

OUR STORY

 <p>1920</p> <p>Captain John Robins, RAN, is appointed first Hydrographer. The Hydrographic Department RAN is established at Navy Office in Melbourne on 01 October 1920.</p>  <p>HMAS Geranium is commissioned as the first RAN survey ship.</p>	<p>1921</p> <p>The Hydrographic Department RAN, is one of the 18 original members at creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau (now International Hydrographic Organization) in June 1921.</p>	<p>1924</p> <p>The first unnumbered Australian chart for navigational use, Roebuck Bay - Inner Anchorage, is published on 1 December 1924. The chart was based on HMAS Geranium's 1922 survey.</p>	<p>1925</p> <p>HMAS Moresby (I) is commissioned on 20 June 1925 as the second RAN survey ship.</p>	<p>1930</p> <p>Lieutenant Karl Oom, RAN, on SY Discovery, completes the first RAN survey in Antarctica as part of the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE).</p>	<p>1934</p> <p>A mutiny in protest against pay reductions and poor working conditions occurs on HMAS Moresby. A Court of Inquiry is held on board cruiser HMAS Australia at Fremantle and 27 punishment warrants are recorded in the ship's log.</p>
<p>1933</p> <p>Australian Notice to Mariners (NIM) are published for the first time in 1933. From 1 January 1937, Australian NIM are published on a weekly basis.</p>	<p>1941</p> <p>The concept of Aus Fleet Charts is implemented on 20 June 1941 with the publication of the first three Australian navigational charts.</p>	<p>1943</p> <p>The Hydrographic Branch RAN, is designated as the charting authority for Allied naval forces in the South West Pacific and is appointed by British Admiralty as the sole Chart Agent for the sale of Admiralty Charts and Hydrographic Publications charts in Australia.</p>	<p>1945</p> <p>Despite its small size, Australia's surveying service is widely recognised for its war effort during World War II, receiving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Orders of the British Empire • 13 Distinguished Service Crosses • 4 Distinguished Service Medals • 14 Mentioned in Despatches and • multiple United States Legion of Merit awards 	<p>1946</p> <p>The Australian Federal Cabinet makes a decision that the Commonwealth Naval Board will be responsible for surveying and charting of Australian waters.</p>	<p>1964</p> <p>HMAS Moresby (II) is commissioned on 6 March 1964, as Australia's first purpose-built RAN survey ship.</p>
<p>1965</p> <p>The inaugural HydroScheme is published. HydroScheme is the official plan of hydrographic surveying tasks to be undertaken by the Hydrographic Branch RAN, on behalf of the Department of Defence.</p>	<p>1966</p> <p>In 1966 the RAN Hydrographic School is established at HMAS Penguin under CPOSR Petras as the first instructor in charge of survey training.</p>	<p>1974</p> <p>HMAS Flinders, commissioned on 27 April 1973, is the first RAN ship to enter Darwin following its destruction by Cyclone Tracy in 1974.</p>	<p>1976</p> <p>The Autochart System for production of digitised nautical charts enters service, marking a technological turning point.</p>	<p>1980</p> <p>HMAS Cook is commissioned on 28 January 1980 as the first RAN ship specifically designed for oceanographic duties.</p>	<p>1980s</p> <p>The Hydrographic Service RAN, actively engages in capacity building across the South West Pacific region through personnel postings to the Solomon Islands and Fiji.</p>
<p>1984</p> <p>The Hydrographic Office Detached Survey Unit (HODSU), which is now known as the Maritime Geospatial Warfare Unit (MGWU), commences activities, undertaking operations in areas from Antarctica to Timor-Leste and throughout the South West Pacific.</p>	<p>1989-1990</p> <p>In 1989-1990, four Survey Motor Launches are commissioned into the RAN, HMA Ships Paluma, Mermaid, Shepparton and Benalla.</p>	<p>1993</p> <p>Commodore John Leech, RAN, chairs the first South West Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission meeting, 19-20 October 1993.</p>	<p>1993</p> <p>Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) Flight is accepted into operational service in the RAN on 8 October 1993.</p>	<p>1994</p> <p>The Australian Hydrographic Office RAN, moves into its current home in a purpose-built facility in Wollongong in 1994.</p>	<p>1999</p> <p>The Hydrographic Service RAN, launches its own dedicated web site, www.hydro.gov.au, to promulgate Australian Notices to Mariners and other navigational safety information and services.</p>
<p>2003</p> <p>Bluelink is established as a partnership between CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology and the Royal Australian Navy, with the goal of developing an operational forecasting system for the global ocean circulation around Australia.</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>The Australian Hydrographic Service officially launches its own in-house Print On Demand (POD) facility.</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>Australia is at the leading edge of designing a new gridded layout for ENC cells. Initial ENC coverage of the Australian charting area is achieved.</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>The Navigation Act 2012 (Cth) is amended, and gives the Australian Hydrographic Service specific responsibilities for collecting, disseminating and providing hydrographic services as required by the United Nations Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>The Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 is passed and receives Royal Assent to consolidate the Australian Hydrographic Office (a component of the organisation formerly known as the Australian Hydrographic Service) into the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation.</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>Commodore Fiona Freeman, RAN, is appointed as the first female Hydrographer of Australia in December 2017.</p>
<p>2020</p> <p>HydroScheme Industry Partnership Program (HIPP) commences. HIPP is a commercial program that undertakes focused hydrographic survey activities to contribute to national charting priorities.</p>					



“Through its people, data, products and services, the Australian Hydrographic Office enables safe navigation in Australian waters, supports Australia's blue economy, contributes to protecting the marine environment and provides support to Defence.”