

## Australian Hydrographic Office - Wollongong News Item

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### Happy Birthday Navy!

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007, Australia's Navy celebrates its 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of the Australian White Ensign. The Australian Hydrographic Office, based in Wollongong, will undertake celebrations similar to other Naval shore establishments around Australia.

The Australian Hydrographic Office will celebrate by having the building (at the western end of Burelli St, Wollongong) draped with a battle-size Australian White Ensign on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.



**Photo 1:** Shows the Australian White Ensign

Australia's Navy traces its heritage back 106 years to 1<sup>st</sup> March 1901 when the Commonwealth Naval and Military Forces were created. The term Royal Australian Navy did not come about until 10 July 1911 when King George V granted the title.

Australia's version of Britain's naval ensign was first used on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1967.

The Navy's hydrographic surveyors, headquartered in Wollongong, are the quiet achievers of Australia's Navy; undertaking important surveys of coastal waters for both the Defence of Australia and the safety of mariners who use our waterways. Since 1946, when the nation's navigation charting responsibility was granted to the Navy. The Australian Hydrographic Service continue to support the Nation in the provision of products and services for safe navigation on Australia's surrounding waters.

Interviews can be arranged via Lieutenant Commander John Sperring on Mobile: 0407-074 154

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