



**SEA RIDING:** DNRS-NSW CMDR Peter Collins (third from right) and Ms Julie McCrossin (hand on wheel) joined bosses and foreign defence attaches on the forecastle of HMAS *Anzac* on the VIP sea day.  
**Photo ABPH Andrew Black**

## Bosses see Reserves make a difference

By CMDR Peter Collins

SEVERAL senior civilian bosses enjoyed a unique insight into RAN capability with a Sea Day on board HMAS *Anzac* during the current Fleet Concentration period off Sydney.

Hosted by DGRES-Navy CDRE Ranford Eley, the event was designed to demonstrate the seamless integration of Naval Reserves in major Fleet units to civilian employers.

Those joining *Anzac* for the day were the new DRSC Chairman, Mr Rod Cavalier; Commonwealth Chief Health Officer designate, Prof Jim Bishop; NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant; NSW Director General, Attorney General's Department, Laurie Glanfield; Acting Assistant Commissioner NSW Police Force, John Stapleton (in charge of CT operations); General Manager Human Resources Tabcorp Ltd, Merryl Dooley; and well known broadcaster, Julie McCrossin.

The NSW Reserve Support team – Deputy DNRS LCDR Phil Smith and I, as DNRS-NSW, accompanied the Sydney-based group.

*Anzac* departed Sydney in company with HMA Ships *Stuart* and *Success* and proceeded to conduct flying operations involving both Seahawk and Sea King helicopters; replenishment-at-sea manoeuvres; and live firing in line astern of both 5 inch and .50 calibre HMG weapons.

Participants were given extensive tours and briefings while *Anzac* was underway. The ships were also subjected to simulated air attacks by two Learjets giving all on board a taste for evasive action with a series of tight turns while *Anzac's* weapons "locked on" to their targets.

CDRE Elsey said the sea day gave civilian bosses a better appreciation of the difference their Reserve employees make to ADF capability.

“In Navy’s case, they enable our ships to go to sea and fill many specialist roles – medical and legal being two important fields,” he said.

“The *Anzac* experience showed these top civilian bosses how all the pieces fit together to produce a wellhoned outcome. In this situation, Reservists are indistinguishable from their permanent shipmates.”

The invited guests left the ship with a very strong impression of the Navy’s professionalism.

“The opportunity to sail for a day with the Royal Australian Navy on HMAS *Anzac* on an exercise out to sea off Sydney was a remarkable experience,” said Qantas In-flight Entertainment host Julie McCrossin.

“There were several vessels involved in close quarter operations with jet aircraft, Seahawk helicopters and live firing.

“I think you have to see the young sailors in operation, as they carry out complex and inherently dangerous operations, to really appreciate their skill, courage and competence.

“I also learnt how reliant Navy is on the contribution of the Naval Reserve personnel, who serve several weeks each year while maintaining civilian careers.

“My day with navy was exciting and thought provoking. It made me reflect on the value of service to one’s country.

“I also got a bit sea sick at times, as the *Anzac* frigate showed how quickly it can change direction at sea, and the gentle care of several sailors was greatly appreciated.”

Based on the success of the *Anzac* Sea Day, CDRE Elsey said that he would like to see the 2010 program extended.

“The feedback has been extremely positive and next year we hope to give more employers this hands on experience,” he said. “We have already started working on the next opportunity.”

***Navy***, Volume 52, No. 4, March 19, 2009