



# Navy installs QuickBooks



The Royal Australian Navy not-for-profit Canteens on board large Navy Ships are operated by supply officers and staff. These Canteens sell numerous items such as chips, chocolates, drinks, personal items and various Navy branded souvenirs. Through the Royal Australian Navy Central Canteens Fund, which was established a century ago, profits from sales are used to provide recreational and lifestyle benefits to Navy members.

The Royal Australian Navy recently sought to install a more integrated, sustainable accounting software system for their Canteen facilities that would provide the flexibility needed by ships travelling the world. At the start of 2009, Reckon Limited began working with supply staff to install QuickBooks Enterprise and Reckon Point of Sale software on 17 ships, 4 fleet logistics supply elements, 3 Base Wardrooms and 2 hydrographic ships.

“When we first stepped onto HMAS Cerberus to meet with the supply staff we were struck by the need to un-complicate the current accounting methods. It was clear there were many accounting functions specific to the Navy that the accounting system would need to provide, that’s why we chose QuickBooks Enterprise,” said Greg Deacon, from Reckon who worked alongside Reckon Accredited Partners Tim Coop, John Peppas, Robyn Rickett and Brendon Gardiner to establish a plan for the installation.

The Royal Australian Navy’s previous accounting software was a DOS based program specifically designed for their needs. “The navy had wanted

to change systems for a long while and this year was the year to move ahead with the latest software technology available that would suit their needs,” says Reckon Accredited Partner Tim Coop who was the solutions architect for the project.

### The challenge

“I’ve been told I have probably been on board more Navy vessels than the average sailor,” says Tim who regularly stayed on board HMAS Kuttabul where the initial rollout took place.

“Being able to track GST in Australian waters and switching off when deployed overseas was one of the challenging situations we faced. Most businesses I assist with software installations don’t move location and switch tax on and off regularly like the Navy. But because of the flexibility of QuickBooks we were able to create a tax switcher that could achieve the desired result.”

The Reckon Tax Switcher is a button that allows staff to click “tax off” as the ship leaves Australian waters, so that GST is no longer applied to sales and then click “tax on” when the ship returns home.

Tim says another challenge was migrating the data from the old system to QuickBooks within a very tight time frame so that each ship would have QuickBooks ready for their training and initial operation. He says the ability to use Microsoft



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Excel in preparing the QuickBooks Input files was a real time saver and made it a lot easier. He created a number of specific item codes for the Navy that would correlate with specific functions they needed the software to be able to perform.

“The supply team has taken to the new software really quickly. The initial reaction from most was, ‘can you really do that?’ Most hadn’t used sophisticated reporting mechanisms and were impressed with how easily they could produce reports and edit transactions,” says Tim.

It wasn’t only transferring the Navy ships from old software to new software that provided challenges. Tim admits that he is a lot more comfortable navigating around a Navy ship now than when the project started.

“I did get lost a couple of times but the experience has been well worth it. All the Navy staff I dealt with were so welcoming, I was even given my own VIP Cabin on board when needed,” says Tim.

#### **A sustainable accounting solution**

Reckon Accredited partner Robyn Rickett has been instrumental in providing training for officers and staff who now use the QuickBooks accounting software. “Many have said ‘if only you knew what we had to do before’ when they’ve seen how easy QuickBooks is to use,” said Robyn.

“QuickBooks Enterprise is the ideal accounting solution. It allows multiple users, it’s affordable, regularly updated, easy to use, flexible and will grow to suit their needs.”

To manage the point of sale at each of the Canteens Reckon Point of Sale software and hardware was also installed. The software integrates with QuickBooks to help manage inventory and customer accounts, whilst providing advanced features to create barcodes, set up loyalty programs, manage stock and print labels.

“Room is a big issue on board the ships. The space for the Canteen items and equipment is limited. The compact nature of the new software and hardware worked well and the new security features were particularly popular,” says Greg Deacon.

Now the installation process is complete, Reckon Accredited Partners Tim and Robyn are continuing to work with the Royal Australian Navy to assist the officers and staff with the software, ensure training manuals are up to date and provide ongoing support and training.

“It has been a phenomenal experience for me and they [the Navy] will benefit from the software change ongoing,” says Tim.

For more information about QuickBooks software or Reckon Point of Sale product visit [www.quicken.com.au](http://www.quicken.com.au)