



TAA MR 9-20
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2020 TINGIRA REVIEW

LANCE KER
Tingira Australia President

“ **2020** what was that? Like no other year that I have seen in my five decades on this planet, Covid-19, let's hope it's behind us in the new 2021 stage of our life! The world has changed, that's the message and image from many angles in our new day to day lifestyles; the future will surely be in our hands from this point forward with many new and difficult decisions to face us no doubt.

New governments and bureaucrats at all levels are assured over the coming years with many new 'ways of life' on the forecast list. Small associations like ours, local sporting clubs and community groups have and will certainly feel the effects of Covid-19, for better or worse for a longer period than probably expected.

As an association, Tingira likes to be seen as a more modern and forward thinking group, this epidemic has put us to the test, our sails are to the wind in these present times of change!

The National Tingira Committee went into lock down 'action station' like the rest of the country in late March. Secured the hatches after the 2020 JR Reunion cancellation, then spent many hours, days, weeks and months to produce a new five year 'Strategic Plan' to take this association forward into 2021 and beyond.

The election of a new National Tingira Committee is in the wind for first half 2021 at our next AGM. The present committee now serving their fourth successive year, have made strong plans that are achievable on our navigation map; that was my main direction for them. Let's have big dreams but also have something exciting and possible projects to aim and achieve. Outside the normal radius of the square is good fodder, not restricted by time and place in the present atmosphere of Covid-19 was the direction I emphasised upon for the plan.

Taking our name Tingira forward is a given on all projects as one of our main objectives of the association, this plan needed legs and clear blue sky thinking.

Increasing the membership across and beyond our present boundaries, working stronger and closer with the Navy and Federal, State and Local government agencies. Putting up the most 'out there' suggestions to place Tingira back into the public eye, just as the Sobraon and Tingira Boys were back at the turn of the 19th century in Sydney. These were my guiding suggestions to the committee last June, to make this the best Strategic Plan we could envisage in the constraints of the present global and local situations.

First requirement was a new website to coincide with updated International monetary codes and internet security operating procedures. Tingira also has a new webmaster in the process, Mathew Copeland, of Copeland Creative in Sydney. Mathew delivers a revised level of communication and image, with a fresh new functional commercial website for us.

Tingira Treasurer, David Rafferty, and Secretary, Mark Lee, have redesigned our Tingira VoicePipe magazine. A fresh new clean look with an extended content size now out to 50 pages from the original 30 pages of first issue back in 2009 when Mark first hit the keyboards for the 2010 reunion team. Our brand and image is just the start of the new Strategic Plan. It is now in place to give the new 2021 committee some aim points on the navigation chart. Copy of the Plan can be downloaded from the website in the 'About Us' section.

Tingira requires a new 'Captain' at the helm as President after the next 2021 AGM, to command a possible new crew for the next three year period. After my seven years at the helm, I will take a step outside the executive roles, within the association after the AGM, to still be very much an active part of the crew.

Any former JR can apply for a position on the national committee. We are not an 'Old Boys Club or an Officers Club' like some ex JR's may think, and some often broadcast as our description on their social media keyboards. At Tingira, we are very open and transparent on what and when we do things. All events and financials are presented on the website inside the Annual Reports. Our Facebook page and VoicePipe magazines and Annual Reports are a running history line for those who look to discover our achievements and directions of the past.

'Our Lifetime Voyage' - This brilliant two volume book set produced by the Tingira Committee in April for the 2020 Reunion, gives a solid pictorial and factual history of our Tingira days past and presents pictorial records of our association over our first decade. Combined with records of our first generation Clipper Ship and NSW Nautical School Ship Sobraon and HMAS Tingira early in the decades on Rose Bay, Sydney. A reprint edition is in the wind, high on our list within the new Strategic Plan.

The association would not have survived without the generosity of several sponsors in monetary and in kind gifts over the past 24 months. The Cumberland sub-Branch of RSL NSW, they have been at the forefront of our association from day one, thank you. This year the Navy Seapower Centre and Qantas has been very cooperative with contributions towards the 2020 JR Reunion that we unfortunately could not deliver. The door is open to future possible joint programs, thank you to all supporting sponsors.

2021 is here, January is upon us. It's been a great effort by the committee and many Tingira members that stepped up to assist in the difficult times, especially around the 2020 JR Reunion cancellation period. Huge thank you to all who assisted the Secretary Mark Lee and his wife Margaret with many extra duties required.

Big thank you also to all Tingira members, ex JR's and HMAS Leeuwin staff who made donations to the association after the 2020 JR Reunion cancellation announcement. We were very close to insolvent in early May, however, we managed to survive the exercise of Covid-19 and all the challenges it delivered to us. More thanks to Carmel Soames, Tim James and Artin Etmekdjian; their event management, legal and financial assistance to the committee during the 2020 JR Reunion planning and refund period was very much appreciated, kept us in line with compliance issues and a difficult testing time in association administration.

Approaching our first ten year anniversary of the Tingira Australia Association, 1-1-21, I must 'dip my lid' to our Patron, Vice Admiral Russ Crane, our former President's Chris Perrin and Greg Read, inaugural committeeman Alan Rodgers and Secretary Mark Lee, who we owe the greatest pleasure of "Bravo Zulu" to these lads for delivering us Tingira as we know her today.

My biggest thank-you is to the 'team' behind the Tingira crew. Messers Annie Ker, Donna Par, Margaret Lee, Ruth Harman, Sandy Rafferty, Joanne Rose, Jenny Wake and Siem Hunter. These ladies take all the back end hype our committee bring to the homeland table! I thank them for their tolerance, participation and continued support for their man and all things Tingira on the voyage!

A safe and happy new year to all Tingira, navy members and families as we move towards our next year, again filled with expectations and I am sure another surprise or two for all!

From the proud motto of our first generation of Tingira Boys ...

“ Long Live Tingira ”