



Junior Recruit Memorial Project

Newsletter

MARCH 2010

Welcome to Newsletter Number 20

**STILL TIME TO ORDER YOUR COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION
THE FOUNDRY HAS DONE THE LAST PRODUCTION RUN AND STOCKS
ARE AVAILABLE**

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
RANR**

We are almost there

We now have a little over 4 months to the unveiling of the Memorial to the Junior Recruit Training Scheme. Final preparations will now be well in hand for those travelling to Fremantle for this occasion.

It is expected that for many Leeuwin Barracks will look nothing like that which we remember of the previous HMAS Leeuwin. Some of the old features are there from the 1960's but not many. The drill hall is of course the one building that we will remember as our first sighting and experience of the navy on arrival.

Many travelling from the eastern states will recall arriving there by bus from the airport at a very

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.

early hour. Most of us were very tired and jet lagged although in my case I don't think the term had been invented at that time.

In the 1960's the parade ground was a gravelled surface and the venue for much doubling and marching. Some of this was at times very early in the morning because staff saw the need to address noise or other out of hours activities by miscreant JR's.

The CO of Leeuwin Barracks has kindly allowed Building 16 to be opened on the day. This was one of the more modern accommodation blocks used by JR's and visitors on the day will be allowed to view the building from the inside. The earlier accommodations in the form of the fibro and timber dormitories are now all gone. These were removed progressively as the newer brick accommodation blocks were constructed.

The earlier cafeterias and galley are gone and replaced by more modern eating facilities. The morning tea to be hosted after the dedication will be held in the Mess Hall.

So in terms of the "*old Leeuwin*" and the "*new Leeuwin*" there will be something for all to reminisce about. To walk through and remember the first navy experience in what for some will

be very familiar surroundings. For others most of what existed when they first joined will be gone.

HMAS *Leeuwin*: The Story of the RAN's Junior Recruits

Rear Admiral Brian Adams AO RAN (ret) has written the story of the Junior Recruit Training Scheme. This concise historical document not only gives an excellent insight into the life of JR's but also their education, training, discipline, conditions of service and the staff involved in that scheme. The book also gives some insight into some of the policy matters that gave rise to the reintroduction of the training of boys for service in the RAN



HMAS Leeuwin
The Story of the RAN's Junior Recruits
RADM BL Adams AO RAN (ret)

The book can be downloaded from the navy's web site and is an excellent read.

Rear Admiral Adams, himself an ex JR, is to be commended for this excellent work.

BRING ALONG YOUR PHOTOS

Many ex JR's will have tucked away in a drawer somewhere relics from their time as boy sailors. These relics may be in the form of photographs or certificates and the like. For the gathering of ex JR's during the week of commemorating the 50th Anniversary it would be timely to dust these things off and share them around with others there for the event.

JR Intake Banners

A number of intake groups have gone to a lot of trouble to make banners to be shown on the day to identify their intake. These banners will also serve as a rallying point for the various intakes and will offer an important photo opportunity and also add to the festivities of the day. For those contemplating making a banner our suggestion is not to try and make it too large. Remember there will be people sitting behind you on the day and we do not wish that they obstruct the view of others attending.



1963 Banner
Photo courtesy Ron Giveen

Make sure they are made well with some means of support such as short poles and guy ropes. At our last meeting it was suggested that banners should be attached to the boundary fence at the dedication ceremony and as such give an excellent backdrop to the event.

Please do not turn up with an old bed sheet, the cost of a banner made at an upholstery shop will not cost much and modern printing arrangements can fit you out with professional lettering. It is possible to have such things as the Leeuwin/Cerberus Crest etc printed onto the vinyl at very little cost using digital technology that is part of any print shop these days.

Meet some of the Committee



An important meeting was held in February in Canberra at NHQ to discuss the final arrangements for ceremonial matters in the Dedication Ceremony. The committee took time out to have a meal together with some of the wives at a local Canberra hotel. Pictured are Warwick Luttrell, Pedro Franklin, Ron Giveen, Ken Dobbie, wife Lorraine and the

project Patron RADM Brian Adams and wife Debbie

The NHQ meeting involved Naval staff that have the role of managing navy events. Along with managing some aspects of our event the Navy will also provide significant logistic support and personnel on the day

Dedication Ceremony Guests

We often receive enquiries regarding the invitation of guests to the Dedication Ceremony. The committee does not seek to place any conditions of this. If you have friends relatives or people who were sponsors when you were a JR and anyone who has a genuine interest in the history of the JR Training Scheme such as previous staff members them by all means bring them along. There will be arrangements for seating but depending on the size of the crowd not everyone may get a seat. Courtesy suggests that priority for the seating be given to the ex JR's and their immediate family members. We will however make every endeavour to make it possible for everyone to view the event.

It is not necessary for people to be registered or indeed be required to have a ticket to the Dedication Ceremony. The gates to Leeuwin Barracks will be open to all who have an interest in the Junior Recruit Training Scheme

Special arrangements are being made for disabled seating

Remember that this is a working military establishment and all guests will need to observe all signs, security and other protocols

HMAS TINGIRA

The following article was written by Max Thomson who is a Life Member of the Naval Historical Society.

This was originally published in "Afloat" magazine in July 2002



Sobraon

"Tingira"- 74 Years of Service

HMAS *Tingira* When it was broken-up in Berrys Bay in 1940, the 74-year-old ship ended one of the most colorful and prolonged links with Sydney's maritime scene spanning much of the colonial era through to the early decades of Federation

The ship was the once-proud and elegant clipper *Sobraon* launched back in 1866 at Aberdeen in Scotland ultimately to be acquired in 1911 by the new constituted Royal Australian Navy as a training ship for its boy seamen. In that role, as HMAS *Tingira*, the old sailing ship spent most if not all of its naval life in Sydney's Rose Bay or off Cockatoo Island. A British victory in India had given the ship its original name — derived from the 1846 encounter with the Sikhs at the village of Sobraon.

In her hey-day, the great ship operated on the London to Sydney route carrying fewer than 100 passengers in first-class accommodation plus almost another 50 travelling second-class. Today, amid the great frenzy of genealogical research, there are families all over Australia who are discovering that their forebears came out here from the United Kingdom aboard *Sobraon*. There was uniqueness about the 2100-tonne clipper because, for such a large ship by the standards of that era, she featured a combination of iron frames and teak planking in her construction.

To avail herself of the best winds for the long voyage half way around the world, *Sobraon* mostly left London in the month of September, making

just one trip each year out to Sydney. She usually completed the voyage in about 70 days. For nearly a quarter of a century *Sobraon* transported gold-seekers and settlers out to the colonies, returning to London with a cargo of wool bales and wheat. One of the finest of paintings coveted by lovers of sailing ships depicts *Sobraon* loading wool at Circular Quay in 1871 on that section of the old quay now dominated by the overseas terminal. In 1891, just 10 years before Federation, *Sobraon* was sold to the Government of New South Wales.



HMAS Tingira in Rose Bay.



Sobraon.

Sobraon served as a maritime school-ship, located for most of those years off Cockatoo Island. When Britain handed over responsibility for Australia's naval defenses to the newly constituted Royal Australian Navy in 1911, the vessel was sold to the RAN. It was renamed and commissioned as HMAS *Tingira* — an aboriginal word meaning, “open sea” though *Tingira*, in the twilight of her long career, was never again to enjoy the open sea.

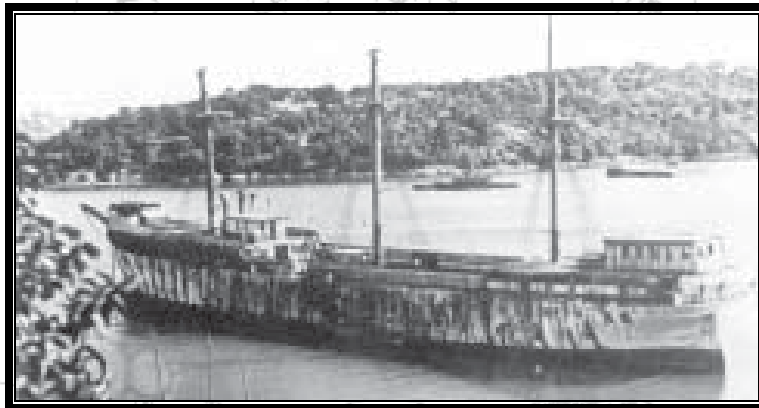


***“Tingira”* It’s the foundation of our Junior Recruit heritage**

The white ensign was first hoisted on HMAS *Tingira* in April 1912, when the ship was lying at anchor in Rose Bay. Today, throughout Australia, there are still some “old salts” who served their “boy time” in the RAN aboard HMAS *Tingira* until, reaching 18 they were promoted to the classification of Ordinary Seaman.

In 1927 the Australian Navy sold HMAS *Tingira*. But then, during the depression years, she served yet another role for a period, offering shelter accommodation to unemployed men. *Tingira* was broken-up in 1940 in Berrys Bay. Key items and memorabilia from the historic ship are retained in naval repositories around Sydney and elsewhere.

The *Tingira* Old Boys’ Association became one of the most historic and unique of naval ship associations. For so many men who had undertaken their first years of service life in the navy aboard *Tingira* doing their “boy’s time” went on to careers aboard the ships of our fleet and the adventure they encountered in times of peace and war.



Tingira in Berrys Bay Sydney 1940

Yours Aye”

Ken Dobbie

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com