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Junior Recruit Memorial Project

Newsletter

Number 8

Welcome to Newsletter Number 8

There is some sad and disappointing news to start this newsletter. We have been advised that the mast located at Leeuwin has been taken down. The Property Services staff at the site found that the timber was in an advanced state of decay and was an OHS issue for them that could only be resolved by taking it down.



“The Mast”

There is to be a review of the maintenance budget arrangements at the site before any decision is made whether it is to be replaced or not. It is expected that the cost of a replacement mast will be in the vicinity of \$11,000.

The choice of site for the Junior Recruit Memorial was predicated on the mast being there and some re-evaluation of the Memorial placement will need to be made should the mast not be reinstated. The Memorial Committee will in the mean time work towards some resolution of the matter with the staff at Leeuwin Barracks.

In the meantime the old mast remains at the site, awaiting disposal. The question arises does the ex JR Community want to do something with it? If there were a genuine purpose for which the timber can be used we would welcome some advice in that regard. Action will need to be swift and some storage arrangement made for the old mast whilst matters are worked out. We cannot expect that it will be retained at Leeuwin Barracks even in the medium term.

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At this time I have no idea of the overall state of the timber and how far the decay has progressed and whether there is a small or large amount of reusable material there. If any action is to be taken with this then it will be up to a

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representation group to come forward and manage the work. It is not envisaged that this committee will take it on as an extra activity.

So all of you nostalgia buffs out there, if you want something to be done with the old mast let me know and perhaps we can get things moving.

Memorial Project Update

We now have just 18 months to go to the completion of the project. Our aim establish a memorial that will commemorate the dedication, commitment and service of the 13,000 fifteen and sixteen year old boys who joined the Royal Australian Navy as Junior Recruits between 1960 and 1984 will occur on 13 July 2010 at the Leeuwin site.

The new-year will present some challenges to us and a number of important stages now have to be completed. The project continues to meet all milestones set out in the Strategic Plan. The Memorial Committee has commenced the initial planning arrangements that will set out the program for the dedication ceremony. Although this is at the earliest stages important considerations have to be made not only for the logistics of it all but also to the protocols associated with such as event. Some of these protocols will include obtaining approval to use the Australian White Ensign in the proceedings as well as appropriate service and dedication matters. The service will include the involvement of a RAN Chaplain. It is not expected that we will have a draft plan of the ceremony until at least July 2009, as we will need to consider a number of things including confirmation of the attendance of a number of important guests to the occasion.

The occasion is expected to attract a large crowd and as such the committee will call on a number of other organisations for assistance that includes the RAN, Leeuwin Barracks as well as ex service organisations and of course any locally based ex Junior Recruit who is willing to lend a hand. The planning will also need to get down to some quite basic considerations such as available first aid facilities, toilets, seating, wheel chair access, security and a host of other things that will be needed to make the day a success. Given that it will occur in July we also need to consider what to do if it rains.

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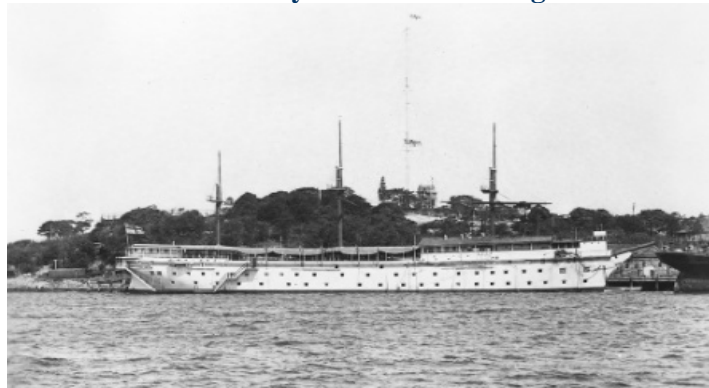
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A History Worth Preserving



HMAS *Tingira* at Garden Island

Tingira is an aboriginal word meaning “ocean” or “open sea”. HMAS *Tingira*, of all the ships to serve the RAN, this is the one that has perhaps received the least acclaim yet one which perhaps should be highly regarded. She was commissioned into the RAN on 25th April 1912 and commenced her role as a training ship for young boys entering the RAN. A total of 3,168 boys had the privilege of having their initial training not on a shore establishment or a “stone ship” but in the safe confines of a very fine training ship.

The *Tingira* was painted white and the masts and associated spars were painted yellow and she was often referred to as the “white lady” moored in Rose Bay in Sydney harbour.

A newspaper of that era reported in an article on the ship that:

“Much misconception exists concerning the good ship Tingira. There are persons still so far behind the times to imagine her to be a hulk whereupon are confined for corrective purposes, the wayward youth of the city. And those misguided folk pass on their placid way, not taking the trouble to learn that that on her broad decks are being trained the most highly skilled defenders of Australia’s shores. Boys from the best Australian homes, boys from the great public schools, from the outback spaces and from the city’s heart, who will pass into the navy, that is to be our bulwark against aggression”.

Many of these boys served their country with distinction in World War I, World War II and even in the Korean War. One draft of *Tingira* boys served in HMAS *Sydney* with distinction in the battle against the German Cruiser *Emden*.

When, in the future, stories of the Junior Recruit Scheme conducted from 1960 to 1984 at *Leeuwin* and *Cerberus* are told, how will we as ex Junior Recruits expect them to be told?

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Will those who trained as boys in the RAN in latter years at *Leeuwin* and *Cerberus* be portrayed similarly as “*the most highly skilled defenders of Australia’s shores?*”

The creation of the Junior Recruit Memorial is perhaps an opportunity to capture the history of the scheme and give wider recognition to the achievements associated with this model of naval training and how it has contributed to the ongoing effectiveness of the RAN today.

The *Tingira* boys saw value in preserving their history and took steps to strengthen the bonds of comradeship amongst themselves. They formed what was known as the “*HMAS Tingira Old Boys Association*” for this purpose.

Perhaps it is timely for the creation of an “*Association of ex Junior Recruits*” such as that formed as the *HMAS Tingira “Old Boys Association”* to nurture the history and comradeship of the training scheme and of boys now men who have served and continue to serve with distinction in the defence of their country.



The Badge of the *HMAS Tingira Old Boys Association*.

Their motto

“In strength and unity this association will stand forever”.

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The Memorial Medallion is now available

How to Order

We need to take orders for medallions on the basis of prepayment only. On receipt of payment a medallion, leather case and certificate will be sent by post. The price of each medallion is \$85.00 postage and packaging with Australia Post will cost an additional \$7.30. We are able to make arrangements to have each medallion engraved with the name and number of each purchaser; this is however at a nominal cost of \$10. All costs include GST of 10%

Cheques or Money Orders should be made out to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc and posted along with an order form to the fund at 75 Lovett St Devonport Tas 7310.

Delivery will be made within 21 days of receipt of payment. Do not remit cash or make payment out to any other person or organisation. It is not possible to deal with payments by electronic transfer, as we need to have all of the information required on the order form in addition to the payment

All proceeds from the sale of the medallions will be passed to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc. and will be used to assist with the costs associated with materials and construction of the memorial.

Members of a number of families of deceased ex Junior Recruits have contacted the project to investigate and purchase Commemorative Medallions and to have them appropriately engraved. We are aware that a number of reunion groups maintain information on those in their intakes who have passed on. It might be appropriate for intake organisers to make contact with the families of deceased members and perhaps advise them of arrangements to access Commemorative Medallions.

Tingira Badge

The figure on the Commemorative Medallion and also on the centre bronze feature of the JR Memorial will feature the “*Tingira*” badge on the left arm. This badge was worn by Junior Recruits in various positions over the years but began its application on the point of both shoulders for winter and summer uniforms. It was relocated at the time that “*Australia*” shoulder flashes became the standard uniform for the RAN. A decision was made to locate the *Tingira* badge on the Medallion and on the Memorial in the place that it was originally located on JR uniforms.

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**50th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion
Order Form**

Please Supply:

Number of Medallions Required @ \$85.00 per unit	\$
Engraving of Name and Official Number (optional) @ \$10.00 per unit	\$
Please write below <u>exactly</u> what is to be engraved for example: Name & Initials..... Official Number.....	
Postage and Handling @ \$7.30 per unit	\$
(quoted costs include GST) Total <small>(Payment by cheque or money order should be made to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc. Do not send cash)</small>	\$

Your Name	
Address	
Postal Address for Medallion(s) if not home address	
Telephone	
Email Address	

**Please remit cheque or money order with the order form to:
Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc
75 Lovett St Devonport Tas 7310
Tel 03 64247198 Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com**

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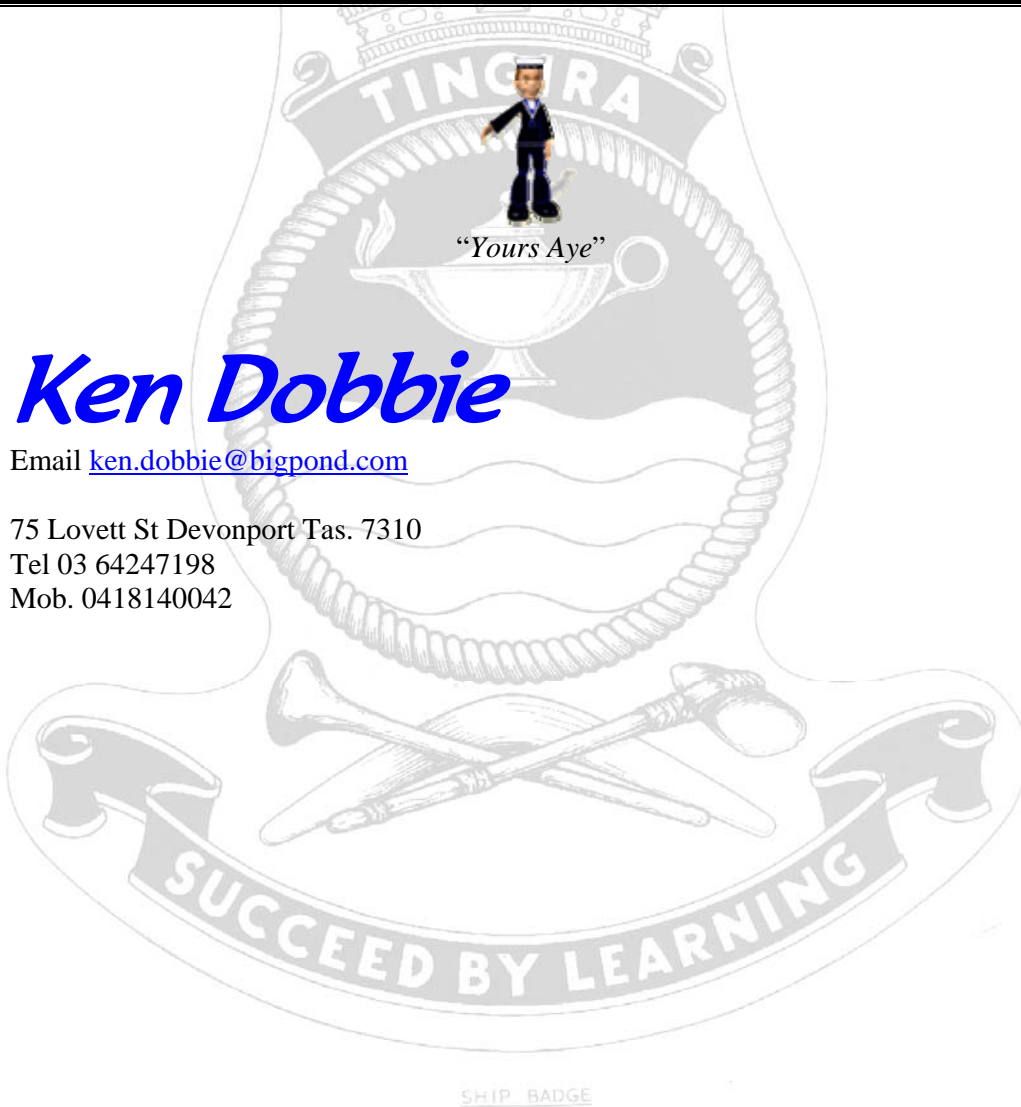
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Donation Banking

A bank account has been set up with the Devonport branch of Westpac. The account name is the "Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc." (BSB 037 604 Account 22 7096) and deposits can be made electronically with the bank or by cheque made out to the fund and remitted to JR Memorial Fund Inc. 75 Lovett St Devonport Tas. 7310

Please do not remit cash or cheques made out to anyone other than the fund.



Ken Dobbie

Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com

75 Lovett St Devonport Tas. 7310

Tel 03 64247198

Mob. 0418140042