

Australian Hydrographic Office - Wollongong Media Release

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THREE 'DROGGIE' AMIGOS

For the Australian Hydrographic Service, three 'Droggie' Warrant Officers in the one place at the same time is an extremely rare occurrence. Recently at HMAS CAIRNS, the three WOHSMs still serving within the HMFEF met up.

Combined Naval service of the three totals some 81 years. WO Kevin "Howie" Howlett for 31 years, newly promoted WO Jeff 'Blue' Langham 26 years, and WO Brett 'Wiggy' Bennett with 24 years service. All three careers in the RAN have criss-crossed over the years.



(Photo: shows WOHSMs 'Blue' Langham, Kev 'Howie' Howlett & Brett 'Wiggy' Bennett at the HYDRO Cell CAIRNS, not a bowling alley has some may think! The yellow 'bowling' balls)

Operational service for the three has involved surveys in Antarctica to Arnhem Land through to East Timor, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and most recently Banda Aceh Indonesia.

WO Howlett will be commissioned to the rank of LEUT on 23 September 2005, so the image of the 'three amigos' is unique. LEUT Howlett will eventually rejoin his old ship, HMAS SHEPPARTON, as XO.

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