

A TOUR of the HMAS PARRAMATTA

SUNDAY 2nd August - Hobart

HMAS Parramatta is a long-range frigate capable of air defence, surface and undersea warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. *Parramatta* is fitted with an advanced package of air and surface surveillance radars, omni-directional hull mounted sonar and electronic support systems which interface with the state-of-the-art 9LV453 Mk3 combat data system. The ship can counter simultaneous threats from aircraft, surface vessels and submarines. *Parramatta* is the oldest ship name in the Australian Navy and is the fourth RAN ship to bear the name.

Retrieved from http://www.navy.gov.au/HMAS_Parramatta

SCOPE was offered places by RAN for tour of the *HMAS Parramatta* when in port on 2nd August. Thirty-two people registered, of whom twenty-two participated on the day. There were 12 students from 7 schools, 2 teachers (2 schools) and 7 parents who accompanied their children, as well as SCOPE representative. In two groups, the visitors were shown around the vessel, while their naval escorts talked about life in the navy, and the various pathways into the RAN.



One of the students, Nat Dunning – Year 10, Rokeby High School, has provided a summary of the tour as well as photos:

" Before we walked on to Hmas Parramatta we met one of the people on the ship but I can't remember his name. The other one was Seaman Hannah; he showed the group around that I was in. We first went to the bow of the ship and he showed us the gun that fires 20 rounds a minute which was really cool and it has a camera in it to search for the target. We were told that if you are on the ship you will know when the gun goes off because it shakes.

Then we went and had a bit more of a look around and that's when we got shown what they do in an emergency if there is a leak of some sort that cannot be breathed in, and the helmets which I got to try on and got a photo. I was very happy with that.

Then we saw one of the cabins. We were told that what time you worked on the ship that's what cabin you would be in so say if there was a group that started at 6.00am and finished around the same time, they would be in the same cabin together so that you would not be waking

one up as you move about in the morning or at night if you started later.

My dad had been on the first Parramatta and he was a cook so when we got to the kitchen dad was more than happy to show me what he had to work in but as he was saying around the whole ship, that it was way different from the 1st Parramatta. The kitchen is 3 times as big as the one he had to cook in. Dad was talking to one of the cooks.

We went through to where some of the ship is controlled. And we were shown where they would kit up and be told where and what they would be doing if and when they went off board the ship, and we were shown the boat they use when going off the ship kind of like what you see on Sea Patrol. And then we saw the dummy that is named Oscar; he was recovering in the corner from a hard night on the town - well that's what we were told and of course I had to get a picture with Oscar. I waited for dad to come through from where he had been on the ship and asked for the camera: he gave it to me. Seaman Hannah asked if I would like a photo with Oscar - how could I say no - he has a hard job getting thrown overboard when needed. So I got my photo with Oscar and Seaman Hannah, which was very cool, and all my questions got answered that I had to ask. I think if I heard right that there was 10 tonnes of letters that went on Parramatta in one year - that's a lot.

I really enjoyed going on HMAS Parramatta and hopefully very soon I can be part of the crew on Parramatta."



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