



Junior Recruit Memorial Project Newsletter

Number 10 -April 2009

Welcome to Newsletter Number 10

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.

At this time we are still awaiting advise 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 with the last advice being that they would draw up their budget for maintenance at the end of April.

. Bringing the Navy Onboard

A trip, with the support of the RAN, was made to Canberra recently to meet with the Chief of Navy, VADM R Crane AM CSM RAN and some of his staff to discuss the JR Memorial Project. We are pleased to report that CN is very supportive of the project and as most would be aware was a Junior Recruit on entering the RAN. RADM Brian Adams AO RAN (Ret) (also an ex JR) who is the Patron of the Memorial Project also participated in discussions to give a comprehensive briefing on progress of the project and other matters related to the ceremonial activities planned for the 13 July 2010. Time was taken out during the meeting to present CN with his Junior Recruit Commemorative medallion



The Dedication Ceremony

Planning for the Dedication Ceremony has been prepared and set out in a draft document that deals with both the logistical and ceremonial matters. This information has been provided to the navy in Canberra who, through LCDR Jillian Brownlie RAN, will review our plans with the view to providing advice and support where appropriate to ensure that the occasion is as successful as we can make it. Her consultations will also include those organising the reunion to also offer support where appropriate should they require it.

We now have just 15 months to go until the Memorial Dedication Ceremony and whilst that may appear to be some time away there is much to do to ensure that all matters are dealt with in an effective and timely way. To this end meetings are planned towards the end of the year with key people in a range of organisations in WA who will form an integral part of the occasion. These include Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle Council, WA Police (for traffic control), TS Perth Naval Cadet Unit and local RAN contacts involved in the activities as well as those involved in planning the reunion activities.

At some point in proceedings we will be calling for volunteers from the local ex JR community to lend a hand in the week leading up to the event and also on the day. The forecast is for a significant crowd to attend that may stretch resources a little and there will be a need for close coordination of things.

The details of the Dedication Ceremony will be released closer to the event and at a time when all matters associated with protocols and resources are sorted out.

Memorial Project Update

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. We are expecting that advice will be provided soon on a replacement mast but this will be subject to budgetary constraints.

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. The work to be carried out on the stonework will be done by a Perth based company C.J.Vases who are also contractors to the Australian War Graves Commission and as such are very familiar with this type of work. The centre panel will feature a relief sculpture of a Junior Recruit cast in bronze

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.

Creating the “Bronze”

The process of creating the bronze centrepiece for the memorial is underway. The sculptor, Andrew Borg, has prepared the image against a hard background to ensure that the 3 dimensional image being created is accurate and according to the size arrangements necessary to form the correct symmetry against the granite panel. The chalk drawing once completed will be transferred to a resin block that will form the medium for carving the master die. Andrew also undertook the same work for the Commemorative 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.

A Little Piece of JR History 1984-The end of an era at HMAS Leeuwin

(This information comes courtesy of Vic Jefferies)

The 86th and last Junior Recruit Passing Out Parade took place at HMAS Leeuwin on Tuesday 4th December 1984 at 1730.

The 37 Junior Recruits of Ramsay Division graduated on this day to bring the total number of those who finished their training there to 10,571 out of the more than 13,000 who enlisted. This was the last occasion that Tingira flashes were worn on a naval uniform. Have you kept yours?

Rear Admiral William Crossley AM RAN, who held the posting of Chief of Naval Personnel, reviewed the final parade. Also in attendance was the Naval Officer Commanding the Western Australia Area Commodore David Orr, ADC RAN.

The Commanding Officer at the time was Lieutenant Commander Alex Donald DSC, RAN, this perhaps reflects on the progressive downgrading of the size of Leeuwin in its final years, as most of the preceding Commanding Officers during its period as a JR Training Establishment were Commodores. It also reflects on previous Passing Out Parades where those graduating might have perhaps been numbered in the hundreds.

Commanding Officers HMAS Leeuwin (as JRTE)

18 July 1960	Commodore R Rhoades DSC RAN
5 February 1962	Commodore W.B.M. Marks CBE, DSC RAN
30 January 1967	Commodore H.D.Stevenson RAN
12 January 1968	Commodore J.M.Ramsay CBE, RAN
1 February 1972	Commodore P.H.Doyle CBE RAN
7 February 1975	Commodore D.A.H. Clarke MVO, DSC RAN
12 February 1976	Commodore N.A.Boase RAN
28 July 1978	Commander M.J.S. Key RAN
22 August 1978	Captain M.S Unwin RAN
24 October 1980	Captain P.D.McKay RAN
8 December 1982	Commander J.C.Hornsby RAN
3 November 1984	Lieutenant Commander A Donald DSC, RAN

Commemorative Medallions

The demand for Commemorative Medallions continues to be strong and the profits from the sales are contributing to the JR Memorial Fund. News of the medallions has travelled far with orders received from ex JR's from as far away as the USA, Canada, East Timor, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. It is expected that they will not continue to be available for sale once the project is completed, as the fund will be wound up at that time.

Father's Day is in September so it might be timely to remind some kinfolk that a "JR Commemorative Medallion" might be just the thing that you need this year, sure beats the hell out of a pair of slippers

The Commemorative Medallion Order Form



**Junior Recruit Memorial Fund
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	
Name & Initials.....	
Official Number.....	
Postage and Handling @ \$7.30 per unit	\$
Total Cost (inc GST @10%) <small>(Payment by cheque or money order should be made to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc. Do not send cash)</small>	\$

Your Name	
Home Address	
Postal 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**



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



"Yours Aye"

Ken Dobbie

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com

FOREVER VIGILANT