

## School Board Member – Category: Community Member

Term: 03/05/2017 – 03/05/2020

### Commander Chris Leece

Commander Leece entered the Royal Australian Naval College as a university graduate on 7 March 1997. Following Seaman Officer training and service in HMA Ships *Bendigo* and *Melbourne*, he was awarded his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate onboard HMAS *Brisbane* in late 2000. Specialising as a Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer in 2001 and as a Principal Warfare Officer in 2003, he is fortunate to have served in a variety of units across both specialisations, including Command of Australian Clearance Diving Team Four and now his first sea Command in HMAS *Stuart*.

Staff appointments have included periods within Operations Division at then Maritime Headquarters, Capability Development Group and most recently within Navy Strategic Command where he served as the Deputy Director Navy International Engagement.

Commander Leece's Operational service has included border protection operations (RELEX and RESOLUTE), support to peacekeeping operations (WARDEN), operations in the Middle East (SLIPPER and CATALYST) and domestically (ACOLYTE and QUEENSLAND FLOOD ASSIST).

A highlight of his career to date was the opportunity to serve at sea on representational duties with the Royal Navy in 2007 and 2008. Based in Portsmouth, he served as the Principal Warfare Officer (Underwater) in the Type 42 Destroyer HMS *Liverpool* and then as the Operations Officer in the Type 23 Frigate HMS *St Albans*.

Commander Leece holds a Bachelors degree in Arts and a Masters in Business.

CMDR Leece assumed command of the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS *Stuart* on 7 March 2017.

