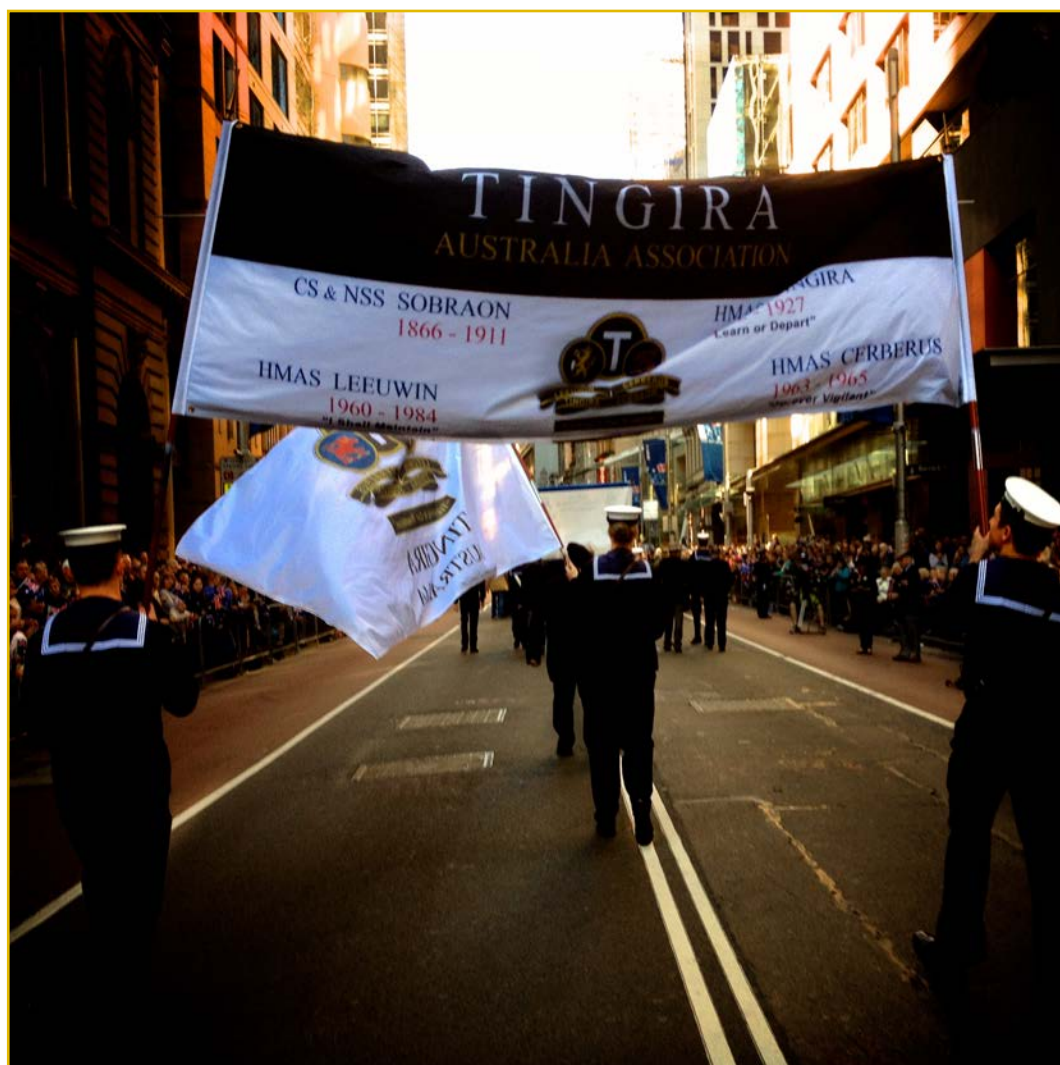




# TINGIRA AUSTRALIA



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

# TINGIRA

AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION Inc  
ABN - 72 952 167 649

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

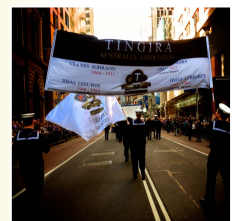


**1910 - Naval School Ship 'Sobraon' dressed with boys on the yard arms.**

Based at Cockatoo Island, Sydney, the former English Clipper Ship Sobraon became the Naval School Ship, home for wayward boys in NSW on 8 November 1892 replacing the NSS 'Vernon'.

Sobraon's life continued when she was then commissioned as HMAS Tingira on 25 April 1912 and trained 3,168 boy sailors for the Royal Australian Navy until 27 June 1927. This tradition continued with the training of 15 year old boy sailors in 1960 at HMAS Cerberus, Westernport, Victoria and HMAS Leeuwin, Fremantle, Western Australia until 11 November 1984 when training ceased and the age of RAN naval recruits was raised to 18 years of age.

Photo from the Tingira collection RAN Spectacle Island, Sydney.



*Waving the Tingira Flag and marching the Tingira banner support sailors from HMAS Kuttabul lead the Tingira Boys down George Street, ANZAC Day Sydney*

*Photo: Mark Lee*



Tingira Patron  
Vice Admiral  
**RUSS CRANE** AO, CSM, RANR

It's been a very busy and successful year for our association in 2013 and I would like to congratulate all concerned on a job extremely well done. I get a sense that the Association is really starting to make significant headway after a period of initial development, planning and consolidation. It is great to see the hard work of the initial leadership team, led by Chris Perrin, and now, the newly elected team led by Greg Read starting to deliver. BZ Tingira!

340 members with members planning to march on ANZAC Day 2014 in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth is a wonderful achievement in three short years and testament to the strong desire of our JR community to preserve those bonds which we developed as young JR's so many years ago. I've had the privilege of attending a number of JR reunions, including my own 32nd intake, and I can report that, at each one, the sense of JR community was both profound and exhilarating. It is important we guard this association well for our current and future sailors.

I was particularly proud of the Association's response to the plight of one of our own recently when ex 32<sup>nd</sup> Intake JR, Colin Russell, was imprisoned in Russia with charges pending for "hooliganism" following his involvement with a Greenpeace activity off the Coast of Russia. Whether you agree or otherwise with his actions, Colin and his family were in need of support and I was particularly pleased and proud of the way in which the Tingira Association, through President Greg Read, stepped up, offered and provided the support of the Association. Once again, BZ Tingira!

There is of course much we have celebrated over the last year. Who could forget the celebration of the centenary of the arrival of our first Naval Fleet in Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> October last year? As we look forward however, there is much that we have to commemorate in 2014. In particular, the declaration of war on Germany by Great Britain on 4 August 1914 and the fact that barely five weeks later, on 11 September 1914, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force was fighting in New Guinea (New Britain) on the road to Bitapaka to secure an enemy wireless station, offers us a number of opportunities to pause, reflect on and remember the commitment, service and sacrifice of our predecessors. Much of the initial fighting on the road to Bitapaka was conducted by members of the RAN and RANR.

There were many 'firsts' for our newly formed Royal Australian Navy in this campaign including:

- the first shot fired 'in anger' by Australian Forces during WWI was fired by Petty Officer G.R. Palmer RANR;
- the loss of Able Seaman Billy Williams shot and killed on the Road to Bitapaka was our first fatality of WWI; and,
- The mysterious and tragic disappearance and loss of our submarine AE1 and 35 members of her ships company on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914 somewhere between Duke of York Island and Blanche Bay was Australia's first major loss of WWI.

These are important and prominent events in our Australian history, not well known to most Australians, but they warrant our commemoration in 2014 ahead of the centenary of ANZAC on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Of course there are a number of other events which warrant our commemoration this year, perhaps most significantly, the battle between HMAS Sydney and the German Raider Emden on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1914, when, following the action, the Commanding Officer of HMAS Sydney, then Captain J.C.T. Glossop RN, confirmed the splendid conduct of the 60 men and boys from "Tingira" within his ships company during the engagement.

2014 also offers us a great deal to celebrate in terms of our Navy today and its future. The new Seahawk "Romeo" helicopters have begun delivery to our Navy in the USA and are expected to arrive in Australia later this year; the first of our LHDs is scheduled to arrive in its homeport, Sydney; the 2<sup>nd</sup> of our LHDs in build will arrive in Williamstown for fit out; the keel of our 2<sup>nd</sup> AWD will be laid in Adelaide; all significant occasions which bode extremely well for our Navy's future.

Clearly 2014 will be a busy and exciting year for those who have an interest in our Navy be it history, contemporary operations or future. I continue to encourage as many of you as possible to take advantage of these events and show your pride in our Navy either individually or as part of our Association.

I look forward to meeting and talking with as many of our members as possible during this important year for our Navy and our Association.





**Top:** Tinny boys 'Tram Coin' often exchanged in Kings Cross on weekend leave!

Tingira Tribute - International Fleet Review, ANZAC Memorial, Sydney.

**1.** ANZAC Memorial Trustee, Don Rowe **2.** MP Charlie Lynn **3.** RSL Chief Guardian, Chris Perrin



Tingira President  
**GREG READ SC**

In my first term as the first elected President of our newly formed Tingira Australia Association, I stand very proud of the achievements of our former Steering Committee President, Chris Perrin. We owe him and his committee and enormous gratitude of foresight to reunite the boys of HMAS Leeuwin under the Tingira banner. His united vision of a national association to carry on the traditions of the former Junior Recruits of Leeuwin, Cerberus, Tingira and Sobraon junior is a most creditable achievement.

At the inaugural Annual General Meeting, I was very honoured to take the rope of the Tingira Bell from Chris and will strive to take the association forward as he has.

Some planning and scheduling was set before me, first task next morning a brisk stroll down George Street with 40 odd 'Tinny Boys' behind me in the Sydney ANZAC Day March. Proud as punch all of us!

The past Committee put us into a very good position with a ground swell of initial Foundation Life Members and the experience of a few events under their belt over that initial two year set up period. Recently we have achieved some new goals in our administration with a new computer data base and website which allows us to prosper financially and plan ahead with technology.

In my rounds many former JR's were asking me for - 'the next big JR Reunion'. We have a date and occasion in place and will look forward to the latter months of November 2015 to bring all our former Junior Recruit Tingira sailors home to their old seaport of Sydney.

Garden Island is not what it was once but at least in 2015 she is sure to be buzzing with several new ships on the horizon. The navy has changed and so have we. Getting older and wiser is the saying, this is where the kinship of a good organisation is there to

bring us together. In 2014 we will try and reunite more fellow JR's on ANZAC Day nationally as we aim to fly the Tingira banner in more capital cities than just Sydney in 2014 and beyond.

Growing our membership and finding former shipmates to join our cause is always the aim of such an association as ours. If I can ask all members to do just one thing for our association this year; find one shipmate and join him to our ranks. If not, join your family members as Associates, our organisations strength is in numbers.

The highlight of the 2013 year was the Navy International Fleet Review. I don't think we will ever see a stage performance like that again on Sydney Harbour. Well done team navy! The Tingira Tribute at ANZAC Memorial was a great start to the weeks activities for our members and I thank ANZAC Memorial Deputy Chairman Mr. Don Rowe for his continued support of our organisation.

The next big event in my lap was the renaming of the Tingira class at HMAS Cerberus. Making the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC RAN an Associate Member at the event was a measure of his support to our future endeavours. Cerberus Recruit School will now provide us a new stream of future Tingira members, this was a project Russ Crane, Chris Perrin and Mark Lee worked on for several years. Well done team Tingira!

A big thank you to the dedicated volunteers who have stepped up and assisted as committee members and our new LJR's coming on board at state levels across the country. We are in debt to you all as we grow our ranks.

I am communicating with Ken Dobbie to further the aims of the JR Memorial Foundation for all things possible in the future for the two associations, I look forward to another prosperous year ahead.



**Top:** Tinny boys 'boatswain's pipes' - part of the Tingira collection on Spectacle Island.

**1.** MP Charlie Lynn pins Chris Perrin with his Gold Life membership badge. **2.** Proud Tingira members at the Tingira Tribute.





Tingira Secretary  
**MARK LEE**

Another busy and demanding year, I wouldn't have it any other way!

The AGM set the scene for our organisation. To have seven members come forward and pledge their time to help us go forward certainly spreads the load. A special mention to Lance Ker who drives to Sydney from Nowra for our quarterly meetings, this is a great commitment and shows the strength and dedication amongst our members.

In my role there were two other quiet achievers this year I would like to give great credit. JR's John Goss, Victoria and Paul Kalajzich, Western Australia. These two lads will be the next to carry the Tingira banner and flag across our borders on ANZAC Day of 2014. They will be marching with the state divisions in Melbourne and Perth, adding some colour and strength to our cause, this can only bring more former JR's out of their hideouts and into our ranks.

Greg Read our first elected President has stepped into some big shoes from Chris Perrin, he has taken the challenge and his commitment is first class. There is not a day goes by that Greg does not have another idea on my desk! Turning the wheels of progress we are getting things done. Treasurer Peter Stephenson reports the banks and the website systems have taken some time and no lack of frustration, closing a website is as hard as opening one! Thanks to former treasurer Alan Rodgers for his contribution over the past five years. We know Alan is again on the road to recovery over there in the West and hope to see him port side soon.

The future is where we are at, the new website and Facebook communications are an important

pinnacle for our future. With a new front page news section we are looking to keep that moving with any thing that's slightly Leeuwin/Tingira related for our members and friends.

Our new polo shirts and caps are the best way to find an old member. Try wearing one next time you go shopping and see how many people comment or ask you a navy question? Committee member Chris Parr tells a great story in the Summer VoicePipe issue how his old reunion T-shirt found him a member in his own town.

Patron Russ Crane has also been a stalwart in the background. His 8 page letter to Chief of Navy, day one of his retirement on why the name Tingira should be re instated into the navy somehow has come to deliver the goods with the new Tingira class at Cerberus! It gets even better, we now are working closer with the Cerberus Recruit School CO and Cerberus CO.

I recently met Mr. Malcolm Elmslie during the year on one of his visits to Sydney, a great grandson of the Captain Elmslie CO of Sobraon. We ventured to Spectacle Island to view all items of the navy 'Tingira collection', mind boggling, certainly a highlight for me as I continue to gather the history's of Sobraon, Tingira, Cerberus and Leeuwin.

Thank you to all the members who assisted throughout the year, I look forward to a developing Tingira Australia Association as one of the best navy associations as we move forward beyond 2014.



**Right:** One of four original HMAS Tingira 'Gangway Crests'- part of the Tingira collection on Spectacle Island, 1.5 meters in length.

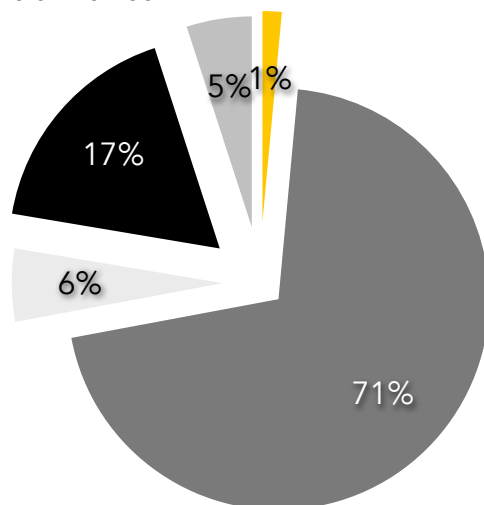
**1.** Tingira Tribute - Setting the flag **2.** Navy Chaplain Monsignor Mike Raynor. **3.** Tingira Padre - Pastor Bob Durban.



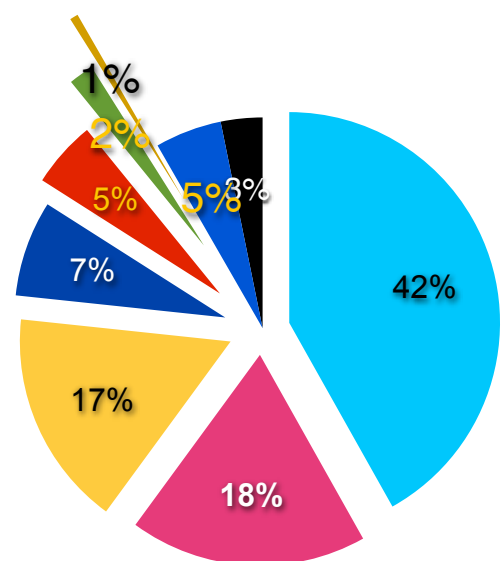
MEMBERSHIP STATUS 1st JAN 2014	2013	Total
HONORARY LIFE	1	5
FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBER	15	241
ASSOCIATE FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBER	4	19
GENERAL MEMBER	22	59
ASSOCIATE GENERAL MEMBER	0	17
TOTALS	42	341

NSW	135
QLD	66
WA	58
VIC	27
SA	25
ACT	14
TAS	7
NT	2
INT	7
TOTALS	341

- Hon Life
- Foundation
- Assoc Foundation
- General Member
- Assoc General Member



- NSW
- VIC
- WA
- NT
- QLD
- SA
- TAS
- ACT
- INT





**Top:** 'Our first Tingira member from Cerberus - Recruit Marks winner of the Tingira Topman Award.

**1.** Tinny Boys, ANZAC Day, Sydney. **2.** Chief of Navy VADM Ray Griggs with his Tingira Associate pin by President Greg Read. **3.** Bob Dobson presenting the Tingira Challenge for Sydney Harbour Kayak racing.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Tingira Treasurer  
**PETER STEPHENSON** OAM

Since my young days in business as an executive with the 'Big W' organisation I always seemed to be on the end of a spreadsheet analysing numbers. Welcome to Tingira Peter Stephenson, someone knew what they wanted me for and I must say what a pleasure it is to join a new Association at such an exciting time in our naval history.

Inheriting a healthy bank balance from the good work of former Treasurer, Alan Rodgers after the 'Life Membership' promotion, the committee quickly decided to place a large sum (\$20k) into an ongoing investment account and to top it up each month with a contribution to grow us a secure base for our future financial security.

As a committee, we also had to make some new asset investments with a new computer system for the Secretary, a new website that we have control of. With full financial ability now at the back end of the website to support a 'national shop front' to supply merchandise to our members. This is a major achievement, as it is presently our main income stream after membership.

To have that all in place, sorting the banking system added a few more grey hairs. The big four seem to have you in their 'corner pocket' when it comes to playing the money game. It took months to put in place our

investment, PayPal and new Credit Card merchandise accounts, however all is now in place and we look forward to some smoother payment and accounting practices in the future, at least from my end.

As an association with annual income under \$500k we are not required by law to have our accounts audited. However from the beginning we seek to have transparency to our members and we have accounts audited by a registered Certified Chartered Accountant.

In 2014 our revenue will grow with membership and as you can see we are sitting on a rather large supply of merchandise, Tingira polo shirts and caps! This will have a big bearing on our accounts and so far its just starting to move after the new website launch.

We will have other proposed products in the near future but as with most commercial operations these days, suppliers want their funds up front; it's a very 'chicken and egg' process when we make decisions today on what will or wont sell when you stick a name on it! Example, I think Big W have excess stock of 1788 shirts sitting around at present!

Functions will be our next big item as we look to adopt an online booking facility to move us towards the big JR reunion in 2015.

## ACCOUNTS

INCOME	Financial Year JAN to DEC 2013
Membership Fees	\$2,256
Merchandise Sales	\$1,152
Bank Interest	\$297
Misc	\$214
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,919</b>
EXPENSE	
Fees	\$648
Administration	\$3,332
Equipment-website	\$6,000
Travel	\$2,375
Merchandise	\$6,300
Functions	\$1,814
Misc	\$98
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$20,567</b>



## BALANCE SHEET

Financial Year JAN to DEC 2013		
<b>OPEN BALANCE</b>		<b>\$45,712</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>\$3,919</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$20,567</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK</b> 1-1-14		<b>\$8,796</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ACC</b>		<b>\$20,288</b>
<b>STOCK TAKE</b> COST OF STOCK ON SHELF 1-1-14		<b>\$11,084</b>

Accounts audited by Artin Etmekdjian, CPA Chatswood Accountant, Sydney.

## EVENTS 2013/14 Committee ...

March	Blessing Tingira Flag - ANZAC Memorial, Sydney
April	Annual General Meeting, Sydney - Election of first office bearers
April	Memorial Commemoration Service - Tingira Memorial Rose Bay
April	Tingira Annual Dinner - Rose Bay Club
April	ANZAC Day March - Sydney
August	Committee meeting - ANZAC House, Sydney
September	Victoria - HMAS Cerberus - Tingira class named at Recruit School
September	RAN Recruit Marks - Inaugural winner 'Tingira Top Shot' Award
September	TAA Presidents meeting - Victorian members at HMAS Cerberus
October	Tingira Tribute for International Fleet Review - ANZAC Memorial, Sydney
October	Blessing the Tingira Stole, Tingira pastor Bob Durbin - ANZAC Memorial, Sydney
October	Presentation - Hon Gold Life Membership - Mr. Chris Perrin
November	Committee meeting
December	Committee launch new Tingira website & new merchandise items
January	Executive planning meeting/reports AGM Tingira Top Shot presentation HMAS Cerberus Australia day commemoration - ANZAC Memorial
February	Committee meeting
March	Annual General Meeting - Sydney, North Head Barracks, Manly

<b>Tingira PATRON</b>	Russ Crane
<b>Tingira PRESIDENT</b>	Greg Read
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	David Ruckert
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mark Lee
<b>TREASURER</b>	Peter Stephenson
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Bob Dobson
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Lance Ker
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Chris Parr
<b>LJR VIC</b>	John Goss
<b>LJR WA</b>	Paul Kalajzich
<b>Tingira Past President</b>	Chris Perrin
<b>Tingira Chaplain</b>	Bob Durban
<b>Tingira Auditor</b>	Artin Etmekdjian
<b>Tingira Members 1/1/14</b>	340
<b>Association commenced</b>	1-1-11

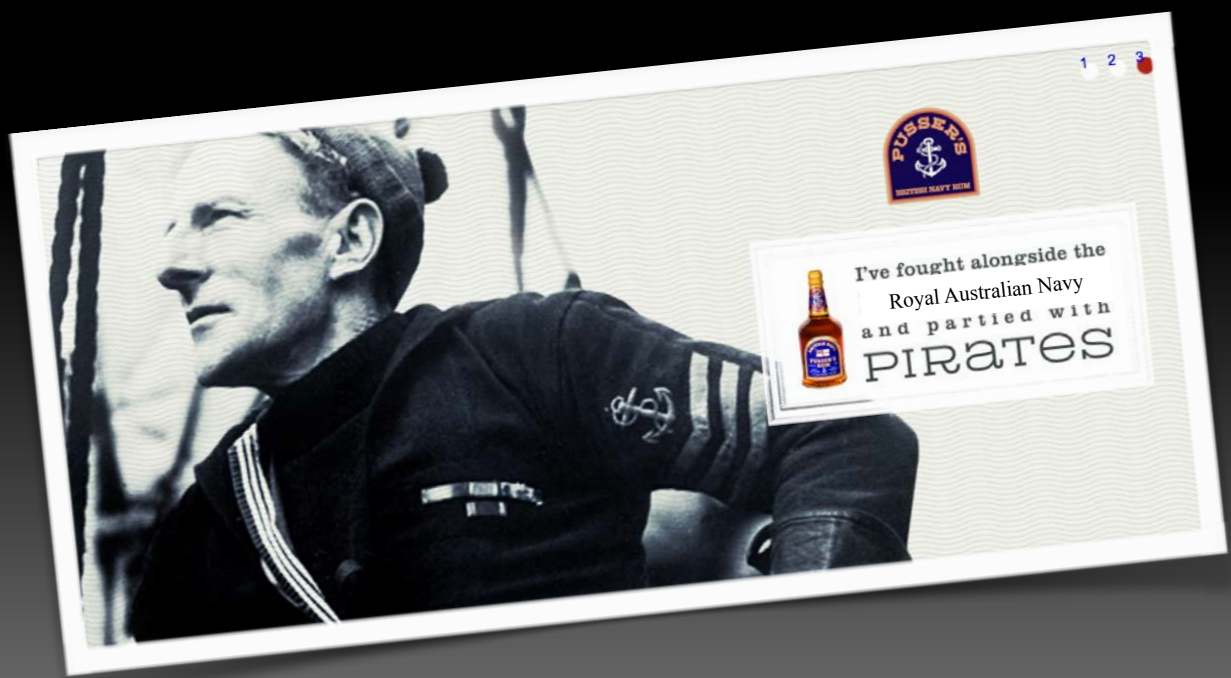


New TINGIRA Australia Association website, front page news with revolving pic story, full history and links to the many intake websites with PayPal finance for merchandise area with new ties, polo shirts and caps now available to members and friends.



"At the in-augural Annual General Meeting I was very honoured to take the rope of the Tingira Bell from Chris Perrin, I will strive to take the association forward as Chris has. Some planning and scheduling was set before me, first task next morning a brisk stroll down George Street with 40 odd 'Tinny Boys' behind me in the Sydney ANZAC Day March, proud as punch all of us!"

**Greg Read**  
President  
Tingira Australia Association



## *Pusser's Rum*

*Proud supporter  
Tingira Australia Association*



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