



Junior Recruit Memorial Project Newsletter

July 2010

Welcome to Newsletter Number 22



Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Chairman- Ken Dobbie
Treasurer- Warwick Luttrell
Committee- Paul Harris
 Tony Bath
 Kev Rowland
 Pedro Franklin
 Ron Giveen
Patron- RADM B.L Adams AO
(Ret)

Our Charter

This committee was established in 2007 for the purposes of raising funds and to construct and dedicate a memorial to the Junior Recruit Training Scheme.

The committee is representative of both Leeuwin and Cerberus JR's.



THE DEDICATION CEREMONY
13th July 2010



Vice Admiral RH Crane CSM AO RAN
Chief of Navy

I think I can say with certainty to all former Junior Recruits here today that you were participants in an event in Australian history that was unique, honourable, very successful and most unlikely to ever be repeated. The Navy asked much of you; to leave home and family at a very early age, to accept a degree of regulation and discipline well beyond that which would be tolerated by most Australians of a similar age, to study and learn how to deal with technological challenges, to live in an environment that still contained features familiar to your Tingira predecessors early in the last century and in some cases to go to war while still minors.

For all this I thank you,

and on behalf of the Navy and the Nation,

I thank all of you for your service.

Vice Admiral RH Crane CSM AO RAN
Chief of Navy

13 July 2010

Our sincere thanks to the Chief of Navy and his staff for all the support given to the Junior Recruit Memorial Project over the past three years

The Project Conclusion

For those who attended the Dedication Ceremony it is my wish that you all enjoyed the experience as much as my family and myself did. Many ex JR's and their family members took time out during our stay to talk with us about the project and provide heart warming feedback about the memorial and what it meant to them. Thankyou all for your kind comments.

The work of the JR Memorial Committee has had many contributors and we did not achieve our aims by flying solo. Members of the committee and supporters spent many hours assisting with planning, logistics and gaining approvals to deliver services to the construction of the memorial and to the Dedication Ceremony itself.

Some who provided goods and services from the business world often made concessions to the project that saved us a significant amount of money. Others lent their valuable skills to the design and the work in producing the various components of the memorial such as the bronze work and associated sculpture of the moulds used for the castings. The support from the business world in our fundraising was also outstanding, the products sold to raise funds were provided to us within a cost arrangement that was extremely generous.

The project owes much to many people who often do not seek public recognition in things like this but work silently and very hard behind the scenes to get the job done. My sincere thanks to you all.



Rear Admiral BL Adams AO RAN (ret)
Patron JR Memorial Project

Rear Admiral Brian Adams was one of the very first people approached about constructing a memorial. As the Patron to the project Brian has provide wise counsel to the committee on key issues. His ability to give us safe direction and surety to this work has meant that we remained on a clear and direct path to a successful outcome. We owe much to his participation in this work.

“It was interesting to see the genuine emotion generated amongst former Junior Recruits and their family members on the day. Clearly, the memorial, in addition to simply recognising service, fulfils other purposes for many people”

RADM Brian Adams AO RAN (ret)

The JR Memorial Committee



The Junior Recruit Memorial Committee members are Ken Dobbie, Tony Bath, Ron Given, Pedro Franklin, Warwick Luttrell, Kevin Rowland, Paul Harris and Rear Admiral Brian Adams AO RAN (ret) as project Patron.

Our Committee Members are spread across the length and breadth of the country and this, whilst providing proper representation of the JR community, distance between us often made our communications process a difficult one. The modern wonders of email and the Internet made life bearable and also efficient.

Committee members gave freely of their time to attend meetings often far away from home and also to facilitate the logistics process of getting all of our ceremonial requirements together. The wives chipped in on many occasions with assistance with such diverse things as making the curtain for the unveiling down to ensuring that emails were answered in a timely way and as such things moved along as required. Some committee members travelled very long distances, often at their own expense to ensure that project matters were dealt with and that we remained on track.

The establishment of the garden at the memorial was carried out in weather that was extreme and as such daily watering was needed. Committee members and other volunteers often travelled very long distances to ensure that the plants received water as required until the regular winter rains started in Western Australia.

The project also took on the need to widen the public awareness of what we were about. To that extent we undertook several promotional activities involving Australian Naval Cadet Units and also the Naval Heritage Centre located at Garden Island and also within the museum at Cerberus. Committee members gave their time and effort without question to achieve what needed to be done

RAN Support

The support from the RAN to this project cannot be overstated. We have had the full support of the Navy from the Chief of Navy down throughout. Our initial meeting with CN provided us with a key point of contact in the form of the RAN's Navy Events and Marketing Manager LCDR Jillian Brownlie.



LCDR Jillian Brownlie

The committee then drew up its “*wish list*” for the Navy to consider and we just about got it all. All items on our list were given proper consideration and responses provided. In an era of stringent budget constraints we think we did extremely well.

The support came from many departments within the Navy system from printing and graphics work for programs to the training of an honour guard and a band for the ceremony on the 13th July. Just when you think you have got it all organised decisions were made to help us further with working parties, car door openers and even down to Navy branded umbrellas in case it rained on the day.

The Navy and LCDR Brownlie looked after us well. Logistic support from HMAS *Stirling* (Capt. B Dowsing RAN) on the day meant that the ceremony and the task of moving large numbers of people in and out of Leeuwin Barracks was handled with ease through the work carried out by the RAN personnel deployed on the day. The Honour Guard and Band deployed on the day performed extremely well. We owe the Navy a debt of gratitude for the day.

The location of the memorial at Leeuwin Barracks was negotiated with the Department of Defence. Much of the work to obtain approval was undertaken by Peter Law at Leeuwin Barracks who often went the extra yard to provide us with additional support and services.



When the old mast came down we were supported with a new one as well as other repairs to the location

The Sculptor the Foundry Man and the Stone Mason

The process of designing a memorial was perhaps a daunting one, we had to consider many recommendations against a criteria drawn up by the committee. The design also had to be realistic in terms of costs as we were depending on the ex JR community to support the funding of the memorial.



Andrew Borg “*The Sculptor*” from AB 3 D Designs

Once we had the design it was then a very laborious process to find a sculptor who could do the work to our requirements and also do it cost effectively. We were very fortunate in that Jim Benney, an ex JR who had taken a strong interest in the project and this type of work was right within the operations of his business *Techcast* based in Ballarat where Jim makes all manner of things out of cast metal. He also has as part of his business arrangement access to Andrew Borg of AB 3D Designs and after a short consultation we had our production team. They were expert in the areas we needed, they were cost effective but more importantly they were sincere and keen to help us achieve what we had to do.



It is my heartfelt view that we would not have been as successful as we were without the assistance and sincere commitment of these people.



Jim Benney (ex JR) “*The Foundry Man*” from Techcast

Jim Benney was also responsible for the production of the Commemorative Medallion. This vital piece of work allowed us to raise sufficient money to complete the project. The sculpture work was performed by Andrew Borg that has been highly praised by all who have seen it for its accuracy and attention to detail. It is highly valued by ex JR’s and their families.



50th Anniversary Medallion



Chris Thomas “*The Stone Mason*” from CJ Vases with his wife

Chris Thomas is the Stone Mason who undertook the task of completing all of the granite cutting, engraving and installation for the memorial. Chris’ company CJ Vases based in Perth also provided expert advise on the construction arrangements that included properly engineered foundations and installation. Chris was also responsible for the setting of the bronze into the granite that involved cutting recesses to a high degree of accuracy that allowed the bronze sculpture to fit flush with the granite surface along with the engraving of the crests for *Leeuwin* and *Cerberus*.

The three artisans responsible for this work are to be commended for their professional approach to the task and their expertise in applying their craft.

Support From Higher Places

Quite early in the project were provided with information to support the dedication ceremony in the form of Joe Newbold. Joe is an ex JR who left the Navy to pursue a career in business but was to receive a call for higher things and became an Anglican priest. Joe is the Rector of St Michaels at Mount Pleasant in Perth. We approached Joe and he agreed to be part of our dedication and as such the team on deck on the day was made up of ex JR’s.

As is often the way we were in need of more support in the form of a bagpiper. Joe got us one. He came in the form of Bishop David Murray who apart from being a Bishop in the Anglican Church is also an accomplished piper. Bishop Murray also has had previous appointments with the RAN in the role of a Padre.



Reverend Joe Newbold and Bishop David Murray

One of the things noticed about the event was that there was a real sense of community and a feeling of belonging to something that is bigger than ourselves.

Reverend Joe Newbold

ANZAC Day Working Group

The project was fortunate to receive the support of the Western Australian Government through the ANZAC Day Working Group. We received a rather generous grant of \$10,000 that provided the strong financial basis for the project to proceed. This grant was procured with the assistance of the then State Member for Fremantle and Attorney General, Jim McGinty. The profile of naval heritage in Western Australia is now strongly enhanced through the construction of this memorial.

TS Perth-Australian Naval Cadets

The Cadets from TS Perth are providing support to the memorial. They have agreed to become the guardians of the memorial and as such will look after it by giving it a wash and polish from time to time and when the memorial is used for special occasions will provide back up to what is required. The cadets provided support to the dedication ceremony and did very well. They are to be commended for their smart turnout and excellent work on the day of the

Dedication Ceremony, their commanding officer Brad Barrett is himself an ex Junior Recruit of the last intake.

As it was

*As it was for Tingira
So it was for us, we the "boy sailors" of a more modern era
For the wider community my heartfelt view is that this memorial to us,
the "boy sailors" of Leeuwin and Cerberus, represents recognition that
we also were trained to be the most highly skilled defenders of
Australia's shore and served with dedication and pride in the Royal
Australian Navy.*

Ken Dobbie Chairman JR Memorial Committee

The Final Word

The project for me has been a labour of love. The work that needed to be done captured the hearts and minds of many in the ex Junior Recruit community. We had no doubters nor did we ever suspect that the outcome that everyone desired would not be achieved.

The ex Junior Recruit community gave its support and with that we not only achieved what was needed to be done but we did it well.

Thank you all for your contribution.

Yours Aye"

Ken Dobbie

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com



COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS



The sale of Commemorative Medallions has been closed off however the manufacturers are willing to consider a further reduced production run of 50 medallions and cases on the basis that we hold that number of confirmed orders and they can recover all costs.

So it is up to those who still want medallion to commit to the process and come up with orders for a further 50, if we don't get 50 then it won't happen. Those who have an interest in getting the orders together should email me with their details.

