



# HMAS BALLARAT

## DEFEND THE FLAG



4<sup>th</sup> Edition - November 2010



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### A Note from the Editors

With the recent operational tempo in relation to completing our sea acceptance trials and preparation to be Operation Resolute standby vessel, the *Ballarat* crew has been busy indeed. Thankfully old Saint Nick will be popping down our chimneys all too soon, which for most of us hopefully means a little RnR with friends and loved ones. Well done to the SWO for organising the upcoming *Ballarat* Christmas Party—with what's on offer it should be a great day to be had by all.

Some of us were less shocked than others to see the Greenies (we'll tell you what that means in the next edition!) take out the inaugural Eureka Challenge and Trophy at Jervis Bay. The others are reported to be still in a state of recovery.

We wish all those who are about to, or have recently left us fair winds and following seas and offer a hearty welcome to all of our new ship-mates that will be deploying with us next year.

So sit back, relax and enjoy the latest edition of the Eureka Shaft!

### From the Captain's Chair.....

It is with great pride and humility that I write to you for this edition of your Eureka Shaft. November has been an extremely busy month and through your support, hard work on the part of the crew and a philosophy of getting on with the job, I am proud to announce that *Ballarat* is back.....and how! Our period at sea has been incredibly successful and all the hard work is now showing fruition. It is a testament to how skilled many of our crew are in being able to fix a lot of problems in the ship that have been around for a while. The best part, of course, is getting back out there and I am in no doubt that this has brought home the realities of what will be a busy programme in 2011 and into 2012. You would no doubt be aware that we start our period at sea again on 31 January 2011 and will have a week back home from 18-28 February before commencing our 4 month deployment. Whilst exciting for us, it no doubt will leave some questions unanswered for you and I would ask you to pencil in the evening of 20 January 2011 as a date with us to go through some of the pre deployment issues. These include presentations from the Defence Community Organisation and Defence Families of Australia as well as information and useful tips on accessing assistance whilst we are away (well more than what we have provided so far). This is an important date and all are welcome. I am sure it will assist in being able to put some rising fears to rest and forward some ideas on how to prepare for the deployment. On a lighter note we are all looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas party on Saturday 11 December here at Garden Island at the heritage centre. I echo the good cheer of the editor in thanking the Ships Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Paul Bradley, for organising this important event. We have prayed to the weather gods and all being well, the jumping castle, BBQ and some drinks will assist. We have been graciously provided funding by the RAN Central Canteens Fund who continues to support Defence activities and thanks must be provided to them for the gracious grant. I am led to believe a certain jolly man in a red suit will be there and his sleigh just might have some thing for those who have been good. So come on down for a great community event.....it's all courtesy of the Navy and it is all for you.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very safe, happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to your continued support in 2011. *Thanks again...it is very much appreciated.*



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## The Eureka Challenge and Trophy

By ABCSO Ash Speight

On the 14th of November after a hard week of work at sea, HMAS *Ballarat* went to anchor in Jervis Bay off HMAS *Creswell*. Ships Company were transferred via boat to *Creswell* where they competed for the honour of taking out the inaugural 'Eureka Challenge and Trophy'.

The two sports chosen for the challenge were beach cricket and beach volleyball. From the outset spirits were high, and after a quick dip in the ocean the crew were ready to play ball.

While the sun was blazing the competition was heating up with executive department comfortably winning their first round of cricket against the Stokers. Some would say that executive had an unfair advantage on the cricket field due to the executive department outnumbering the Stoker department by at least 3 to 1. [Editor's Note: Ash does not admit to being one of them].

Later in the day the Executive department proved that their sporting ability was not merely due to their large numbers. They managed to go on and convincingly beat the Stokers on the volley ball court where the numbers were limited to six per side.

Meanwhile the ET's were triumphant against all

comers, with their only loss coming at the hands of Executive department on the cricketing field. The numbers advantage was proving decisive and Executive proved tough to beat at cricket.



Stump-Cam

The final deciding match was between the ET's and the Executive department on the Volleyball court, where the ET's managed to get out to a comfortable lead. The Executives were not quite ready to throw in the towel just yet and dug deep to bring themselves back into the game by closing the lead to just a few points. The ET's then regrouped and held off the Executive department, going on to take the crown as the sports day champions.

[Continued next page...](#)



Foreground: Greenies Vs. Supply in Beach Volleyball. Background: Stokers Vs. Executive in Beach Cricket.



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Some members of ship's company were later overheard claiming that the ET's had an unfair advantage; they believed that the extreme energy levels observed from the ET's were due to the large amounts of sleep they had enjoyed through the week.



**Too pretty to win!**

When asked whether or not they were disappointed with their performance, one of the Stokers stated: 'No! Of course not; noting that half our department were either holding DC responsibilities onboard or involved in diving ops'.

'At least we were the best looking team on the day' he added.

[Editor's Note: Theories concerning the Stokers using hallucinogenic sunscreen have since proven untrue.]



**To the victors go the spoils.**

The final results had ET's on top with Executive hot on their heels. The Stokers came in at number 3 with the supply department rounding out the field. All in all it was a highly successful day with the only injuries being bruised egos (mainly from the Stoker department) and the majority of the crew suffering from the shock of the ET win.

The sports day also saw the long awaited arrival of a second CPOMT to the ship. CPOMT Richey's family (pictured below) were on hand to witness his promotion to Chief Petty Officer prior to his embarkation for the remainder of our sea trials.

A great way to finish the day!



**CPOMT Richey promoted 'in field'.**



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## Who is the Tanky, and what does he do?

By LSMT Scott Giffin

*Many of you might have heard the title thrown around by distressed MEO's, or even seen him lurking the corridors at 3 am with a weird looking plumb bob type measuring tape, all we know is, he's David Searle.*

### First of all, what is a Tanky and what do you do?

The Tanky is a sailor in the ME department that controls, under the direction of the DMEO and MEO, the shipborne liquids. This includes the some 559,000Litres of F76 Marine Diesel engine fuel, 50,000L of F44 Aviation fuel, 50,000L of engine and gearbox oil, about 55,000L of water, and 143,000L of seawater ballast.

As the Tanky I'm responsible for the quality control, distribution, ballasting and usage of all liquids on board among other planned and corrective maintenance within ME01. My day usually begins at about 0300, where I start my one of my two transfers daily, in that time all running machinery oil, gear box oil, aviation and marine diesel fuel is tested to ensure that the quality is within fleet standards for both the safety and reliability of our equipment.

In a nut shell, I make sure we don't fall over or run out

of fuel!

### So, where did it all begin, what influenced you to join the navy?

When I was in high school, I pictured the Navy as an opportunity to travel, as both my parents had been in the Navy and seen a lot of Australia and the world, and to also get a trade. In the 5 years I've been in I have seen a lot of countries, some of which luckily not many people have had to go to like Djibouti and Pakistan, and some great countries too, from the Middle East, to America, Hawaiian island's, Canada and NZ.

### Awesome, so what would be the most memorable moment you have had in your navy career so far?

Probably sailing into FBE (*that's Fleet Base East – Ed*) from our OP SLIPPER deployment in HMAS STUART, as I'm sure a lot of people would agree it was the best part of the deployment, having my family, friends and girlfriend waiting on the wharf made it far more rewarding.

### I hear your also a pilot, Is that true?

I started flying shortly after I joined STUART in 2008, with a long story short I wanted to fly since I was a kid but never considered it a real possibility until one of the boys onboard (who was studying his helicopter licence) asked for a good reason why not to start now, so after failing to come up with a justifiable reason, I started my training. I went on to complete my Private Pilots Licence in early 2010 and I'm currently in the final stages of completing my Commercial Fixed Wing Licence.

### So what are your plans for the future?

Still unsure, but at the moment I'm focusing on the ships program for the next 18 months and my wedding at the end of 2012 with my now fiancé Amy (currently posted to HMAS Stuart), after that I'm keeping an open mind but either way my long term goal is to fly for the Royal Flying Doctors.

### Finally, as a returned serviceman, got any tips for the young players?

Make sure you bring Aussie style BBQ sauce and get as many photos, letters and parcels sent from home as possible, and be careful what you drink in Muscat, the milk in milkshakes is Goats milk!! :/



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## Ponderings on Remembrance Day

By ABCSO Ash Speight

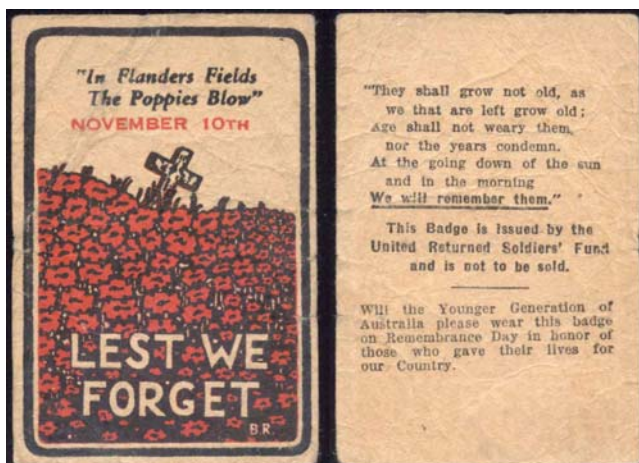
*They are Strangers to us and we will never speak to them. They have no faces and we will never get to meet them. But once a year for one minute we will stop and remember them...*

Since joining the Navy I have found that the minute of silence observed on Remembrance Day has become more meaningful to me. Where I would once impatiently stare at the ground counting the seconds until I could begin going about my business again, I now think about all those who sacrificed their lives bravely to defend their family and country.

I think about their last moments; the cries, the pain, the honour and the bravery. I think about my own work mates and how I would feel about losing them in battle and to then have to carry on fighting.

While I will never truly understand the pain and suffering experienced by these fallen heroes, for one minute every year I will stop and remember them.

Lest we forget.



**Did You Know?** Germany agreed to the armistice on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, ending hostilities on the 11th. This date is reflected in the memorial card issued by the United Returned Soldiers' Fund shortly after the war, which gives 10 November as the date on which the war ended.

## Jack Speak

### CRACKS!?!

*'BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA' is a saying indicative of a dilemma, where the only option is a choice between two undesirable or dangerous alternatives.*

One theory on the origins is a nautical reference citing the deep blue sea and a "devil" a seam (where two hull planks meet) that is difficult to reach on a ship.

In wooden ships, the "devil" was the longest seam of the ship. It ran from the bow to the stern. When at sea and the devil had to be caulked, the sailor sat in a bosun's chair to do so. He was suspended between the devil and the sea ('the deep') a very precarious position, especially when the ship was underway.

According to the "International Maritime Dictionary" by René de Kerchove, the devil may be defined as:

1. The seam in a wooden deck which bounds the waterway. It is so-called from its difficulty of access in calking.
2. A seam in the planking of a wooden ship on or below the waterline.

Another consideration is if sailors fell from a footrope under a yardarm, they would either land on the deck (within the devil plank) or in the water (outside of the devil plank). Either option is likely fatal.

However, this nautical definition is unlikely. This is because the first recorded citation of 'the Devil and the deep sea' in print is in Robert Monro's His expedition with the worthy Scots regiment called Mac-keyes, 1637: "I, with my partie, did lie on our poste, as betwixt the devill and the deep sea."

Another nautical reference of the devil referred to part of a sailing ships bottom. During the punishment of being keel hauled it was said that the unfortunate sailor was BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP (BLUE) SEA.

Next Edition.....Rounding both Capes?



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## Top Tips to Stay on Top ... Defence Special Needs Support Group



### So what is the Defence Special Needs Support Group (DSNSG)?

In late 1993 a small group of families, each caring for someone with special needs came together to form the Defence Special Needs Support Group. During 1994, this small group spread its wings across Australia and now some 16 years later continues support, information and assistance to Defence Families with Special Needs.

### What are special needs?

The term special needs basically covers the full range of medical, disability, therapy and education needs. It includes:

- chronic illness or medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or arthritis
- intellectual disability
- physical disability
- sensory disability
- speech and language disorders
- epilepsy
- autism spectrum disorder
- ADD/ADHD
- developmental delay
- gifted and talented
- learning disability/difficulty

### Services Provided

The Defence Special Needs Support Group has support groups in each State and Territory which are able to assist with information and support and assistance at a local level.

In addition, the Defence Special Needs Support Group also offers the following services.

- Posting Plans designed to assist families with special needs locate appropriate services i.e. therapy, early intervention, support groups, respite, etc.
- National Parent-to-Parent Network which links special needs families who are posted, to other families in the new location who have similar needs.
- Circle of Friends Respite Program provides respite to eligible families. This can be via the Flexi Respite Program which provides up to 4 hours per week via registered respite agency or through the Host Family Program which uses Defence families as Host Carers.
- Link Up which links adults (usually spouses) with physical or medical special needs. It is conducted via a Telelink service and costs the participant nothing.
- Leaps N Bounds is a support group for those who have depression or other mental health problem.
- Access to Grants to assist families with special needs obtain equipment or other requirements relating to the person with special needs.
- One of the Group is a program designed to assist children aged 7 - 10 who have social skill difficulties.
- Computers 4 Kids assists families to access new or second hand computers.
- Stepping Stones Playgroup is a structured playgroup for children with special needs and their siblings.
- Connecting Families brings families from various groups together for subsidized outings and events
- Home2Hospital assists families where the person with special needs has to spend some time in a hospital far away from their home.
- sibMates assists "at risk" children who have a brother or sister with special needs.
- Get Real Teen Group Program – activity based program for special needs teens and their siblings.

Check out the DSNSG website for a complete list of services at: <https://dsnsg.org.au/>

Next Edition: The ADF Consumer Council



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## Choose Your Rate, Choose Your Fate!

By LSSTD Lindsay Russell

Welcome back to "Choose Your Rate, Choose Your Fate!" This month we will get to know a little about another three members of Ships Company; an Officer, a Senior Sailor and a Junior Sailor.

Name (Nickname) Gordon Vine



**Rank and Rate** Lieutenant – Deputy Marine Engineering Officer (LEUT – DMEO)

**Years Service** 8

**Posted Onboard** 12 July 2010

**Posting History** HMA Ships Creswell and Kanimbla, ADFA, HMAS Parramatta, NGN and HMAS Ballarat.

**What Your Job Entails** Divisional Officer for ME Junior Sailors, AMPS administrator, maintenance manager.

**Auxiliary Duties** Damage Control Officer (DCO)

**Hobbies / Interests** Driving decision making down—to the AMEO.

**Likes** Steak and mushroom pies.

**Dislikes** Being asked to define my likes and dislikes.

**If you Could Invite Anyone to Dinner... (pick three)**  
Bruce Willis, Charlie Chaplin and Isaac Hayes.

**You Can Quote Me on That** "DCC is manned. All reports to DCC."

Name (Nickname) Andrew Richardson (Richo)



**Rank and Rate** Chief Petty Officer Naval Police Coxswain (CPONPC)

**Years Service** 20 years in January 2011

**Posted Onboard** 17 January 2009

**Posting History** HMA Ships Nirimba, Parramatta ( DE ) Cerberus, Kuttabul, Canberra, Tobruk, Penguin, Watson, Geelong, Maitland, Pirie, Broome, Defence Police Training Centre and HMAS Sturat/Ballararat.

**What Your Job Entails** .Good order and discipline / Whole Ship Co-ordination.

**Auxiliary Duties** N/A

**Hobbies / Interests** Driving and spending time with the family. Continual renovations of my 110 year old house in Picton.

**Likes** Relaxing in front of the TV.

**Dislikes** Driving on the M5 on the way home from work.

**If you Could Invite Anyone to Dinner... (pick three)**  
I don't think I could find 3 people and my wife wouldn't trust me to bring friends over for dinner.

**You Can Quote Me on That** "I am the ULTIMATE HELMSMAN! "



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Name (Nickname) Matthew Grieve (Bic)



Rank and Rate Able Seaman Medic (ABMED)

Years Service 6 and half years

Posted Onboard 16 April 2010

Posting History HMA Ships Cerberus, Penguin, Newcastle, Kuttabul, Leeuwin (white crew) Penguin, Cerberus, Penguin, Manorra and Stuart/Ballararat.

What Your Job Entails Saving lives and filing medical records.

Auxiliary Duties Forecastle part of ship during SSD.

Hobbies / Interests 4WD, camping and fishing.

Likes Cold beer around a camp fire with good mates and my dog Diesel.

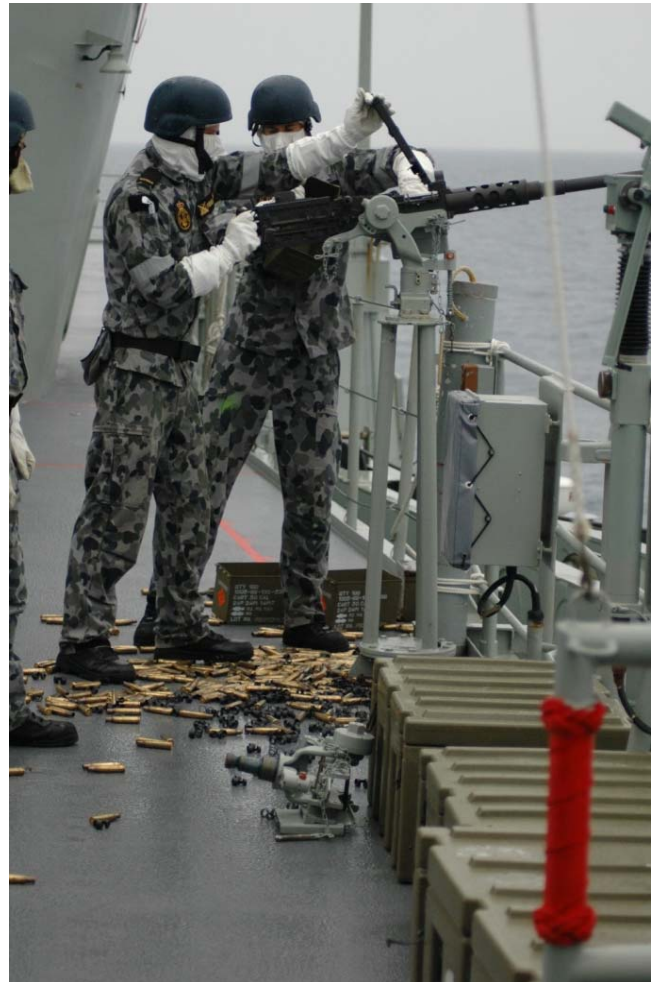
Dislikes Petrol prices.

If you Could Invite Anyone to Dinner... (pick three) Steve Irwin, Slim Dusty and Rachel McAdams.

You Can Quote Me on That

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

## Onboard this Month ...



0.50 cal Shoot on the GDP



5" Shoot from the Starboard Bridge Wing