

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)



Left: Physical training on a Sunday – at 6am – was a new experience for some on the Tasmanian Exercise Executive Stretch at Pontville.

Below: Group members get ready for some dry-dive naval exercises at HMAS Huon in Hobart on the Saturday morning.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Committee of the DRSC has had a successful year opening, in July 2004, with the opportunity to launch the Defence Private Sector Leave Policy at the Blundstone Footwear Manufacturing factory.

The venue was particularly relevant as a photo of Blundstone staff featured on the front cover of the Private Sector Leave guidelines brochure. Local press and local TV station attended and gave good coverage.

We held the Chairman's Annual Dinner in Launceston in August 2004, with some 60 employers, community leaders, government and Defence personnel attending.

For the first time, we had a dog also attend. He was a trainee seeing-eye dog who seemed to enjoy the evening, as he was spied drinking the dregs from the coffee cups of fellow guests.

As in previous years, during August 2004, we manned a stand at the Australian Human Resources Institute function in Hobart, a major event attracting about 200 HR managers from throughout the state.

Besides being a great networking event for DRSC, it is also beneficial in recruiting participants to attend Exercise Executive Stretch (EES) activities.

In September 2004, the Annual Hobart Chairman's Dinner took place at the Anglesea Barracks Officers Mess. It was the final Chairman's dinner for CMDR Norman MacMillan and Liaison Officer MAJ Glen Clements. Guests included members from the sub-committees in Launceston and North West, as well as government officials, employers and community leaders

The occasion was marked with a presentation of CMDR MacMillan's past 'indiscretions'. MAJ Clements officiated as Dining President for the evening.

EES was held from 29-31 October and 24 participants attended. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves and said it was a fantastic exercise to show employers the value of Reservists within a company.



DRSC-Tas is finding that more women are now participating in EES. Three of the participants have included their 'exploits' in their in-house newsletters and encouraged other people to 'have a go' for 2005.

MAJGEN Wilson visited on 30 October and 1 November 2004, and attended EES and an employer luncheon held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. Guests included the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Rob Valentine, State Service Commissioner, Mr Robert Watling, the Hon Doug Parkinson MLC, Mr Steve Gunn, CEO, Blundstone Pty Ltd, Mr Mike Ryan, State Manager, Hotel Grand Chancellor plus other guests from the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tasmanian Police and Defence.

In February 2005, for the first time a combined DRSC/Devonport Chamber of Commerce function was held in Devonport. This was followed in March by another first, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce employer function at the Anglesea Barracks. About 50 employers attended each function, which both proved very successful.

A morning tea mid March was organised to farewell the Chairman, CMDR MacMillan, and Liaison Officer, MAJ Clements. Norman has retired to follow other interests after eight years at the helm while Glen has been posted as Detachment Commandant at AFSU after 11 years with DRSC.

In early May MAJ Barry Bastick, new liaison officer and Staff Officer WO1 Paul Vickers attended AGFEST, a showcase of agricultural industries, business houses and government departments, along with other ADF Units.

Other major events for the year were to include the Launceston Chamber of Commerce/DRSC function at Paterson Barracks and the Chairman's NW Annual Dinner at the Burnie Club.

Defence Reserves Support Councils (continued)

New South Wales

The NSW committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) has had a very successful year through 2004-2005.

One of the highlights has been renegotiating the Defence Leave Policy for NSW State Government employees. The leave policy was finalised on 8 November 2004 after lengthy discussions between the DRSC NSW Chairman, the Honourable John Jobling OAM, and NSW Special Minister of State, the Honourable John Della Bosca MLC.

The new changes give provision for leave in excess of the current military leave entitlement.

NSW public service employees will now receive top-up pay, being the difference between their Reservist pay and what they would ordinarily receive if they were at work.

As well as this achievement, a number of functions were supported. They included:

The Army Reserves Trade Training Scheme dinner

The trade training scheme encourages trade apprenticeships in the Newcastle area. Apprentices agree to join and to remain in the Army Reserve for the period of their civilian training.

The dinner was the formal avenue for congratulating the apprentices and thanking the host employers. Employer Support Awards were presented to host employers Lake Macquarie Council, Hunter TAFE, Daimler Chrysler and Marcal Trucks.



Above: At the Army Reserve Training Apprenticeship Program dinner in October 2004 at Newcastle Town Hall were Deputy Chairman of DRSC NSW Mr Ian Unsworth, the Commander of 2 Division MAJGEN Paul Irving, Craftsman Glen Simpson who received the Best Soldier Skills Award, Private Sue D'amico who received the Best Apprentice 2004 Award, and Craftsman Scott Goodier who received the Best Technical Skills Award, with the Chief of the Army, LTGEN Leahy at right.



Above: ABL IT GM David Hirsch accepting plaque from John Jobling at presentation of the NSW Employer Award to Australian Business Ltd (ABL), which took place on Monday 13 September 2004.

DRSC/ 1/19 Royal NSW Regiment A Company Chamber of Commerce function

Employers from the Wagga area experienced active and static displays including section formations, contact drills, and weaponry and night vision devices.

During the function employers were exposed to their local Army Reserve Depot, the role and function of the Defence Reserves Support Council, Army Reservist training and the benefits of Reserve service to the workplace.

DRSC and 12/16 Hunter River Lancers Employer Awards

The awards were held to formally thank and recognise the support given to Army Reservists in the Tamworth Area.

Awards were presented to Cargill Beef Australia, Macquarie Generation and the University of New England.

Defence Reserves Support Councils (continued)



New South Wales (continued)

Employers Air Force Reserves Familiarisation and Awareness function

The morning began with breakfast at the Airman's Mess followed by viewing the graduation parade reviewed by the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Angus Houston. Other activities included hot-air balloon demonstration and rides and a tour of the base including flight line, aircraft hangers, avionics section, high rope rappelling and C130 Hercules simulator.

DRSC / 12/16 Hunter River Lancers Awareness function

Employers of Reservists were given an inside look at what their employees learn and work with in the Army. Fifteen employers from Tamworth, in North West NSW, spent an evening seeing the Reservists under training, and learning about the skills and types of equipment the Reservists work with, and the roles they fulfil, at C Squadron 12/16 Hunter River Lancers.

DRSC / 41 Royal New South Wales Regiment Awareness function

Employers were introduced to the benefits of Reserve service, the Reserve Response Force and the Employer Support Payment Scheme.

A tri-service (Navy focused) Exercise Executive Stretch was held at HMAS CRESWELL, Jervis Bay, from Friday to Sunday, 5 to 7 November 2004.

Employers from the Sydney and Wagga regions participated and were exposed to Naval Reserve ship damage control and fire fighting training, navigation and

Above & below: Employers got a taste of both high water and the hell of fires during Exercise Executive Stretch at HMAS Creswell in Jervis Bay in November 2004. As shown above, being winched out of the water was a real stretch for back and neck muscles, and the heat and stress of just wearing heavy firefighting gear was a lesson learned in the shipboard fire training simulator.



bush craft and team-building activities, before being winched out of Jervis Bay by an Squirrel helicopter.

The DRSC also supported 7 Field Regiment open day at Erina, Wagga Emergency Services and Defence Force Open Day at Wagga, the Naval Reserve Symposium, the Military Health Symposium and 41 RNSWR open day at Coffs Harbour.

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)

Western Australia

After close consultation with the DRSC, the WA State Government Defence Leave Policy parameters have been approved by the Minister.

Implementation throughout the public sector was expected to be complete by the end of June 2005.

As well, the WA Committee of the DRSC has been instrumental in the inclusion of a Defence Leave Policy in the Human Resources Manual of the WA Local Government Association.

Implementing these policies is a significant milestone for DRSC WA, and enables all levels of government to show the way as major employers of Reservists by having leave policies that support the release of Defence Reservists for peacetime training and deployment.

The annual Employer Support and Reserve Excellence Awards were held at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel on Monday 22 November 2004.

Patron, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, Governor of Western Australia, presented Employer Support Awards to 39 employers of Defence Reserves.

Four employers were singled out for special recognition as Employers of the Year for their contributions. They were Department of Education and Training in the category of Government Department, Edith Cowan University for Large Business, Jako Industries for Medium Business and Chalmers and Partners for Small Business.

Two employers were congratulated for their recognition as National Employer of the Year, following State awards in 2003. The recipients of these awards were Mazenod College in the Medium Business category and Language Links College in the Small Business category.

Captain Brian Caswell was presented a Prince of Wales Award Pin in acknowledgement of his selection for a Prince of Wales Award, allowing him to travel to the UK to further his civilian and military careers.

The evening culminated in the presentation of Reserve Excellence Awards to nine Reservists for their exceptional contribution. Nomination is based on military and specialist skills, personal attitude, and contribution to Unit effectiveness. The Awards are presented annually by DRSC-WA.



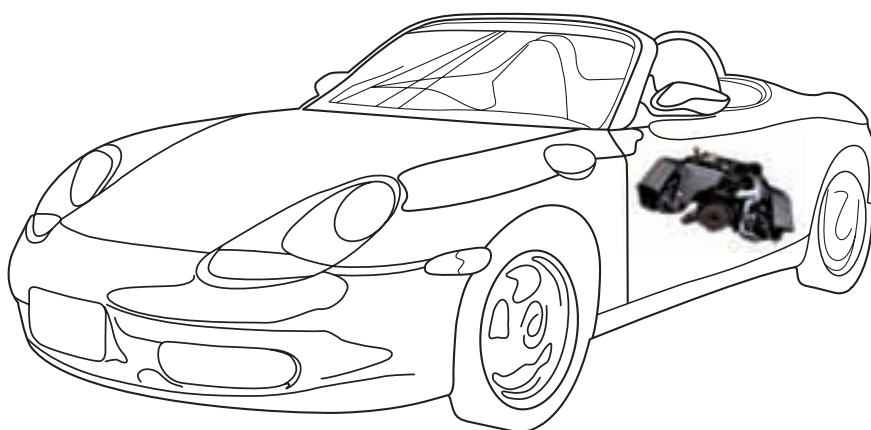
Above: Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, and Captain Brian Caswell, a Prince of Wales Award winner.



Above: : LTCOL Phil Draber, the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, and Mr Warren Snell of Edith Cowan University.

Below: National Winners: LTCOL Ralph Bradstreet, Mrs Lynette Everett (Language Links), Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC, FLTLT Susan Devine, and Father Kevin Davine, OMI (Mazenod College)





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Life's Good

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)



Western Australia
(continued)

Exercise Executive Stretch was conducted over the weekend 2-3 April 2005 at Bindoon Army Training Area and HMAS Stirling.

This was a very successful activity undertaken by 29 people from a cross section of private and public enterprise.

It highlighted reservist training and challenged the employers to a range of activities including the Army obstacle course, rifle firing, sleeping under the stars, and fighting simulated ship floods and fires.

All participants were impressed with the professionalism, high level of training and leadership skills shown by the Reserve staff.

Left: ...and why wouldn't you enjoy an Executive Stretch exercise in WA, when it involves such crystal clear water, hanging around with some new friends, and being watched over by some of the best-trained Reserves in the world.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Committee of the DRSC has seen many changes over 2004 and 2005.

The inaugural Alice Springs EXPO dinner, in March 2004, was sponsored by DRSC and guest speaker was Commander Northern Command, Air Commodore Stephen Walker.

The event was significant for the central region of Australia, illustrating that Defence is necessary in depth, not just along the coast line.



Above: Always take your makeup along for an Executive Stretch exercise in the NT: you never know when you'll have to look your most inconspicuous.

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)

**Northern Territory
(continued)**

NORFORCE Centre Squadron, based at Alice Springs, has some 120 ARES soldiers spread throughout the centre of Australia, from Ayers Rock to Borroloola.

As well, the Defence facilities at Pine Gap and Jindalee are prominent employers in the area.

In June 2004 the NT Exercise Executive Stretch was timed to coincide with the NT EXPO. Holding the activities jointly allowed better promotion of the exercise and encouraged closer ties between employers and the ADF. Participants visited 1 BDE at Robertson Barracks and viewed the Technology Based Training facilities at the Regional Training Centre commanded by COL Jeff Dunn, an ARES soldier of over 40 years and owner of Darwin Ship Stores and Cullen Bay slipway.

Later in the year the DRSC chairman Carole Frost accepted employment within the NT Government as adviser to Minister for Defence Support, Paul Henderson. Carole had only just started to re-establish the committee; she was chairman of the sub committee to establish the Commonwealth Government leave policy recommendations and private sector leave guidelines.

Her resignation was felt as the Darwin community is a very busy place and finding a replacement wasn't easy. Only recently has the Hon Darryl Manzie accepted appointment as the new chairman.

He will use his local knowledge and contacts to reinvigorate the committee.

NT conducted another EES in April 2005, with ABC Television producing a documentary (due to air mid-year). The documentary will be shown on 'The



Above: They make the bosses work hard for their rations on Executive Stretch exercises in the Northern Territory...and teach them that teamwork can overcome the tallest obstacles.

Quest', a new ABC program featuring people putting themselves in situations outside their comfort zone.

The activities to be shown are those which members of the ADF Reserves

take for granted and in their stride during training, but they are activities that are real and demanding, and this aspect is expected to come across on TV.

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)

Queensland

The DRSC committee in Queensland has had a busy year, including some unusual activities along the way.

There was a successful stand at the AMA Life Style Expo held in the Brisbane Convention Centre where 2 Health Support Battalion installed a mobile surgical unit, complete with operating table and equipment, to encourage recruitment of health-related specialists.

DRSC was available to help explain to prospective Reservists and/or their employers the benefits available to help release staff for training and missions.

We supported the Amberley Air Show, the first in Queensland for nine years, and also provided speakers to the Defence Industry Briefing Tour and various unit briefings and employer functions.

An Exercise Executive Stretch took place in Townsville in August 2004 and another is planned for South Queensland in mid-2005.



Above: CMDR Michael Houghton (SNO-SQ) presents the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, The Hon Paul Lucas, MP with an ex-HMAS Brisbane shell casing

The major activity for the year was hosting the 2004 Prince of Wales Award Dinner in Townsville in October.

About 130 guests enjoyed a gala dinner where the six winners received their plaques and the support of their employers was acknowledged.

The National DRSC Annual Conference was held in conjunction and members of the national executive attended a cocktail party and book launch at Kissing Point, a local beauty spot with views to Magnetic Island and beyond. It is also the site of a remarkable military museum, which was opened for the evening.

A tour of military establishments and local tourist attractions completed the weekend.

During Brisbane Navy Week, 19-23 October 2004, employers were hosted at a special event held aboard HMAS Tobruk to highlight the important contribution that Navy Reservists make to the civilian workplace and to the Australian Defence Force. Guests gained a real insight into life on-board an Australian warship.

A group of 18 Naval Reserve personnel employed by major corporations were asked to invite a member of their senior management to attend a working breakfast.

Some of the organisations represented at the breakfast were: Queensland Dept of Transport, Australian Tax Office, Australian Customs Service, Queensland Police, Wesley Hospital, Telstra, Jones Lang LaSalle, AMCOR and Queensland Hyperbaric.

The Queensland Minister for Transport, Paul Lucas, was the special guest speaker at the event, representing the Queensland Government who employ more than 550 reservists.

Minister Lucas was presented with a shell casing from ex-HMAS Brisbane as a symbol of the continuing link between the Navy and the city of Brisbane.

Bush Bash

The DRSC chairman, Tony Behm, with liaison officer Major Barry Flaherty in tow, took recruiting to the dusty backroads by embarking on the Queensland Variety Club Bash.

They left Mackay on Friday 13 August 2004 from Mackay. Stopping for lunch just 85 km from the start point, they had driven 210 km over dusty, corrugated roads to get there. They found their sense of purpose though, as they chatted to a reporter from Queensland Country Life, whom Tony enthralled with the benefits of Reserve Service, the Employer Support Payments and other worldly propositions.

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)



Left: *The Bash vehicle on a river crossing.*
Below: *Tony Behm, Graham Young (owner of DRSC sponsored Bash vehicle) and Barry Flaherty in 'Bash' paint.*



Queensland (continued)

The last overnight stop in Queensland was at the Lawn Hill National Park before heading north-west to the Northern Territory.

While refuelling at Hells Gate, just before the border, they came across some realism – an Army patrol from 51 FNQR on their surveillance tasks. This was the perfect example of Reservists at work, contributing to the operational capability of the ADF.

The Bash finished in Kadadu National Park nine days and thousands of kilometres from where it began. Long days and sometimes longer nights led to visits to towns and communities that otherwise would not have been considered.

Nonetheless, these communities are all part of a Reserve catchment in one way or another and with the assistance of local media, and the attraction of 128 Bash cars passing through, they should now be better informed on the range of DRSC support available.

South Australia

The South Australian Committee of the DRSC has had a fruitful, evolving year as some members moved on and new enthusiasts joined the council.

The Committee has continued actively educating Reservists, their employers and the community about DRSC and the value of Reserve service.

The DRSC-SA Employer Support Awards, held in October 2004 at the National Wine Centre, were very successful. The University of SA received an award in the Large Business category for implementing policy and procedures to assist staff and students in Reserve duty, and for publicly stating it is a "Defence-friendly university".

The Government category award went to Lyell McEwin Hospital, and the Small Business Category award was presented to CP Moore.

On the night, a Nursing Excellence Award was presented to FLTLT Bronte Douglas, a clinical nurse in the emergency department at Lyell McEwin Hospital.

FLTLT Douglas had just returned from deployment to the Solomon Islands and doing a fantastic job being part of the medical support team for the ADF and local residents.

Regional Employer Support Award nights were also held in Broken Hill and Mt Gambier.

RAAF Base Edinburgh hosted Exercise Executive Stretch in March 2005, and DRSC-SA ensured a tri-service focus so employers could see all services of the ADF.

Twenty-two civilians attended, were impressed, and commented on the excellent skills and leadership of the Reservists involved.

The three days and two nights duration meant they could see a range of tri-service activities and sleep overnight in a hutchie...although the weather allowed for little actual sleep.

They walked (and limped) away from the exercise with a better understanding of the training Reservists undertake, and how these skills transfer to civilian employment.

Defence Reserves Support Council (continued)



Left: Karryn Couzner enjoys her first combat ration pack meal on Exercise Executive Stretch in SA in 2005.

Right: The 'Navy' team on Exercise Executive Stretch 2005 after their tour of an Air Force P-3C Orion.



Above: Sarah Roberts negotiates the wall during EES 2005.

DRSC-SA has widened its network of "Friends of the DRSC" and thanked them for their efforts in spreading the DRSC message. The chairman and office staff have also actively promoted awareness of DRSC by speaking to local businesses and companies, and also presenting to Reserve units on parade nights.

The success of the SA committee over the past 12 months has been aided by the enthusiasm and commitment of its volunteer committee members, including the chairman, and the professionalism of the office staff.

South Australia (continued)

At the participants' reunion at Keswick Barracks Officers Mess in April, they were shown a the video of their experiences, and given a copy to take home and share their experience, and their knowledge of Defence Reserves, with their family, friends and colleagues.

Other activities throughout the year also promoted awareness of the value of Reserve training to employers. These "Bring-a-Boss" activities included unit training days at 16 Air Defence Regiment and 3 Health Support Battalion, a Junior Reserves Tri-Service Officers and Employers formal dining-in night and a cocktail party hosted by 3rd/9th LH SAMR before their 'Freedom of the City' march through Gawler.

Committee members who had 'adopted' a unit also attended these activities.

Initiatives like these have become very successful ways of promoting DRSC to Reservists, and providing support and information to employers with questions about Defence service. The SA committee has also liaised with local industry for inclusion of Defence leave policies in employer statements of support. Mitsubishi Motors Australia is the first business in Australia to sign on to the scheme.

The committee has also approached local councils to institute Defence leave policies provisions in Local Government.



Above & below: South Australian DRSC committee members and 'Friends of DRSC' enjoy breakfast at Keswick Barracks Officers Mess.

