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# Junior Recruit Memorial Project Newsletter Number 9

## Welcome to Newsletter Number 9

In the last Newsletter we reported that the Mast at Leeuwin had come to the end of its life, as we knew it. Sadly the rigors of time, timber rot and a wood eating black ant meant that it was not safe to have it standing.

The Sea Cadet Unit TS *Perth* with the help of some volunteers have relocated the old mast to TS Perth are looking at some options to create something out of the rubble so to speak and the old mast may, like the Phoenix, rise again in another form. Some matters being considered are the creation of plaques or similar wooden items but this will depend on the amount of recoverable timber from the old mast. If the timber can be put to good use it may form an extension of the fund raising process to support the reunion or other activities.

At this time we are still awaiting advice from Leeuwin Barracks about a replacement mast. As previously reported this will be dependent on budgetary constraints within the Department of Defence. It is hoped that a favourable outcome is the result of their decisions.



*“The Mast- as it was”*

SHIP BADGE

## Memorial Project Update

We now have just 16 months to go to the Dedication Ceremony. Planning for this significant event is in progress with a detailed proposal now with Naval Headquarters

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in Canberra. This is important phase in preparing for the day, as there will be some critical involvement of the RAN. It is expected that the Memorial Committee will release full details of the planned event in July.

The coming year will present some new challenges to us and a number of new and important stages now have to be considered. These relate to the proposed site for the Memorial now that the mast has been removed. Those who have been following the progress of the project will be aware that the siting of the Memorial was predicated on the mast being in place.

Where to now? Now that it is not set out the way we would have wished there might be a need to carry out some refurbishment of the location to make it suitable. There is also the consideration of the possibility of a replacement mast. All of these things will impact on the work to be carried out on the site including the pouring of concrete foundations for the memorial granite panels.

The stone panels that form the alcove of the memorial will be made from polished grey granite; the dedication will be carved into the left hand panel and the letters layered with gold leaf. The right hand panel will feature the ships crests for Leeuwin and Cerberus. These images will be etched into the granite using laser technology and will be very accurate in their detail.

Now that the mast has been removed the surrounding area for the memorial will perhaps need to be reconsidered for landscaping. At this time as we do not know what Leeuwin barracks have in mind for a replacement mast (if any) we really cannot speculate too much on that until those matters are sorted out. There is a pre-existing WW2 memorial in place in the centre garden area that will also need to be considered when it comes to redeveloping that area.

### **The “Bronze”**

Planning for the first stage of manufacture for the centre bronze piece of the Memorial has commenced. Sculptor Andrew Borg will carry out the preliminary engraving for the master die. Andrew also undertook the same work for the Memorial Medallion. The centre bronze piece will be oval in shape to fit more effectively on the granite panel; the oval configuration will also give proper symmetry to the image of the JR as well as allow a more accurate presentation of the uniform. The master die will allow for the mould to be made prior to the pouring of the final piece. There will need to be some time and detailed work applied to the finishing process that will include attention to the finer details of the uniform. The processes to complete the final bronze piece will not be finished until November.

### **Victorian Bushfires**

The ex JR community has had some of its members devastated by these fires, I have had email to advise that Peter Gray who is an ex Clearance Diver (42<sup>nd</sup> JR Intake) has lost all of his possessions in the fire at Kinglake, I am sure the thoughts, concerns and best wishes of the ex JR community go out to him and his family as well as all others affected by this disaster.

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## “HMAS Leeuwin” The name proudly lives on



**HMAS Leeuwin**

The **Australian Hydrographic Service** operates six specialist-surveying vessels and one Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS) fitted in a Fokker F-27 aircraft. All units are based in Cairns, North Queensland.

The hydrographic ship *Leeuwin* entered service in the year 2000 along with *Melville* as a replacement for *Moresby* and *Flinders*. These ships are fitted with the latest multi-beam and single beam echo sounders plus towed and forward-looking sonar. Satellite and terrestrial position fixing equipment has been integrated into a complex survey system suite in these ships.

Both ships take their names from prominent points on the Australian coast. *Leeuwin* is named after Cape Leeuwin, on the SW tip of Western Australia. *Melville* is named after Melville Island, just to the north of Darwin. *Leeuwin* was launched midway through 1997 and *Melville* was launched midway through 1998. The ships were built by NQEA in Cairns, North Queensland

*Leeuwin* enables the Australian Hydrographic Service to gather high quality hydrographic information at a much greater rate than the ships they replace. The ship is 71 metres in length, with a beam of 15 metres, and a draught of 4.3 metres. The ship displaces 2,550 tonnes and is manned by a crew of 56 officers and sailors. A state of the art Hydrographic Survey System (HSS) developed by STN Atlas will integrate accurate position information with data from a multi-beam echo sounder, towed side-scan sonar, single beam echo sounder and forward-looking sonar. The ship is capable of carrying three fully equipped 9 metre Survey Motor Boats for surveys in waters not suitable for the ships themselves.

*Leeuwin* is capable of carrying a helicopter to assist in survey operations.

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## The Commemorative Medallion



### 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%

For a copy of the order form email to [ken.dobbie@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.dobbie@bigpond.com)

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 normally 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.**



### 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.**



"Yours Aye"  
SHIP BADGE

# Ken Dobbie

Email [ken.dobbie@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.dobbie@bigpond.com)