

## Australian Hydrographic Office - Wollongong News Item

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### **VALÉ – LCDR PETER JOHNSON**

by Commander John Maschke, RAN

LCDR Peter Johnson, RAN, a long-time staff member of the Australian Hydrographic Office, Wollongong died suddenly on 22 April 2007.

Peter impressed those he worked and socialised with for his dedication, professionalism, and loyalty, and continually displayed a very high level of commitment and performance. Peter particularly excelled in his contributions to hydrographic capability development for more than a decade and is well known in the international hydrographic community for his work with standards and specifications. Throughout his career, Peter committed to his work with quiet efficiency and professionalism; he was a very real stalwart of the Australian Hydrographic Service.

Peter joined the Royal Navy in 1970 and qualified as a hydrographic surveyor in 1978. He was subsequently involved in surveys in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas, and Indian and South Pacific Oceans in addition to UK waters. During his time in the RN he served in HM Ships Egeria, Shipham, Torquay, Hecla, Bulldog and at the Hydro School. He commanded the Fiji survey vessel HMFS RUVE in 1986. He transferred to the Royal Australian Navy in 1989, initially serving in HMAS MORESBY after which he transferred to the Australian Hydrographic Office. Following another spell at sea as survey manager in HMAS MORESBY, he joined the Laser Airborne Depth Sounder Unit at its delivery to the RAN. He eventually commanded the RAN LADS Unit during the early 1990s.

Since 1994, Peter had worked at the Australian Hydrographic Office where he was responsible for the Australian Hydrographic Service capability requirements and acquisition and upgrade of hydrographic systems for the RAN. He was the Australian representative to the IHO S-44 Standards for Hydrographic Surveys Working Group. On the 23 Apr 04, Peter was awarded a Maritime Commander Australia Commendation which highlighted his resourcefulness, initiative, and dedication that has enhanced the Australian Hydrographic Services international reputation and his contribution to the ongoing effectiveness of the Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic Meteorological and Oceanographic Force Element Group.



A large gathering of his extended family, friends and colleagues attended a full military funeral at Wollongong to bid farewell to Peter.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends, and the work and professional colleagues he had made during his career. Peter leaves behind a wife Alanieta, five children and six grandchildren.