



## Junior Recruit Memorial Project

### Newsletter

Number 16 - October 2009

Welcome to Newsletter Number 16

The construction of the memorial to the Junior Recruit Training Scheme is now well underway with a number of phases completed at the site. To date we have undertaken to have the old mast replaced by the Department of Defence with a great deal of thanks to the staff at Leeuwin Barracks that includes Steve Law, Rob Giles and Tony Campbell. The photo below also shows a significant amount of concrete that has been replaced in the area surrounding the new mast to give it all a brand new look.

Work completed in the past few weeks includes a start on the refurbishment of the garden area with the removal of the old rose bushes and ground cover, consolidation of the soil, laying of weed mat and spreading of new pine bark mulch.



The selection of new plants will take place during November and the permanent shrub display planted out. A further enhancement of the area will take place about May 2010 when a new floral display will be established to bring the area up to scratch for the dedication ceremony.

Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc.  
Patron RADM B.L Adams AO RANR  
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Other work completed in the past few weeks includes the laying of reinforced concrete foundations that will support the three granite panels of the memorial. The photo shows the formwork being prepared by the memorial mason Chris Thomas from C.J.Vases the company engaged to do the work.

The rose bushes that were removed from the site were not discarded, they were transferred to an existing rose garden located against the wall of the drill hall which is a more suited growing area for them with less exposure to strong sunlight and wind. The selection of new plants for the memorial area will take into consideration the environment that includes such factors as salt air, wind exposure and tolerance for dry soil conditions.



The bronze sculpture of a Junior Recruit has been completed and is now in Perth after the long road trip from Ballarat. It will be installed in the centre granite panel next year however nothing will be installed at Leeuwin Barracks until just before the dedication ceremony



### **Commemorative Medallions- Last Orders**

The sale of Commemorative Medallions will need to cease with last orders to be taken up to 15 March 2010. This is to allow an orderly manufacturing and delivery process from the foundry at Ballarat. The manufacturing and delivery process can take up to 3 weeks. The display cases are made at a separate facility and can only be ordered in batches of 50 and as such we are planning not to hold surplus and unsold medallions or cases at the completion of the project.

Should we find that there is demand for the medallions after the cut off date we will hold those orders until we can establish that there is enough to do a full cost-recovery manufacturing run, if that cannot be assured we will not proceed.

To ensure that you get your medallion it is recommended that you get your order in as soon as possible.

**Don't forget to get your order in for Christmas**

## HMAS Tingira



Painting of Tingira with attendant steam tugs  
Image courtesy of the AWM

Throughout the RAN we run across some interesting relics of HMAS Tingira. The RAN Heritage Centre has a number of relics of the old training ship; sadly many others have been lost or destroyed. One significant loss was the old figurehead from Tingira. This was, up until the mid 1950's, located at Cerberus but it was never properly preserved and ultimately the weather had its way and the timber rotted. It was eventually taken down and burnt. Below is one of the few surviving photos of the figurehead as it was displayed at Cerberus. We are often in touch with the CO of TS Tingira. This cadet unit is located near HMAS Cerberus at Crib Point and the cadets there have developed an interest on our project and have developed an understanding of some of our history through these newsletters. The CO of the unit has assisted is with many newsletter articles on Tingira.

Figurehead from HMAS Tingira



Image courtesy of the AWM

## Friday Night Dances



The drill hall at Leeuwin was the scene for a number of important “firsts” for many JR’s. Amongst these were the Friday night dance lessons at which many for the first time learned the basic steps for such manoeuvres as the Barn Dance, Quick Step, Pride of Erin and many more of the traditional dance steps. But the truth of the matter was that it was an early chance to secure the attention of one of the many young Fremantle girls who it must be acknowledged also came along each Friday to get them selves a boy friend.

The cost of the dance in 1963 was two shillings, which was for a JR on three pounds a fortnight was a significant amount. For this we received the services of a couple of dance teachers who had the use of an ancient record player and 78 rpm Bakelite records (so old that it preceded vinyl). The dances were held on alternate Fridays with first term JR’s one week and second term JR’s the next. The problem with this of course was that the girls often challenged the system by also having alternate boy friends and many a first term JR found that he was confronted after a dance session by a very irate second term JR who saw the love of his life being threatened by what was often a very naïve first term JR (speaking from personal experience here).

It will be interesting to see if the dance lessons from all those years ago can be put into action for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. I am certain that the RANR Band that will be entertaining us on this occasion will be looking to see many of us hit the floor with a fine display of traditional dance steps. It was hoped that the dance steps learned would be put to good use at Graduation time but sadly the evolution of dance for most youngsters at the time had made the transition to something called ‘the stomp’ or other variations of bouncing up and down and waving one’s arms in a variety of motions. The video clips recently dragged from the archives of life at Leeuwin in the late 60’s can give testament to this.

The girl friends of those days long ago did not all fade away. There were many JR’s who was able to nurture the relationships and some went on to marry. Quite a few of the girls also had an interest in a naval career and later joined the WRANS. It made interesting conversation in later years to meet up with an old flame in serving in the RAN.



## The first seagoing experience.



### HMAS Diamantina

HMAS Diamantina was for most JR's who served at Leeuwin the first sea going experience. These day trips out into Gage Roads proved to be a trying experience for some as not only was it the first sea going experience but also the first "sea sick experience" JR's experienced many ups and downs on these excursions that included lowering and raising of a whaler that for most involved a lot of shouting and confusion. My recollection is of a rather enthusiastic "Captain of the Forecastle" who saw it as an opportunity not to be missed as he set an number of us JR's to work chipping and painting. His interest I am sure could only have been to ensure that we very naïve JR's had the fullest of experiences in our one day at sea.

Diamantina as many would know now resides in Brisbane and forms an important part of a naval heritage museum there. The ship is open to visitors and all should take an opportunity at some time to visit the old vessel. It is one of the surviving units of the RAN from the Second World War.



"Yours Aye"

## Ken Dobbie

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

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**The Commemorative Medallion  
Order Form  
Last Orders by 15 March 2010**



**Junior Recruit Memorial Fund  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medallion  
Order Form**

**Please Supply:**

<b>Number of Medallions Required</b> @ \$85.00 per unit	\$
<b>Engraving of Name and Official Number (optional)</b> @ \$10.00 per unit	\$
<b>Please write below <u>exactly</u> what is to be engraved</b>	
Name & Initials.....	
Official Number.....	
<b>Postage and Handling @ \$7.30</b>	\$
<b>Total Cost (includes GST @10%)</b> <i>(Payment by cheque or money order should be made to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc. Do not send cash)</i>	\$

<b>Your Name</b>	
<b>Home Address</b>	
<b>Postal Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

**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**

All proceeds from the sale of the medallions will be passed to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund .

