



Lucky few plunge into the deep

FOUR Perth businessmen were told to expect a busy week as they prepared for an adventure of a lifetime at HMAS Stirling last week — an underwater voyage on HMAS Collins.

The Royal Australian Navy Collins class submarines are said to be one of the world's most advanced pieces of equipment, comparable with a space shuttle.

John Edwards, Ross North, Greg Brindle and Steve Harris were the lucky bidders for this deep-sea experience at the 2006 Ronald McDonald House Charities Mercedes-Benz Ball, paying \$65,000 for the privilege.

Before they were allowed to sink deep, the "submarine cadets" were briefed by the Commander of the Australian Navy Submarine Group, followed by formal training and medical testing.

Their experience will include taking part in a series of war games, high speed runs, inshore operations and "snorting" (charging batteries) at an undisclosed location before disembarking at Albany.

Commodore Ric Shalders said a submarine mission was something few people got to experience.

"They (the successful bidders) are in for the experience of a lifetime," he said.

"We guarantee to get their adrenalin racing as we invite them to experience war games on board a working submarine.

"At 200m below sea level, you can't see your enemy.

"The team will have to learn fast and think quick.

"The experience will be like nothing they've ever done before."

Advertising agency owner Steve Harris said he was looking forward to the trip, and had been reassured



HMAS Collins commander Mark Hammond welcomes Steve Harris, Greg Brindle, John Edwards and Jeff Bird onto the submarine for a deep-sea adventure.

by the familiarisation training — escape training, learning how to get in a life raft, and weapons and driving simulation.

"It's something completely different," he said.

"A bit of a change of scenery from sitting behind a desk."