



## **COMMANDER MARK HAMMOND, RAN – ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHÉ, AUSTRALIA**

Commander Hammond was born in England in October 1967, immigrated to Australia in 1971, and joined the Royal Australian Navy as a General Entry Junior Sailor (Electronics Technician) in August 1986. He was appointed as an officer in Jan 1988. Following completion of a Bachelor of Science degree (UNSW College, Australian Defence Force Academy) majoring in Oceanography and English, he pursued seamanship and navigation training in various HMA Ships and gained his full Bridge Watch keeping Certificate in MELBOURNE in 1994. Hammond consolidated this training during a SE Asian deployment then volunteered for Submarine training.

Commander Hammond qualified as a submariner in Oberon class submarines, joined HMAS COLLINS as Navigating Officer in September 1996, and was selected as Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Navy in mid 1997. He subsequently completed the Principal Warfare Officer's (PWO) Course and Submarine Warfare Course in 1998, served as the commissioning Operations Officer in HMAS WALLER for two years, and completed the Submarine Executive Officer Course in November 2000. In 2001 Commander Hammond instructed the Submarine Warfare Officer Course, and assumed duties as the Executive Officer in HMAS SHEEAN. During the next twelve months SHEEAN completed 225 days away from home, won the 2002 Submarine Fighting Efficiency Shield and was runner up for the Fleet's prestigious Gloucester Cup award. Hammond completed both the Netherlands Submarine Command Course (aka Perisher) and the USN's Prospective Commanding Officers Course (PCO) in 2003.

Commander Hammond was then posted as Staff Officer Future Concepts at Naval Headquarters, Canberra, and graduated from the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2004 (Master of Management in Defence Studies (UCAN); awarded 2004 Chief of Navy Prize and Peter Mitchell Essay prize). Commander Hammond then completed an operational deployment with the Royal Navy Submarine force, a Masters of Maritime Studies degree (UoW), and assumed command of HMAS FARNCOMB. FARNCOMB completed two demanding SE Asian deployments and was awarded the 2006 Fleet ASW Trophy, 2005 and 2006 Submarine Fighting Efficiency Shield, 2006 Fleet EW Trophy and 2006 Submarine Silver Platter Award. Hammond subsequently assumed duties as the Assistant Naval Attaché in Washington, USA, on 6 September 2007.

Commander Hammond is married with two children and lives in Virginia, USA. He has sea experience in French, British and US nuclear attack submarines and Australian and Dutch diesel submarines and multiple surface vessels. Hammond's interests include cricket, rugby, chess and submarine warfare in World War II. He recently commenced research toward a potential biography on Vice Admiral Charles Lockwood, USN and is in the process of restoring a 1958 Chris Craft mahogany runabout. Commander Hammond returns to Australia in late 2010 having been selected for promotion to Captain on 1 Jan 2011.