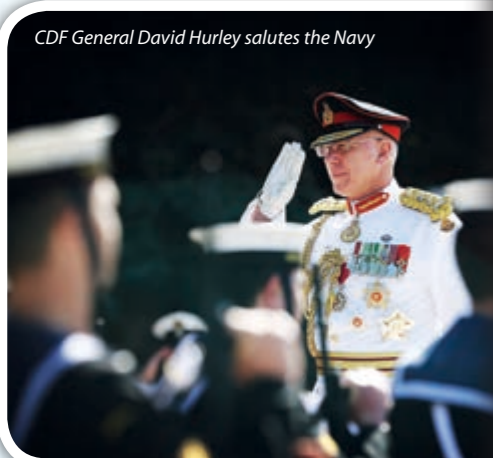


CDF General David Hurley salutes the Navy



Souvenir



HMAS Sydney



HMAS Sydney

HMS Daring (Royal Navy) and
INS Sahyadri (Indian Navy)
approach Sydney Harbour.

WARSHIPS IN THE HARBOUR

The Royal Australian Navy's International Fleet Review in Sydney from 3 to 11 October this year, was a spectacle of the highest order. The review was held to commemorate the centenary of the Royal Australian Navy's First Fleet entry into Sydney in 1913. Led by the then recently commissioned flagship, HMAS Australia, the new Australian fleet also comprised HMA Ships Melbourne, Sydney, Encounter, Warrego, Parramatta and Yarra. Their magnificent entry into Sydney Harbour for the first time, greeted by thousands of cheering citizens lining the foreshore, was a moment of great national pride and importance, one recognised as a key indicator of Australia's progress towards national maturity. And, in 2013, the centenary International Fleet Review was almost as magnificent.

From kids to adults all around the Sydney Harbour foreshore, from a group of about 100 cadets at Fort Denison, right up to Governor-General Quentin Bryce aboard HMAS Leeuwin, the centerpiece event of the nine-day IFR saw the Royal Australian Navy's Ceremonial Fleet Review deliver a lot of colour, noise and excitement.

On 5 October, crowds gathered at every vantage point around Sydney as tall ships, recreational craft, cruise ships and charters big and small cleared a path to make way for Leeuwin as Ms Bryce accompanied by HRH Prince Harry, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, Chief of Defence Force General David Hurley and Prime Minister Tony Abbott prepared to review the fleet.

After receiving a royal salute and cheers from ships moored at Garden Island, Leeuwin took pride of place in front of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as a 100-gun salute ignited proceedings.

Navy's helicopter display team took to the skies and a ceremonial flypast led by

two Seahawks carrying the Australian National Flag and the Navy's White Ensign soared over the harbour, followed by RAAF Roulettes, Hornets, Wedgetail and Orion.

Other aircraft included Seahawks from 816 Squadron, MRH-90s from 808 Squadron, Squirrels from 723 Squadron, Bell 429, the heritage Iroquois, Army's 173 Aviation Squadron Kiowas and international aircraft from France, the UK, Canada, New Zealand and the US.

Then HMA Ships Sydney, Darwin, Perth, Parramatta, Bundaberg, Diamantina, and Huon, followed by 30 foreign vessels cruised past Leeuwin for the official review.

Later that evening, with a crowd estimated at well over a million watching from all the usual spots, and many more watching on TV, the sky was lit up by a spectacular pyrotechnics and light show almost the equal of any before in Sydney.

Sydney Harbour was transformed as city landmarks as well as ships in the harbour

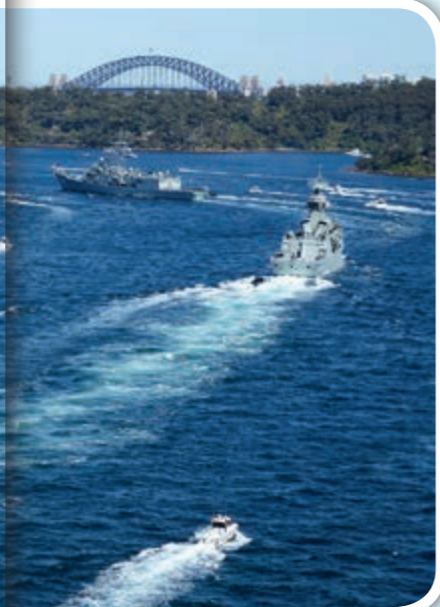
were incorporated into an audio-visual spectacular that paid homage to a century of Royal Australian Navy service.

RAN helicopters started the show, flying down the length of the harbour with lights on the tips of rotor blades and flares fired from counter missile systems.

Then the iconic Sydney Opera House and even Harbour Bridge pylons became projection screens for a 30-minute tableau of Navy's past, present and future, while pyrotechnics were launched from ships up and down the length of the iconic waterway.

Sailors and officers in ceremonial uniform lined the upper decks of ships, adding another splash of colour, as the sky lit up, coordinated by music.

Other service men and women even became part of the spectacular show, firing blank ammunition from .50 calibre machine guns during an impressively choreographed acknowledgement to the senior service.



Commemoration was also a significant part of the evening, with names and faces of Royal Australian Navy personnel who lost their lives in the service of their nation projected on to the sails of the Opera House in honour of their sacrifice.

Midshipman Peter Hunter was on HMAS Parramatta and described the day as the highlight of his naval career so far.

"It was fantastic – an absolute honour to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime event," he said.

On HMAS Tobruk, two sailors who were scheduled to finish their postings at the conclusion of the International Fleet Review, Able Seaman Cameron Eccleston and Seaman Scott Boothman, also enjoyed the festivities.

"It's just been sensational. I can't think of any other words to describe it – awesome, fantastic, good maybe," Able Seaman Eccleston said with a huge smile.

Able Seaman Eccleston joined the Navy two years ago and said the IFR had been one of the highlights of his career, and felt lucky to have been a part of it.

"Look around you, this is where it's all happening and we got to stand right here and see the fireworks and light show, which were just fantastic. Not many people are that lucky," he said.

"And, talk about timing – next week I post to HMAS Ballarat, so I could have missed out if this was just a week later."

Seaman Bootham said he had been in the Navy for about 18 months and had spent the past three months on Tobruk and couldn't think of a better way to say farewell to her.

"I am posting to HMAS Melbourne," he said.

"I really can't beat being here though, the atmosphere is great."

Both sailors said they were looking forward to the open days and hoped the public enjoyed the IFR as much as they had.

"Everyone's smiling so I guess they are all enjoying it."

"Talking to people about your job is always good," Able Seaman Eccleston said.

Another Tobruk crewmember, Able Seaman Melissa Willes, was one of many sailors greeting the public on the open days.

She said while the IFR had been the most exciting thing she had ever been involved in, it had also been a full-on work experience.

"There's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and leading up to something like this," she said.

"Everyone has been working really hard and working long hours and it's great that it has all come together in the end."

Able Seaman Willes said manning the shade deck during the fireworks and light display was one of the best jobs she had during IFR.

"I got to see the whole show and I don't know where you would have got a better view than we had," she said.

Despite the royal and vice-regal attendances, the Naval pomp and pageantry and the spectacular pyrotechnics displays, the highlight for many visitors was getting up close and personal with the technology of modern navies as up to 20 ships lowered their gangplanks to welcome hoards of public visitors aboard for a rare insight into life at sea.

Barangaroo wharf was host to a heavy-hitting international delegation represented by the British destroyer HMS Daring and the

IT'S JUST BEEN SENSATIONAL. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT – AWESOME, FANTASTIC, GOOD, MAYBE

American cruiser USS Chosin, supported by Australian's HMAS Parramatta.

Fifty-thousand ship-boarding tickets sold out very early and an estimated 5000 people poured through the ships at Barangaroo on the first glorious Sydney afternoon.

Guests were given an insight into ship-borne fire-fighting and damage repair, what happens on the bridge of a warship – and a lucky few even got to view life from the Captain's chair.

Alexandra from Sydney lined up to take a look at the ships, describing the access as "amazing".

"Coming on board a working warship and letting the Australian public see how it all happens, makes this a real experience for Australians," she said.

The O'Connor family, who travelled from Canberra for the International Fleet Review, suggested that the wait to get onboard had been well worth it.

"It's been a tremendous credit to the Navy and the organisers for putting this on. It's a really fantastic event," they said.

"Well done."

Garden Island also opened its gates to a flood of onlookers, seeking to get a first-hand experience of the ships helping celebrate 100 years since the first Royal Australian Navy fleet entered Sydney Harbour in 1913.

Singaporean ship RSS Endeavour, New Zealand's ANZAC-class frigate HMNZS Te Mana, Spanish replenishment vessel ESPS Cantabria, Japanese warship JDS Mikanami and Nigerian patrol boat NNS Thunder were all open to the public.

Australian ships Tobruk, Success, Darwin, Stuart and Sydney were also hosts to five hours worth of enthusiastic sightseers, many of them potentially a future sailor or officer.



Leading Seaman Alicia Heron



A sailor onboard HMAS Labuan prepares to 'Cheer Ship'



Chief Petty Officer Denis McKenna



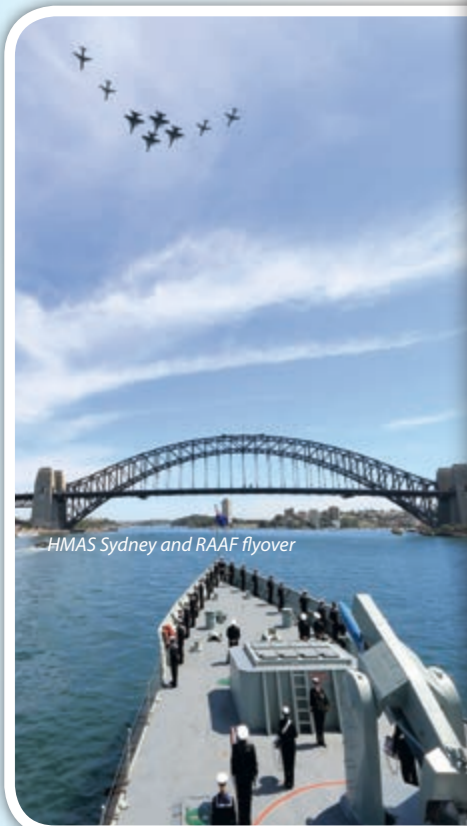
HMA Ship's Parramatta, Perth and Darwin



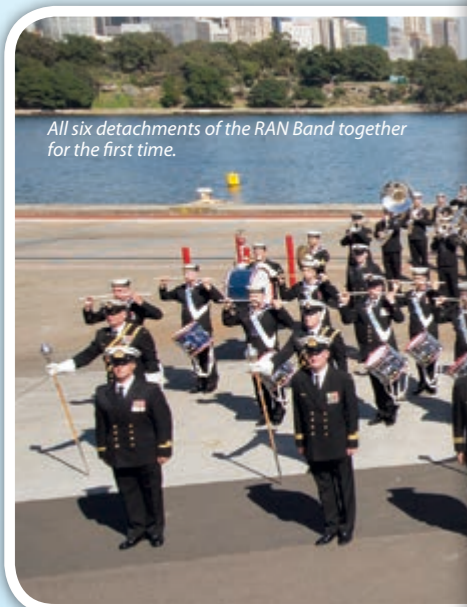
Warrant Officer Ian Waller



21-gun salute



HMAS Sydney and RAAF flyover



All six detachments of the RAN Band together for the first time.

Midshipman Aaron McCarthy was in the thick of the crowd, helping visitors transit Garden Island, handing out Australian White Ensigns and clip-on koalas to the masses.

"We've had plenty of international guests, locals and people who have friends or family in the services," he said

"It's been a great day!"

But it wasn't the visiting public who had all the fun.

Crew aboard India's newest ship were also excited to be here.

INS Sahyadri is a 6361-tonne multipurpose command and control platform whose name comes from the mountain range that protects the west coast of India from sea invasions and was commissioned little more than a year ago.

"Visiting Sydney is one of my dreams come true," Petty Officer Uttam Kushwaha, a gun maintainer on Sahyadri said.

"It is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited.

"I really enjoyed the way we were welcomed here."

Petty Officer Kushwaha said he and his men were responsible for illuminating his ship just before it arrived in Sydney.

"Before coming to IFR we made sure that we did not miss anything required to make the review a memorable one," he said.

Lieutenant Pramendra Yadav, a surface-to-air missile control officer, said it was a good experience working with the RAN.

"The interoperability between both the Navies was good," he said.

"In fact, the work culture seemed to be quite similar.

"Various exercises conducted at Jervis Bay and enroute from Jervis Bay to Sydney proved it."

Lieutenant Yadav said it was a great experience to see and be involved in such a big event.

"All officers, as well as the men, are very excited and enthusiastic about being a part of this.

"The warm welcome and hospitality shown by the people of Australia made us feel very special."

Another foreign visitor – the one which travelled the furthest to get here – was among the smartest in the flotilla.

HMS Daring left Portsmouth in May for her long voyage to Australia.

Lieutenant Alex Tuckwood, a Royal Navy Lynx helicopter observer, said preparations for the International Fleet Review had been ship-wide.

"Every sailor on board has been a valuable part of the team working together to ready Daring for her entry into Sydney Harbour," Lieutenant Tuckwood said.

"The ship's company is extremely excited to be part of IFR, a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"It's rare for the Royal Navy to travel to this part of the world so we've taken every opportunity available to strengthen our ties with Australia and the ADF."

Lieutenant Tuckwood said working with the RAN, and the Fleet Air Arm in particular, had been great.

"We disembarked the Lynx to HMAS Albatross, where 816 Squadron were great hosts, and took the time to show us some flying in the Tianjara Flying Area – definitely not your average day in the Royal Navy."

Weapons engineer Petty Officer Roy Fenwick said the crew had loved all the stops along the way to Australia.

"It was very different from last year when we were in the Gulf," he said.

"It's like Trafalgar 200 all over again."

Leading Seaman Katharine Marsh said IFR was worth the already long period away from home and loved ones.

"We've been working towards it for a long time and Sydney is a place the majority of people would love to say they've been to," she said.

HMS Daring is the first of the Royal Navy's six Type 45 destroyers, displacing 8000 tonnes and with a complement of 190.

THE WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY SHOWN BY THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA MADE US FEEL VERY SPECIAL

Leading Seaman Marsh said HMS Daring was in 'ship shape condition' after undergoing a maintenance period in Melbourne before her appearance at IFR, "to ensure the reputation of the Royal Navy was kept high"

The biennial marine conference, Pacific 2013, was brought forward from its usual January timeslot to coincide with IFR and more than 500 sailors flocked to the exhibition centre in Darling Harbour to check out some of the new technologies that the Navy and our coalition partners may absorb into their fleets in coming years.

Like kids in a candy store, sailors surveyed models of new equipment and listened to product briefings by company executives.

The coincidental Sea Power Conference was also well attended, with more than 40 foreign military delegations present.

Appropriately, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Ray Griggs said the theme of the conference was Naval Diplomacy and Maritime Power Projection: The Utility of Navies in the Maritime Century.

"The 21st Century has been described as a maritime century as much as it is an Asian Century, due to the pervasive nature of global sea trade and the predominantly maritime environment of the Indo-Pacific region," Vice Admiral Griggs said.

"This conference will examine the contemporary utility of navies as tools of statecraft, from hard and soft power perspectives.

"Australia's acquisition of new Canberra-class LHDs and Hobart-class AWDs will also allow the ADF to develop its maritime strategy to meet future security challenges.

"Although Australia faces no immediate conventional threat, it is imperative that the ADF develops its maritime capacity to respond effectively to a broad range of possible tasks from the government."

He said the conference theme capitalised on the presence of many foreign navies in Sydney for the International Fleet Review.



MAGNIFICENT SIGHT IN JERVIS BAY

Twenty Royal Australian Navy and international warships made for a magnificent sight in Jervis Bay at the start of October as they gathered in preparation for their trip to Sydney for the Royal Australian Navy's International Fleet Review.

Her Majesty's Australian Ships were joined at anchor by vessels from Brunei, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, the UK and the USA in the gorgeous Shoalhaven region awaiting departure.

Director of the IFR Captain Nick Bramwell said the ships anchored on 1 October after a busy period of consolidation between their first arrivals to Australia throughout September and passage to Jervis Bay.

"You could really feel the excitement and anticipation of the crews in Jervis Bay," Captain Bramwell said.

Some of the warships had earlier participated in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting – Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (ADMM-Plus MS FTX) while others operated at sea in the East Australian Exercise Area as part of Exercise Triton Centenary – Part 1.

The latter focused on collecting and concentrating participants for the IFR, while the former was a flagship activity under Malaysia and Australia's co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security.

"After their time together in Jervis Bay and surrounds the fleet were integrated, well rehearsed and looking forward to the main event," Captain Bramwell said.

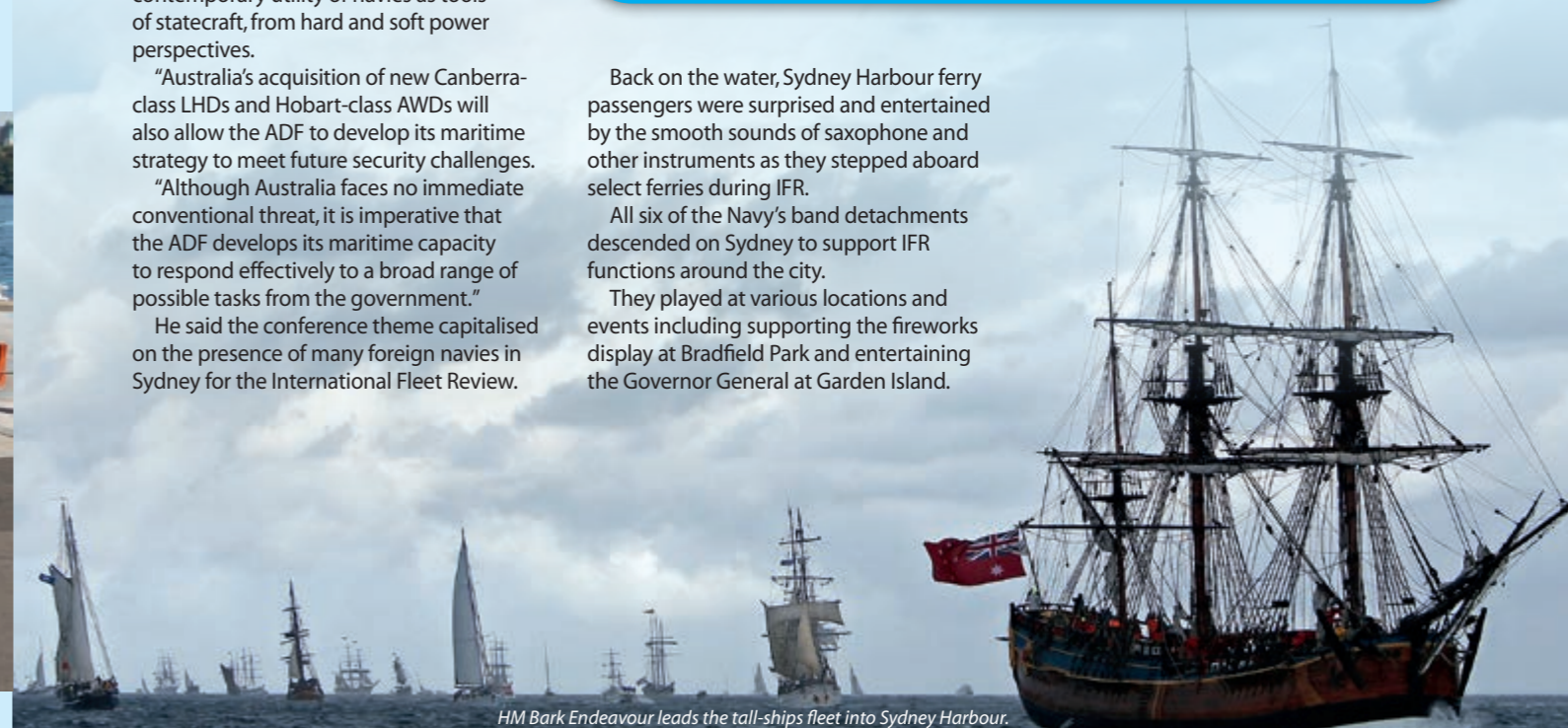
After the IFR, a number of warships regrouped to conduct maritime training activities under the auspices of Exercise Triton Centenary 2013 – Part 2.

The exercise included weapons practices, seamanship evolutions, flying operations, replenishments at sea, combined anti-submarine, damage-control, and communications exercises as well as personnel-exchange programs.

Back on the water, Sydney Harbour ferry passengers were surprised and entertained by the smooth sounds of saxophone and other instruments as they stepped aboard select ferries during IFR.

All six of the Navy's band detachments descended on Sydney to support IFR functions around the city.

They played at various locations and events including supporting the fireworks display at Bradfield Park and entertaining the Governor General at Garden Island.



HM Bark Endeavour leads the tall-ships fleet into Sydney Harbour.

On the ferries, different small groups featured each day, including various woodwind and brass combinations from the Sydney, Queensland and South Australian detachments of the band as well as the visiting Royal New Zealand Navy Band.

South Australian detachment Band Master Chief Petty Officer Kara Williams said she had a great time.

"Playing on the ferry was my favourite gig," Chief Petty Officer Williams said.

"The looks on passengers faces when they realised there was live music on the ferry was priceless.

"They didn't quite know what was going on and then after we introduced ourselves and started playing they really got into it.

"We couldn't have hoped for a better day.

"The weather was beautiful and it was so smooth that the trip went so quickly our set was over before we knew it.

"We would have gone backwards and forwards to Manly all day if we could have."

Making even more noise than the musicians were a group of volunteers sporting guns that are more than 100 years old.

When the fleet of modern warships, boasting the very latest in missiles, guns and equipment, entered Sydney Harbour on 3 October, they were saluted by a battery of three three-pounder Hotchkiss guns that are regularly used by the Navy for ceremonial duties.

Leading Seaman Edward Smith, Able Seaman Troy Haydon and



HMAS Ships Sydney and Darwin

Able Seaman Kevin Grimes formed the number one gun crew for the fleet entry.

Leading Seaman Smith said he was honoured to be given the opportunity to participate in the 21-gun salute for the visiting warships.

"This isn't something I'll ever get to do again," he said.

"We had to do a course on the guns and it was a pretty cool course to get on.

"One of the guns had the date 1904 on it." Able Seaman Haydon said he felt proud to be chosen to fire the saluting guns.

"It's a really special time for the Navy and to be involved in this is something I'll always remember," he said.



Leading Seaman Marcus Salone



HMAS Sydney lights up the harbour

THE SKY WAS LIT UP BY A SPECTACULAR PYROTECHNICS AND LIGHT SHOW ALMOST THE EQUAL OF ANY BEFORE IN SYDNEY.

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