

HOST FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF HMAS PARRAMATTA

Rear Admiral R.W. Gates CSM, RAN

Rear Admiral Raydon Gates was appointed *Maritime Commander Australia* on 20 July 2002. He is responsible to the Chief of Navy for the command, administration and training of the Fleet along with the maintenance of Fleet Standards and to the Commander Australian Theatre for Maritime Operations.



Highlights of the Admiral's early career include serving in HMA Ships *Stuart*, *Yarra*, *Stalwart*, *Attack*, *Ardent*, *Melbourne* and *Hobart* along with postings to the United Kingdom.

Further appointments include Operations and Direction Officer in HMAS *Perth*, on staff of the RAN Tactical School and Navy Office, Canberra. A posting as Executive Officer of HMAS *Swan* preceded his promotion to Commander and subsequent postings to the Joint Service Staff College and service in Headquarters Australian Defence Force, Canberra. He read for a Masters Degree in Business Administration before returning to sea in command of HMAS *Canberra* in July 1991. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in 1994 for his command of *Canberra* during Operation DAMASK VI. Service as the Director of Surface and Air Warfare in Maritime Headquarters preceded his promotion to Captain in 1995. He returned to sea in command of HMAS *Adelaide* in June 1995.

He returned to Canberra in December 1997 as the Director of Naval Officers' Postings before promotion to Commodore in March 1999 and appointment as Director General Career Management Policy in the Defence Personnel Executive. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in January 2001 upon appointment as the inaugural Commander of the Australian Defence College in Canberra.

Rear Admiral Gates is married to Alison.

COMMANDING OFFICER HMAS PARRAMATTA

Commander M.J. Noonan, RAN

Commander Michael Noonan is an Air Direction warfare specialist, who joined the ANZAC Class frigate, *Parramatta*, as her commissioning Commanding Officer in February this year. His previous sea service includes time in the patrol boat *Bunbury*, the destroyer escort *Swan*, the destroyers *Brisbane* and *Perth*, and the frigates *Canberra* and *ANZAC*, where he was the commissioning Air Warfare and Operations Officer.



Commander Noonan has seen active service in East Timor as a member of Headquarters INTERFET's Naval Component Command, and in the Middle East as the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Australian Contingent deployed in support of the International Coalition Against Terrorism. He was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for his service in the Middle East.

Commander Noonan has had staff appointments in Naval Support Command, Maritime Command and Navy Headquarters. He is a graduate of the Royal Australian Naval Staff College and he holds masters degrees in Maritime Policy, Business Administration and Marketing Communication.

Commander Noonan's wife Jan, is also in the Navy, having commanded the landing craft HMAS *Labuan* during operations in East Timor. Jan and 15 day old daughter Jaimie, have travelled from Melbourne to be at *Parramatta's* commissioning today.



HMAS PARRAMATTA'S SHIP'S LADY

Mrs Jill Green comes from a Naval family. Her grandfather was Commander G.F. Langford, Captain of HMAS *Brisbane* from 17 November 1925 to 30 October 1926. Her father, Lieutenant G.W.A. (Bill) Langford was the Executive Officer of HMAS *Parramatta* II and was lost in 1941 when his ship was torpedoed and sunk between Alexandria and Tobruk. Lieutenant Langford was mentioned in despatches for his service in *Parramatta* II.



Mrs Green was born in Tasmania and educated in Hobart and Perth. She now lives with her husband Kevin, in Mandurah Western Australia where she enjoys painting, music and her family of two children and three grandchildren.

THE HMAS PARRAMATTA CREST

Badge Design and Badge Origin

HMAS *Parramatta* badge design was derived from the Parramatta City Council Seal in 1939. *Parramatta* I (1916-1928) was a stark Kangaroo. The use of the Aboriginal, with spear in hand, standing in shallow water was utilised with the addition of an impaled and entwined eel on the end of the spear. The addition of the eel was to link the badge design with the ships name. The aboriginal translation for 'Parramatta' is 'the place where the eels lie down'.

Badge Description

An Aboriginal poised on his right leg immersed in shallow water; right arm raised holding a spear and thereon impaled and entwined an eel.

Badge Motto and Origin

The motto 'Strike Deep' was suggested by one of the stand-by crew of *Parramatta* III in 1960. The motto was thought to be appropriate in linking the badge design and *Parramatta*'s naval role. It was officially adopted on 13 June 1961.

Badge Blazon

'Argent; An Australian Aboriginal Poised On The Dexter Foot Immersed In Water, Dexter Arm Raised holding A Spear And Thereon Impaled An Eel All Proper'.



COMMISSIONING OF A WARSHIP



The commissioning ceremony marks the introduction into service of a ship or submarine as a unit of the Royal Australian Navy.

At the moment of breaking the commissioning pennant, HMAS *Parramatta* becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer who, together with the Officers and Ship's Company, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation in peace or war.

The distinction of a RAN ship in commission, other than the Australian White Ensign, is a flag or Pennant at the masthead. The modern Royal Australian Navy commissioning pennant is the red cross of St. George at the hoist with a white fly.



HMAS PARRAMATTA STORY

Parramatta is the oldest name in Australian Naval History. There have been three previous RAN ships to bear the name – with each seeing service in a major conflict. The name Parramatta was taken in recognition of the Barramattagal people ('burra' meaning eel and 'matta' meaning creek), a clan of the Daruk people, whose territory extended from the Parramatta area to beyond the Blue Mountains.

HMAS PARRAMATTA I

Parramatta I was the first ship of the fledgling Commonwealth Naval Forces - later to become the RAN. She was a River Class Torpedo Boat Destroyer displacing 700 tons and capable of a top speed of 28 knots. She was launched on 9 February 1910 and arrived in Melbourne on 10 December of the same year. On 4 October 1913, *Parramatta* I entered Sydney Harbour for the first time as part of the RAN's first fleet.

Parramatta I served with distinction in World War 1, most notably in the destruction of German signal stations at the outbreak of the war and during the hunt for the German Far East Fleet. She was also present at the formal surrender of German New Guinea to Australian forces at Rabaul in September 1914. After consolidating the occupation of New Guinea and New Britain, *Parramatta* was based in Sandakan and was employed patrolling Malayan, East Indies and Philippine waters. In July 1916 she returned to Sydney and spent the next 10 months on patrol in Australian waters. On 10 May 1917 *Parramatta* was despatched to the Mediterranean with *Warrego* and *Yarra* and their sisters to detect and hunt German submarines in the Adriatic and Black Seas. Several attacks were made on enemy submarines but no confirmed kills were credited. Later war service included visits to Pireus, Constantinople, Sebastopol and a brief period off Gallipoli before sailing for Australia on 6 March 1919.

After the war, *Parramatta* I was used in a variety of training roles eventually paying off from Naval service on 20 April 1928. The bow and stern sections of *Parramatta* I were salvaged on 7 and 8 July 1973 and later unveiled as memorials to the ship at Garden Island (bow) and Parramatta city (stern).

HMAS PARRAMATTA I



HMAS PARRAMATTA II

Parramatta II was a Grimsby Class Sloop of 1060 tons, commissioned into service on 8 April 1940. Following a brief period exercising with the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla, *Parramatta* sailed from Fremantle on 29 June 1940 en route to the Red Sea where she spent the next nine months in one of the world's most torrid zones escorting, patrolling and minesweeping. It was monotonous work in the worst possible conditions relieved only by occasional futile Italian air attacks against the convoys under escort. In April 1941 she took part in the British operations against Italian Eritrea, East Africa, before transferring to the Mediterranean station.

The Ship's Company of *Parramatta* II were in the thick of action early the next month. While escorting a small steamer into Tobruk in company with the sloop, HMS *Auckland*, the allied ships came under attack. Three formations each of 16 dive bombers moved in and *Auckland* was sunk. *Parramatta* II fought on and successfully defended her charge, returning later to pick up the *Auckland* survivors. She continued to serve on the infamous 'Tobruk Ferry' run and was subject to continual attacks from enemy aircraft and submarines.

About midnight on 26 November *Parramatta* II was about 25 miles north of Bardia off the Libyan coast escorting a deeply laden ammunition ship *Hanne* to Tobruk. It was pitch dark and raining with a heavy surging sea running. The darkness had not however, prevented the Commanding Officer of the German submarine U559 from sighting the convoy nearly two hours earlier, as it was lit by a flash of lightning and stood silhouetted to the north east of his prowling submarine.

At 12 minutes past midnight at a range of 2200 yards, U559 fired a spread of three torpedoes at the allied vessels. All three torpedoes missed. Then, at 12.45 am on 27 November, U559 fired a further single torpedo at a range of 1500 yards using the same estimations.

U559's torpedo hit *Parramatta* II amidships. The ship was torn apart, rolled rapidly to starboard and sank. One hundred and thirty-eight men lost their lives, with only 24 survivors being recovered from the sea.

HMAS PARRAMATTA II



HMAS PARRAMATTA III

Parramatta III was commissioned into the RAN on 4 July 1961 as the first of six River Class Anti Submarine Frigates or Destroyer Escorts. She was armed with twin 4.5 inch guns, the Seacat missile system for close air and surface defence, two triple torpedo tubes and later, the Ikara anti submarine missile system. She was crewed by 250 officers and sailors and had a top speed of 30 knots. *Parramatta* III completed several overseas deployments and spent many months on the Australia station. Among the highlights of her career was escorting the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' during the visit of HM the Queen in 1963. In 1968 and again in 1971 she was called upon to escort vessels to Vang Tau in Vietnam, however she was fortunate enough not to be fired upon whilst in the war zone. *Parramatta* was extensively refitted in the Williamstown Naval Dockyard between 1977 and 1981 and was finally decommissioned from the RAN on 11 January 1991.

HMAS PARRAMATTA III



Order of CEREMONY

Ship's Company and Guard march onto the wharf

Maritime Commander Australia and Official Party of VIPs arrive

Guest of Honour arrives

Parade inspection

Commanding Officer reads the Commissioning Order

Invitation to Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Psalm 107

Reading - St Matthew 8:23-27

The Naval Prayer

Blessing of the Ship

Prayer for the Ship

The Naval Hymn

Prayer on behalf of the people of Parramatta

Benediction

Commissioning Pennant broken, Australian White Ensign and Australian National Flag hoisted

Ship's Company marches onboard

Exchange of Caps *Parramatta I - Parramatta IV*

Blessing of the Ship's Caul

Cheer Ship

Address by Commanding Officer

Address by Guest of Honour

**Commanding Officer piped onboard
*HMAS Parramatta***

Reception Commences

Specifications

Displacement	3600 tonnes
Length	118m
Range	>6000nm at 18 knots
Speed	>27 knots

Ship's Company

170 Officers and Sailors

Machinery

1 x General Electric LM2500 gas turbine engine
2 x MTU 12V 1163 diesel engines driving two controllable pitch propellers

Armament

1 x 5 inch (127mm) Mk 45 Mod 2 automatic rapid fire gun
Mk 41 vertical launch system with Evolved Sea Sparrow missile
2 x Mk 32 Mod 5 triple mounted torpedo tubes
4 x 50 calibre (12.7mm) machine guns

Sensors

SPS 49 V(8) two dimensional air search radar
9LV453 Target Indication Radar
Krupp Atlas 9600 navigation radar
Optronics package including infra red, laser rangefinder and TV
Spherion B sonar
Centaur electronic support system



HMAS PARRAMATTA

COMMISSIONING SHIP'S COMPANY

COMMANDING OFFICER

CMDR M.J. NOONAN RAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LCDR N.J.B. STOKER RAN

OFFICERS

LCDR M.R. CHARLES RAN
 LCDR J.B. POTTER RAN
 LCDR J.F. WRIGHT RAN
 LCDR B.D. CLARK RAN

LEUT T.D. JONES RAN
 LEUT A.S. WILLIS RAN
 LEUT M.P. SEKULITCH RAN
 LEUT T.J. JACKSON RAN
 LEUT N.L. BELCHER RAN
 LEUT H. CRAWFORD RAN
 LEUT J.E. LANDON RAN
 LEUT K.M. McCABE RAN
 LEUT A.B. MISKELLY RAN
 LEUT R. CHAMBERS RAN
 LEUT W.P. LLAPITAN RAN

LEADING SEAMAN

LSCSO R.I. ALVAREZ	ABCSO B.D. IRVINE
LSCK S.J. BRADBURN	ABCSO D.M. JACKSON
LSSTD B.R. CIASTOWSKI	ABBM M.J. KENNEDY
LSNPC J.P. DAVEY	ABMT R.J. KIRKLAND
LSET C.W. DAWSON	ABCIS S.C. KNIGHTS
LSMT M.P. DOWNING	ABSTD R.M. LAWRY
LSMT A.K. EASTAWAY	ABMT D.N. LOWERY
LSBM A.J. FABICS	ABSTD A. McKELLAR
LSCK J.J. FITZGERALD	ABET C.E.P. MOFFAT
LSET D.R. GALL	ABCSO M.R. MORGAN
LSCIS S.D. HAMILTON	ABCIS K.J. MURRAY
LSET M.J. HAZELWOOD	ABMT A.D. NICHOLLS
LSCIS P.L. JONES	ABCIS J.C. NICHOLSON
LSCIS B.P. KRIKSTOLAITIS	ABCSO D.M. NORENA
LSMT D.P. MATCOTT	ABBM G.M. O'KELLY
LSMT A.J. McDONALD	ABCK M.J. OLDHAM
LSCSO J.L. McGRATH	ABMT M.D. PARKINSON
LSET D.A. McMAHON	ABET T. POLLARD
LSCSO J.R. NICHOLAS	ABCSO T.R. PONSFORD
LSCSO S.M. PICKERING	ABMT P.J. RAE
LSMT M.R. RICHEY	ABBM K.A. REYNOLDS
LSMT N.A. RODGER	ABET A.R. RICHARDS

SBLT S.G. COLEMAN RAN	LSET W.A. ROOMES	ABEWL N.V.B. ROBERTS
SBLT N.J. JAGAR RAN	LSET C.A. ROWDEN	ABMED J.L. ROBINSON
SBLT D.M. MURPHY RAN	LSCIS M.A. SAYLE	ABBM B.H. ROGERS
SBLT D.G. THOMAS RAN	LSCIS A.J. SMITH	ABCK J.E. ROUSSEAU
SBLT L.M. SMITH RAN	LSWTR PA. STARK	ABMT C.E. SHEPPHARD
SBLT S.G. ELBOURNE RAN	LSET A.G. STONE	ABBM N.A. SLAPE
SBLT J.C. HALLAM RAN	LSBM G.R. SULLIVAN	ABMT R.W. SPANN
	LSET J.R. TADULALA	ABMT D.Q. STEERS
MIDN M.C. KERRISK RAN	LSPT R.M. TARJANI	ABET B.M. TAYLOR
MIDN A.G. SHARP RAN	LSSTD S.M. TRENKNER	ABMT B.D. TOWN
MIDN C. UNDERWOOD RAN	LSET S.B. TUDMAN	ABET M.J. TRAVERS
	LSSN J.L. WALKER	ABWTR C.L. WATSON
	LSCSO W.S. WALSH	ABCSO S.P. WATSON
	LSMT B.R. WURFEL	ABCIS A.M. WINTER
	LSET G.D. WYARTT	
	LSBM E.S. YANDELL	

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

CPOB A.T. BEXTON
 CPOET B.T. CASHMORE
 CPOMT S.J. CHITTY
 CPOCSM D.S. DOWELL

CPONPC P. GUNN
 CPOMT A.B. JALLANDS
 CPOCK O.D. MALONEY
 CPOSN G.J. PALMINGTON
 CPOET E.C. SMITH

PETTY OFFICERS

POSTD D.A. ADAMS	ABBM A. DOLAN
POWTR A. BAZLEY	ABMT B.A. EMERSON
POET R.A. BELL	ABCSO N.T. EYRE
POMT P.J. BENNETT	ABET L.G. FAIRBROTHER
POMT W.C. BILSBOROW	ABCK K.T. GALLAGHER
POET S.A. BOAK	ABET L.K. GARDAM
POCSS J.F. DAVIS	ABMED T.L. GELSTON
POMT R.P. FINN	ABCK C.C. GEROCK
POMED S. HOOPER	ABMT M.J. GREEN
POET J.D. LITTLE	ABCIS L.A. GRIMES
POMT B.W. McKEOWN	ABSTD N.L. GUSMAN
POB D.G. O'BRIEN	ABMT R.M. HAYNES
POET A.J. O'SHEA	ABSTD T.M. HEARNE
POMT M.A. ROGERS	ABMT D.T. HERSEY
POCSS S.N. RUSSELL	ABCSO D.S. HOULT
POCIS R.J.H. VAN LIESHOUT	ABET C.G. HUGHES
POCIS D.J. WHEELER	ABMT R.G. IKIN

ABLE SEAMAN and SEAMAN

ABMT S.S. ANDERSON	SMNCSO J. LILLEY
ABCK J.L. BAILEY	SMNMT Z.P.J. MARTELLO
ABET N.A. BEAN	SMNCIS C.L. POTSEY
ABCIS M.L. BEILKEN	SMNMT S.M. ROBSON
ABMT S.W. BUCKINGHAM	SMNCSO B.C.P. ROWE
ABSN D.S. CLARK	SMNCSO M.F.M. SMITH
ABBM A. DOLAN	SMNBM J.A. WILCOCK



Music performed by - **The Royal Australian Navy Band**
 Master of Ceremonies - **Mr H.L. McKenzie**
 Parade Commander - **Lieutenant Commander N.J.B. Stoker RAN**
 Guard Commander - **Lieutenant A.S. Willis RAN**





Commissioning of HMAS PARRAMATTA

4 October 2003

