallow water that surrounds the port – which at times can make getting alongside that little bit harder. But with this did not stop the well trained crew getting alongside, and before long we were waving to all of the TV cameras and newspaper reporters who met us on the wharf.



The submarine generated a lot of interest from the moment people saw us.

One of the main tasks that HMAS COLLINS has during our deployment around the country is to allow Australians to see, and get to know a little more about our submarine force. To this end the Commanding Officer CMDR Glenn Miles, the Navigator LEUT Andrew Hays, the Executive Officer LCDR Micheal Jacobson and our own home town hero ABMT Maté Krunes starred on the Channel 7 and Channel 9 news on the evening of our arrival. Somewhere some mothers are very proud of their sons.

To give the residents of Cairns a chance to see the submarine, the Crew of HMAS COLLINS and the Submarine Support Group that came to Cairns to help us out, gave tours to no fewer than 800 people. Making up this large number included some of the following:

- 100 school children,
- 120 Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets who were in town for a drill competition,
- 80 Returned Services League members,
- Defence Indigenous Development Program candidates,
- Local Naval Personnel,
- Local Fire Fighters, Ambulance and Police Officers,
- Defence Contractors, and
- The guests to the Senior Sailors cocktail party.

All in all this lead to the port visit being very successful thanks to the hard work of the crew and our support staff.

But enough of all this work talk, the crew had been looking forward to Cairns since the outset of the deployment, for the wide variety of activities that we would be able

to participate in during our time ashore. A group decided that they wanted to try their hand at some “Extreme” white water rafting and got put through the wash, rinse and spin cycles for their troubles.



From a distance it didn't look that rough, but we soon learnt better



LEUT Stephan Zohar taking a shower in a waterfall, is that a smile or just cold mountain water???



The Captain CMDR Glen Miles taking a leap

Any trip to Cairns would not be complete without a trip out to the reef. So a number of our fearless sailors got themselves on a boat and headed back out to sea. Some people might think that it was a bit of a busman's holiday, but those who went out to the reef couldn't help but talk about how awesome their time out there was.



Relaxing taking in the sights of the coral and fish.



Nemo found, check



ABET Christian Thomm enjoying the rain forest

But the crew soon found out that there was a lot more to Cairns than just rafting and SCUBA diving. During the time off alongside some of the crew made it up to the Daintree rain forest for what was from reports a great day out. For the more adventurous there was also Quad bike tours, cable waterskiing and Go Cart racing.



LSCK Grant Cashion getting ready to go for a spin



POCIS Simon Hamstead all geared up for cable water skiing

Whilst the submarine was in Cairns several of the crew took the opportunity to catch up with some brother submariners who are now posted to Cairns. LCDR Brett Westcott, who was previously posted as an Executive Officer on a COLLINS Class submarine is now posted as the Commanding Officer of Ardent Four, and he extended an invitation for the some of our crew to take a tour and a harbour cruise as he changed berths in Cairns. Those who got to go for a spin in the harbour enjoyed catching up with an old friend, observed a solid display of seamanship and the chance to see the patrol boat close up.



HMAS Childers, the Armidale Class Patrol Boat that hosted our Harbour Cruise.

Between Cairns and Sydney we qualified 1 new submariner

ABMTSM Yaan Kelly-Flanders

The Captain and crew of HMAS Collins would like to congratulate him and welcome him to the submarine family.