

THE INSTRUCTOR BRANCH AND THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT



"To instruct officers and sailors to enable them to understand the principles underlying the complexity of naval equipment".

(The stated role of the Instructor Branch in 1947 when the Instructor and Schoolmaster Branches merged)

Since the commissioning of HMAS NIRIMBA in 1956 the officer in charge of the training of apprentices has, with one exception, been an Engineering Officer of the Marine Engineering or Weapons Electrical Engineering categories. In practical terms the responsibility for the academic training of apprentices has rested with the officers of the Instructor Branch. Uniformed officers of the technical branches and appropriately qualified civilian instructors have applied themselves to the practical and craft avenues of naval apprentice training. Hence in former years there was an officer of the Instructor Branch in HMAS NIRIMBA - of Commander rank - titled the Senior Instructor Officer.

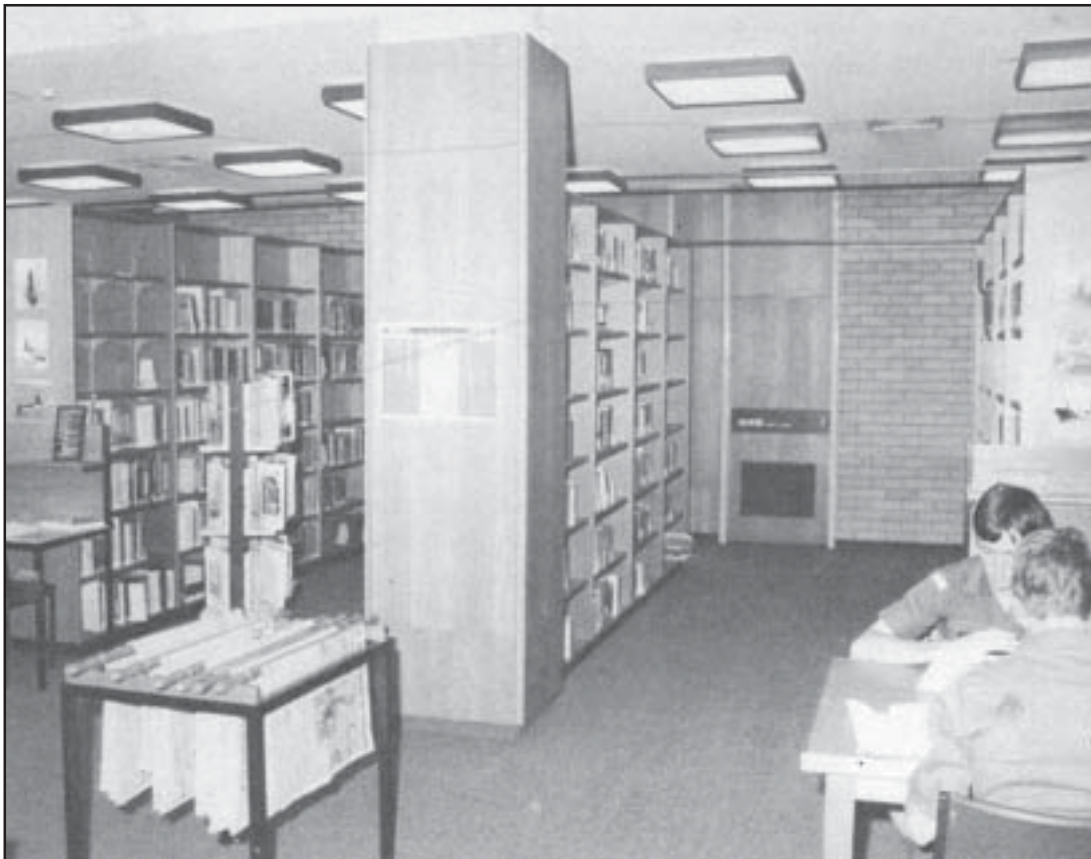
In 1677, Samuel Pepys, then Navy Secretary decreed that every candidate for the post of Lieutenant must have passed an examination in seamanship and navigation in addition to the other pre-requisites of sea service and reports of sobriety and diligence. A knowledge of seamanship could be picked up without formal instruction, but navigation had to be taught. The only man on board likely to turn his hand to teaching was the Chaplain, who had recently been elevated from rating with the Ordinary Seaman to the status of Warrant Officer. At that time Admirals and Captains entered young gentlemen who aspired to be officers as part of their personal retinues. These youths were known as 'volunteers', and as an alternative to their being instructed by the Chaplain, they might occasionally have a Schoolmaster embarked especially for their benefit, at the expense of their sponsors, except that the Schoolmaster was paid as a Midshipman at public expense.

The Schoolmaster was required to 'employ his time on board in instructing the volunteers in writing, arithmetic and the study of navigation and in whatsoever may contribute to render them artists in that science'. In 1836 the Schoolmaster became a Warrant Officer with a uniform and with the title of Naval Instructor and Schoolmaster. In 1861, the Naval Instructor became a Commissioned Officer instead of a Warrant Officer and it was at this time that the custom of wearing on the cuff, blue distinction cloth, now discarded, was introduced. In 1927 the Instructor Branch was gazetted as a separate branch with a rank structure from Instructor Lieutenant to Instructor Captain. At that time Instructor Branch officers began to wear the Executive Branch curl on the top row of their uniform sleeve lace. In 1981 the Instructor Branch was gazetted as part of the General List of Naval Officers.

The first Naval Instructor to be appointed to the RAN was Naval Instructor Morton H Moyes who was appointed to the RAN College Geelong in 1914 and retired from the Navy in the rank of Instructor Captain on 9th August 1946. Instructor Captain Moyes took part in three Antarctic Expeditions, as a member of the second base party at Queen Mary Land 1911-1914, a member of the Shackleton Relief Expedition to the Ross Sea 1916-1917 and Survey Officer in the DISCOVERY in the British and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition 1929-1930. He was one of the few officers of the RAN to wear the Polar Medal. He died in 1981 aged 95.

In NIRIMBA, Instructor Branch officers employed in teaching apprentices worked under the administrative control of the Senior Instructor Officer until 1981 when the training Commander took over responsibility for all academic and technical training.





HMAS Nirimba Library

In 1974 the RAN Training System came into operation in RAN Training Establishments as a result of an overseas training mission headed by Commodore I H Nicholson CBE, RAN, which investigated training techniques as part of the committee of review which had been commissioned to inquire into sailor structure and training in the RAN. (The SAILSTRUC Committee). It was evident around that time that RAN training methods were fragmented, developed by rather off the cuff methods and did not follow a standard pattern of training objectives deduced from the trainee's future task needs. The result of the overseas training investigation team's findings was the introduction of the RAN Training System (RANTS).

When the RANTS was introduced into the RAN the path of Instructor Branch officers took a different route. It embraced, in addition to other normal instructional duties - the training analysis, training development, quality control of training results achieved, and validation of the end result of naval training. At the same time, the important factor of the RAN Training System - training resources support - was rationalised in order that trainers could get on with their role of teaching and not be concerned with the distraction of self support in training resources requirements. An officer of the Instructor Branch, Lieutenant Commander Vello Uksi RAN, was selected for the task of training Resources Co-Ordinator in 1974 and that task was carried out by an officer of the Instructor Branch until 1982. Presently, the Training Resources Co-ordinator's task is carried out by Lieutenant Commander Alan Newman. Others who have held this appointment in recent years have been Commander Bob Long and Lieutenant Commander Paul Tribel, the latter, an Air Technical Electrical Officer of the Special Duties List.

The training quality control section in HMAS NIRIMBA's Training Department was set up formally in 1979. The first Quality Control Co-Ordinator was Instructor Lieutenant Commander Alan Burrows. Prior to that time quality control was primarily a function of the Training Development Section. The main functions of the Quality Control Section are to evaluate and validate the standards of training achieved in HMAS NIRIMBA in accordance with the standards set by the staff who analyse the particular category task requirements; and design and develop the syllabus to suit those needs.

In January 1981, reorganisation of the Quality Control Section staffing was implemented to complement the continued success in the endeavours of the section. Lieutenant Commander Alan Burrows remained in control of the section with a staff of three quality control officers, M1 Charles Layzell (Craft), Lieutenant Shane Latimer (Evaluation) and Warrant Officer ETP Michael Hardwick (Validation).

The remainder of the quality control team were organised in the evaluation and administrative areas to conform to the 1981 Scheme of Complement. These were Mr Jan Leach, STI Craft; Chief Petty Officer ETW Bob Christoffel, Electrical Technical Evaluation; Chief Petty Officer ATA Colin Chessel, Aircraft Technical Evaluation; Mr Ian Cook, Examination Control Clerk; Mr Bob Galvin, Technical Instructor (Craft); Mr Patrick Speedy, Technical Instructor (Craft); Mr Adrian Carter, Marking Section Storeman; and Able Seaman Aviation Peter Petz, Examination Control.

Until April 1982, training development and quality control sections at their varying stages of reorganisation were under the administrative control of the Training Support Commander - a Commander of the Instructor Branch - the last incumbent being the ever popular Instructor Commander Joe Ball. Both sections which work closely together feeding information into and acting on the lessons of validation and evaluation of past courses, now work directly for the Training Commander.

Over the past decade there has been tremendous turbulence in the training scene in the Royal Australian Navy and the officers of the Instructor Branch of the Navy have been right in the centre of this maelstrom. It is not simple to define clearly to the layman the changes which have occurred in the naval training world. Over the long years of NIRIMBA's life many fine and well remembered officers of the Instructor Branch have served the Navy well in HMAS NIRIMBA and these have included, not mentioning rank:

Banjo Patterson, Graham Young, Geoff Robson, Don Mears, Arthur Negus, 'Doc' Watson, Clyde McMillan, Vello Uksi, John Smith, Alan Burrows, Ray Green, Geoff Rice, Geoff Mylan, Vic Bonnett, Geoff Hogg, Ken Railton, W R McInness, Angus Cameron, Glen Deacon, Tony Young, William Rainbow, Lee Rowntree, Peter Cartwright, Bob Graham, Tom Treloar, Lindsay Reinbard, Phil Mead, Harry Bernstein, David Kent, Ken Goodsell, Len Lollback, Ray Jones, Peter Lawrence, Mick Gallagher, Fred Symes, Steve Lawson, Bruce Alexander, Tony Young, John James, Alan Burrows, Jim Rennie, Ray Jones, Fred Bumford, Bob Graham, Alan Dawson, Graham Eldridge, Bill Krause, John Huclin, Shane Latimer, Ian Pantours, Bob Coyte, David Musgrove, Shane Moore, Peter Doherty, Bernie Dean, Ernest Hokin.



LCDR Jim Rennie

These and many others were men who had a powerful influence on the training of apprentices in many fields of endeavour, and about whom there is a storehouse of stories both anecdotal and apocryphal.

As the Training Department over the 26 years of NIRIMBA's life has seen the amalgamation of two managers of Commander rank, the Senior Instructor Officer and the Training Commander, both until 1981 - separate Heads of Department, I will list the two sets of these department heads



who have served in HMAS NIRIMBA until 1981, when the Training Commander took over responsibility for all training in NIRIMBA

Senior Instructor Officers and Senior Officers of the Instructor Branch in HMAS NIRIMBA have been:

Instructor Lieutenant Commander E Hokin RAN
Instructor Lieutenant Commander Murray Lloyd RAN
Instructor Lieutenant Commander M Horton RN
Instructor Commander L C Dixon RAN
Instructor Commander John Timbs RAN
Instructor Commander Les Naylor MBE, RAN
Instructor Commander Graham Young RAN
Instructor Commander Jim Board RAN
Instructor Commander Jack Haines RAN
Instructor Commander Andy Mikosa RAN
Instructor Commander Joseph Ball RAN
Instructor Lieutenant Commander Alan Burrows RAN
Instructor Lieutenant Commander John Dowdswell
Instructor Lieutenant Commander Tony Young



LCDR Tony Young

The record of activities of the Instructor Branch in HMAS NIRIMBA since the Establishment commissioned in 1956 constitutes a fine story of deep involvement and achievement in all facets of the life of HMAS NIRIMBA.

Training Officers and Training Commanders who have headed the Training Department in HMAS NIRIMBA have been:

1956-58 Lieutenant Commander F L W Stapleford RAN
1958-59 Lieutenant Commander J R Axford RAN
1959-62 Lieutenant Commander P T Edwards RAN
1962-63 Lieutenant Commander A C Turner RAN
1963-64 Lieutenant Commander G E York RAN
1964-65 Lieutenant Commander F A Spong RAN
1965-66 Commander E Y Hokin RAN (Instructor Branch)
1967-68 Commander T R Fisher RAN
(later Commanding Officer)
1968-70 Commander W T Crossley RAN
1970-73 Commander K L Neave RAN
1973-74 Commander N Newman RAN
1974-76 Commander B R Wilson RAN
1976-78 Commander L W Renfrey RAN
1978-80 Commander D Mitchell RAN
1980-82 Commander R H Keeling RAN
1982-83 Commander J G O'Neill RAN
(Apprentice of the second NIRIMBA intake)



LCDR Bill Krause

Members of the Instructor Branch in HMAS NIRIMBA at the time of writing are:

Instructor Lieutenant Commanders' John Dowdeswell, Geoff Robson, Geoff Anderson, Alan Newman, Peter Cunningham, Imants Ezergailis, Jim Rennie and Instructor Lieutenants Peter Doherty, Alan Hinge, Steve Lawson, Bill Krause, Peter Kelly, Clive Appleby, Mike McKenzie, Glen Jones and Shane Moore.



Other senior civilian officers of the Training Department not previously mentioned who are serving in NIRIMBA at the present time are:

Mr Rick Paynter - Drawing
Mr Stan Bingham - Craft
Mr Dennis Allnutt (Apprentice July 1957 Entry).

Mr Tony Alderson - Hull Engineering,
Mr Barry Barnes - Drawing,

Lieutenant Sam Trigge is the Training Development Officer in the Electrical Technical categories and Lieutenant Steve Goode in the Marine Technical categories.

Commander J G O'Neill RAN an Engineering Officer, one of the second intake of Apprentices in January 1957, was the Training Commander during 1983.

In April 1983, Lieutenant Michael Gallagher RAN of HMAS NIRIMBA Training Staff won the Peter Mitchell prize of \$1,000.00 (First Prize) in the Officers' section of the Peter Mitchell Essay Competition.

Instructor Lieutenant Phil Walker was selected for the Tri Service national cricket team which toured New Zealand in 1983. This officer was one of several Instructor branch officers who served HMAS NIRIMBA well in contributing to the good image of sport in the Navy in 1983.

After over a quarter of a century of evolvement and review, the Training Department of HMAS NIRIMBA is now organised on sound lines with a most distinct pattern of objectives. However, the high standards which we enjoy today were initiated in the beginning of HMAS NIRIMBA by those pioneer stalwarts of training who set the place to work with minimal resources.

THE NIRIMBA LIBRARY

The Library service began operation in its new location in the Academic Training Centre in 1980. The collection was formed by joining together the Electronics, Air Technical, Craft and Marine Engineering School libraries, the Ship's Reference Library and the Recreational Library. At present the collection stands at around 15,000 volumes.

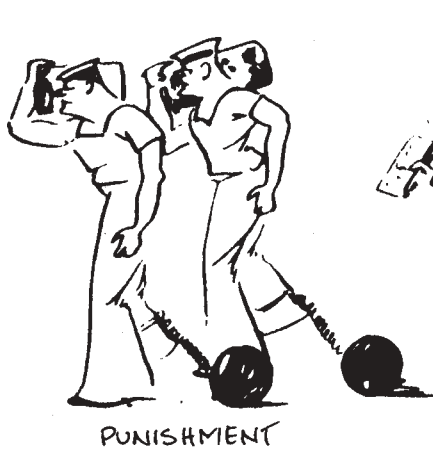
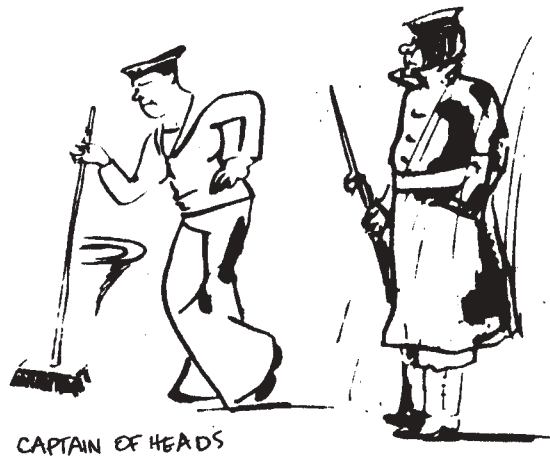
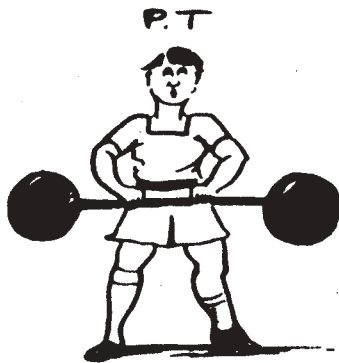
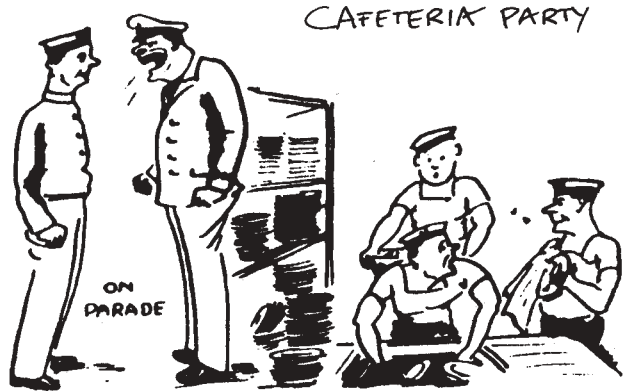
The first Librarian, Jennifer Dowell was replaced in September 1980 after her transfer to HMAS CRESWELL Library. Susan Lewis continued to develop the Library's services until her transfer to the Defence Information Service Library in Canberra. Robyn Allen, the present Librarian commenced duties in NIRIMBA in 1981.

Services offered by the NIRIMBA library include: reference, loan, inter-library loan, current awareness services, computer searches and selected dissemination of information.

"A Naval Instructor, when appointed to one of Her Majesty's Ships is to be careful to execute punctually and zealously, all directions he may receive from the Captain or other superior Officer, relative to the education of the young gentlemen placed under his tuition".

Chapter LV of Queen's Regulations
and Admiralty Instructions 1862.





EVOLUTION IN HMAS NIRIMBA

