

Sea Riders HMAS Farncomb

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June 21, 2007

Commodore Richard Shalders

Commander Australian Navy Submarine Group
HMAS Stirling
Rockingham WA 6958

Dear Commodore Shalders

It has been a week since the Ronald McDonald Sea Riders were safely delivered to Albany at the completion of our cruise on the HMAS Farncomb. The purpose of this letter is to thank you, the officers and the crew of the Farncomb for what proved to be an exceptional experience for our party.

Of course we all boarded the submarine with our own expectations but nothing could have prepared us for the adventure ahead. Whilst we anticipated that a leisurely underwater cruise was on the cards Commander Hammond certainly had other ideas. Through a series of drills and real life operations we were able to gain a very special insight into the life of our silent fleet and the crew members who serve on them.

We remained tactical for three days and through the enthusiasm and patience of the submariners onboard we were able to learn the basic principals of submarine operations.

We also have a new appreciation for the quality and dedication of the men onboard as they face real challenges and hardships every day the submarine is at sea.

I can speak for all of us when I say that Commander Mark Hammond is a special individual. His leadership skills, knowledge and constant focus on the "AIM" was a pleasure to witness. He truly is a modern Australian Icon and someone we are very proud to have met.

We would also like to thank you for the generosity you have shown in putting this program together for us. From the Training day to stepping off the sub we were treated with enthusiasm and friendliness.

I know I can speak for Terry Creasey when I thank you and your team on behalf of the kids and parents at Ronald McDonald House for such a wonderful experience. Although our team provided the well needed cash for this important charity you and your team made the major contribution and provided an absolutely unforgettable experience.

Finally as Commander Hammond takes his next step in life onshore we hope that unlike the Farncomb and her crew his talents and dedication to our country do not go “undetected”.

Sincerely *With Skill and Resolve*,

Sea Rider John Edwards

Sea Rider Greg Brindle

Sea Rider Steve Harris

Sea Rider Jeff Bird

Terry Creasey RMHC

