



The first Dental Officer was entered in the Royal Australian Navy during World War I and it was not until 1921, with the placing of the Battle Cruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA into Reserve, that a uniformed dental officer was released for duty ashore in an Establishment. This was Surgeon Lieutenant D H Lambert who joined HMAS CERBERUS in 1921. Dental Assistants were loaned from the Medical Department and Sick Berth Attendants carried out these duties. The category of Sick Berth Attendant (Dental) commenced during World War II.

In HMAS NIRIMBA the Dental Clinic has always been located in the World War II building which it occupies today, this being formerly the RAAF Dental Clinic. The building has been partially refurbished in recent years with the addition of air conditioning and cladding of the structure in aluminium sheeting.

Senior Dental Officers of HMAS NIRIMBA have been:

1958-60	Surgeon Lieutenant (D) M G Ahearn RAN
1960-61	Surgeon Lieutenant (D) R B Croft RAN
1961-63	Surgeon Lieutenant (D) R W Hudson RAN
1964	Surgeon Lieutenant (D) Harry Butt RAN
1964	Surgeon Lieutenant (D) Michael Dowsett RAN
1965-67	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) G J Thomas RAN
1968-69	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) J R Thompson RANR
1970-71	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) G K Hamlyn RAN
1972-73	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) A L Kyd RAN
1974	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) R J F Butler RAN
1974-78	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) G Clare RAN
1978-79	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) J H Ashton RAN
1980	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) A Stonill RAN
1981	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) C Levi RAN
1982	Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) G Brice RAN

Surgeon Commander (D) Gary Clare RAN was the first qualified Specialist Orthodontist entered into the Royal Australian Navy.

During 1983, the major advance in the HMAS NIRIMBA Dental department was the replacement of the old KAVO dental unit with the modern ADEC Cart system.

Staff of the Dental department of HMAS NIRIMBA under the leadership of Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Garth Brice in 1983 were:

Surgeon Lieutenant Dental Grant Keogh - also Manager/Coach of the Apprentices' Swimming and Water Polo teams and a golfer of some note
 Chief Petty Officer Dental Mechanic Terry Rowe,
 Leading Seaman Dental Peter Deckart
 Leading Seaman Dental Arnie Jabour
 Able Seaman Dental Mark Fleming
 Able Seaman Dental Ken Swinbourn
 Seaman Dental Troy Wells

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Garth Brice is a well known yachtsman. Garth is HMAS NIRIMBA's Sailing Officer and is distinguished in this field by having sailed around Cape Horn both East and West about.





Surgeon LCDR (Dental)
Garth Brice RAN



Surgeon Lieutenant (D) Bill O'Reilly RAN - serving in HMAS Nirimba - 1984
The lady is his wife - Surgeon Lieutenant Sue O'Reilly RAN

