



New Entry Officer Course 65 Graduation Events

1st December – 2nd December 2021

Information for Guests



This information has been provided to help you plan your attendance for New Entry Officer Course 65 Graduation Events at the Royal Australian Naval College (RANC), HMAS *Creswell*. Included is general information on the local area, *Creswell* and the order of events that can be expected over the two days. If any further information is required, please contact your graduating member.

Dress. Please note that seating and viewing areas for the parade are not under cover. Dependant on the weather you may wish to bring an umbrella, sunscreen, hat and bottled water. You will be required to walk from the carpark to the Parade Ground over grassed areas and uneven ground; sensible footwear is recommended.

- Civilian: Lounge Suit; equivalent for ladies (Medals Optional).

Current serving members (Optional for family members):

- Navy - All ranks - S2
- Army – 2 A/C Ceremonial Dress
- Air Force – 1 A/B/C
- Foreign Military Guests – Equivalent Ceremonial Service Dress (less sword)

Travel. *Creswell* is situated in Booderee National Park and adjoins the pristine Jervis Bay Marine Park. Driving time from Sydney CBD along the Princes Highway takes approximately three hours.

From Sydney Airport:

Heading south follow the road signs towards Wollongong.

Travel along the Princes Highway in a southbound direction, this will lead you onto the Southern Freeway.

Continue along the freeway, which merges into Mt Ousley Road, here you will descend down Mt Ousley.

Once at the base of Mt Ousley, follow the road veering right onto the Princes Highway. Travel through the towns of Albion Park Rail, Berry and Nowra.

At Falls Creek, approx 10 minutes south of Nowra, turn left onto Jervis Bay Road Follow Jervis Bay Road for approximately 20 km, through the Booderee National Park gates then turn left onto College Road, which leads to the *Creswell* gangway.

On arrival at the Main gate (Gangway), your invitation and photographic ID will be checked and you will then be directed to parking.

Admission into Booderee National Park. On approaching the National Park entrance gates, advise the attendant you are attending the parade activities being held in *Creswell* as payment of the parking and use fee is waived for visitors to the Base itself. If you wish to explore the National Park, you will be required to pay the park use fee at the entrance gates, or ticketing machine, located in the Information Centre car park.

Access to *Creswell*. Invited guests will be able to proceed through the Main Gate (Gangway) from 6.00pm on the evening of the Ceremonial Sunset and again from 8.01am for the Graduation Parade.

You must bring your original invite; this invite assists with access checks. All adults in a vehicle must have photographic ID. If you have been provided with an assisted parking pass, this must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.

Accommodation. Nowra is located approximately 42 km or about 40min from *Creswell*. A range of accommodation is available in Nowra or the nearby coastal villages of Vincentia, Huskisson, Sanctuary Point, St Georges Basin and Hyams Beach. The local villages are popular tourist destinations and offer a number of cafes, clubs, takeaways, small eateries and restaurants from which to choose. Please book accommodation early to avoid disappointment due to the tourist season.

Transport. There is no public transport available to or from *Creswell* (travelling time from local villages range from 10 to 40 min by motor vehicle); therefore, you will need to organise your transport between *Creswell* and your accommodation.

Facilities. Jervis Bay Post Office and the Navy Canteen, both located onboard *Creswell*, offer retail facilities including light refreshments and banking needs (EFTPOS is available). Naval memorabilia will be available for purchase by guests prior to the Graduation Parade adjacent to the parade ground (EFTPOS available).

Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset. Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset are perhaps the oldest and most significant of Naval ceremonies and are derived from the age of sail. Steeped in Naval history, they are now usually conducted to conclude days of special importance. Beating to Quarters stems from the 17th century when a drum roll, or beating of drums, was carried out in warships when an enemy ship had been sighted, or to signify a 'call to arms': a call for the Ship's Company to man their quarters. In today's Navy, Ship's Companies are called to 'Action Stations' by loud electronic alarms.

The Ceremonial Sunset salutes the lowering of the Australian White Ensign at the close of the day, and is conducted by ships in harbour as well as shore establishments. At sunset in the days of sail it was prudent for Captains of 'men-of-war' to prove their gun powder was dry and ready for the next encounter. This was done by firing an evening gun and having the marine detachment fire a fusillade of rifles. NEOC 65 will recreate these traditions in a ceremony held on the Quarterdeck *Creswell*.

The order of events for the evening will be:

6.00pm – Gangway opens for arrival of invited guests

7.00pm – Reception commences for invited guests ONLY. Each Division will be allocated 10-15 minutes in Geelong House Auditorium. Classrooms & computer rooms will be available to use. We request your patience, as the capacity of the room is 200 people per session.

8.00pm – Reception will cease

8:20pm – Commanding Officer Royal Australian Naval College and VIPs arrive

8:25pm – Bugler sounds a fanfare for the introduction

8:30pm – Ceremony commences

Graduation Parade. The Graduation Parade marks the conclusion of the course. The New Entry Officers are paraded as a guard on the Quarterdeck and marched past the Reviewing Officer in ceremonial uniforms.

The parade will feature a number of drill movements performed by the Guard, and will conclude with the traditional 'advance in review order' synchronised with a fly past by Naval aircraft.

The following is a general outline of the day's events:

- 8.01am — Gangway opens for arrival of invited guests
- 8:45am — Guests to be seated
- 8.55am — Guest welcome
- 9:00am — March-in and parade the Australian White Ensign
- NEOC Guard, Parade and RAN Band march on
- Arrival of the Reviewing Officer
- Reviewing Officer inspects the Guard and Parade
- Naval prayer led by the Chaplain of Royal Australian Navy College (RANC)
- Address by the Commanding Officer Royal Australian Navy College
- Address by the Reviewing Officer
- The march past
- Prize and award ceremony
- On completion, graduates retire for official photographs and Divisional staff will distribute graduation certificates to the graduates.

Prizes and Awards. Prizes and awards have been established to recognise the achievements of individual officers who have consistently performed to the highest standard throughout their training.

Official Photographs. Official photographs will be taken with the Reviewing Officer, Commanding Officer HMAS *Creswell* and Commanding Officer of the RANC on completion of the parade. After official photographs are taken, graduates will be able to reunite with family and friends.

Graduation Luncheon. There is an opportunity for graduates to invite only four members of their family and friends to a post-parade luncheon. This is a social event where invited guests can meet with the VIPs, College staff and NEOC graduates. The luncheon will be served in Geelong House Auditorium commencing at 11.00am – 12.30pm sessions will be by Division for approximately 20 minutes. We request your patience, as the capacity of the room is 200 people per session. Classrooms & computer rooms will be available to use.

COVID -19 Vaccinations. Guests over the age of 12 years old are required to be **double** vaccinated with Australian Government approved vaccines in order to attend Graduation events. Proof of vaccinations will be required **before** guests are placed on the attendance list. Guest are to provide proof of vaccination to their host via email at first available opportunity.

Service NSW app. Please download the Service NSW app before arriving at *Creswell*.

www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/check-in/service-nsw-app

COVID-19 digital certificate should also be added.

www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/vaccination/proof/service-nsw-app