

**EXCLUSIVE  
GUIDE****RSL OFFICIALS  
TV, RADIO &  
SOCIAL MEDIA****TAA MR 5 - 21**  
**Friday 9 April 2021****AUTHORITY**  
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The name **TINGIRA** and **SOBRAON** is often mis pronounced, mis spelt and occasionally mis represented as a former division of the Navy Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts in some states.

This release will assist MEDIA with some facts, figures and a true history of what Tingira represents in 2021.

Please contact Secretary Mark Lee,  
on the above number or email for any further details, thank you.

# TINGIRA=TIN-GUY-RA

## ANZAC DAY - 2021 MEDIA PROFILE

1. **Tingira Australia Association** - Over 13,000 Junior Recruits joined the Royal Australian Navy from 1960 to 1984 at HMAS CERBERUS, Crib Point, Victoria and HMAS LEEUWIN, East Fremantle, Western Australia, they were known as 'Tingira Boys', these are the members of our association today.
2. They were 15 and 16 year old Boy Sailors – the second generation of the 'Tingira Boys' after the original 14 and 15 year old boys joined on board Australia's first naval training ship, HMAS TINGIRA, commissioned 25 April 1912, Rose Bay, Sydney.
3. As an Association, Tingira also represents all Officers and Sailors of the famous Clipper Ship SOBRAON 1866-1891, which then became the NSW Nautical School Ship SOBRAON 1891-1911, and then commissioned as the RAN Training Ship HMAS TINGIRA 1912-1927.
4. The ship SOBRAON was the world's largest and fastest ship of her time, her long journey across the world and to our nation between 1866-1927 is a feat which very few ships would ever reach. Today the names TINGIRA and SOBRAON live on for all associated with her over those historic voyages and years of service to our nation.

5. 25 April 2021 is the 109th birthday of commissioning HMAS TINGIRA. The association does not celebrate this event on ANZAC Day, a day of commemoration across the nation. The association celebrates 13 July as 'Tingira Day' the date of the first boys to enter HMAS LEEUWIN in 1960.
6. Tingira Boys will march nationally this ANZAC Day under their banner and parading their flag in Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

1. Many RAN Junior Recruits who graduated in the early to mid 60's, were drafted to HMA Ships BRISBANE, HOBART, PERTH and VENDETTA where action on the 'gun line' during the Vietnam conflict was seen; many were under the age of 18. They also were on board logistic support and escort ships, HMAS ANZAC, BOONAROO, DERWENT, DUCHESS, JEPARIT, MELBOURNE, PARRAMATTA, STUART, SWAN, SYDNEY, TORRENS, VAMPIRE and YARRA.
2. This also occurred when WW1 broke out. After 12 months training these young Tingira Boys were drafted onto the gunships of HMAS SYDNEY and AUSTRALIA; again many saw action at the front line on the high seas including in our first battle when they sank the German raider, Emden. Again many were under the age of 18.
3. Likewise in WW11, Tingira Boys also served in units which gained distinction and honour. Thus Tingira Boys' have served in action for the Royal Australian Navy over the past century.
4. Several Tingira Boys are still serving in the RAN 2021. Most have now embarked beyond 40 years of continuous service with their first employer.
5. Former Junior Recruit, RUSS CRANE, from the HMAS LEEUWIN 32nd intake of 1970 went through the ranks to become Vice Admiral and Chief of Navy, the highest rank within the navy.
6. Former Junior Recruit BRIAN ADAMS also went through the ranks to become Rear Admiral. Many other Junior Recruits have reached senior Officer ranks of Commodore, Captain, Commander and Lieutenant Commander.
7. Based at HMAS Cerberus, Victoria, a division of the Australian Navy Cadets. Known as TS TINGIRA designed for teenagers as a recreation, adventure and nautical education lifestyle before adulthood; many of these cadets join the navy after completing school studies.
8. Tingira Australia Association President, Lance Ker, will lead the Sydney Tingira squad in the Anzac Parade for his last time as he is the retiring President after this march. His eldest son, Danaan Ker, a Tingira Associate member, will be leading the Tingira squad with the original 1912 HMAS Tingira flag.

**TINGIRA**  
**Pronounced. TIN-GUY-RA**

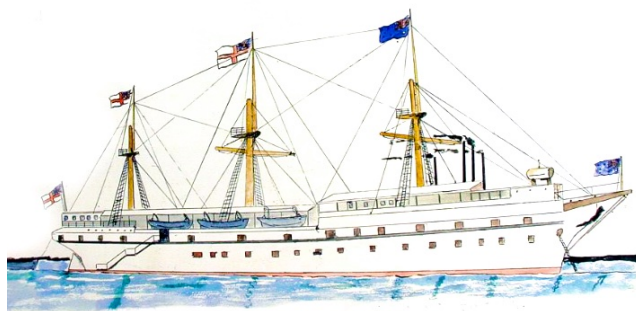
**SOBRAON**  
**Pronounced. SO-BRO-ON**

**ENDS RELEASE**



**Lance Ker**  
**PRESIDENT**

Tingira Australia Association



## TINGIRA TODAY

The name TINGIRA is a derivative of 'dingira' (pronounced din-GREER-a), a word meaning 'sea' in the language of the Badtjala people of Fraser Island, Queensland. Originally the clipper ship was called SOBRON and was built by Alexander Hall of Aberdeen, launched in 1866. It was the largest composite ship ever built at the time and sailed on the England to Australia route for more than 20 years.

In 1891 the NSW Government purchased SOBRON from Devitt and Moore, and was towed to Sydney Harbour arriving on 15 February 1891.

SOBRON was acquired to replace the VERNON as a floating reformatory for boys. The ship underwent a series of modifications and became an Industrial School Ship, or Nautical School Ship, for underprivileged boys whom the court had found destitute, or for other reasons saw it fit to hand these boys into the strict, disciplinary life on board SOBRON.

The boys were given an opportunity to learn the rudiments of a life at sea. The aim of this exercise was to encourage young lads to join the navy or merchant service which at this time was undergoing a dramatic change with steam ships replacing sailing ships. Apart from being disciplined, the boys were given the opportunity to develop their skills as tradesmen and were given a basic education both moral and academic. The band was in much demand on many an important ceremonial occasion.

On 25 April 1912 HMAS TINGIRA (ex-SOBRON) was commissioned as the first naval training ship in the Royal Australian Navy. It became the training ship to thousands of young boys who chose the Navy as a career under the Department of the Navy's boy sailor enlistment scheme. TINGIRA did not head to sea for training, but remained moored at Rose Bay for the next 15 years.

By HMAS TINGIRA's decommissioning in 1927, some 3,168 young boys had had their initial training on board.

In 1929 TINGIRA was bought by W.M.Ford, a prominent boat builder and floated TINGIRA outside his boatshed in Berry's Bay. Ford died in 1935 and in 1936 Major Friere and Mrs Ankin negotiated to purchase TINGIRA for the sum of £2,600, and a company was formed to convert the ship into a floating museum, but because of financial difficulties this development failed. TINGIRA was purchased by Karlo Selvinen who finally broke her up in Berry's Bay in 1942.

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Over the next five decades hundreds of former TINGIRA sailors formed the 'TINGIRA Old Boys Association'. These men were tough 'old sea salts' going from sailing rigs to war fronts on steel ships of coal, steam and diesel. As an association, they were active; changed a towns name to TINGIRA Heights and built there own TINGIRA Memorial at Rose Bay, Sydney.

In 1960 the RAN again introduced the second generation of 'TINGIRA Boy Sailors'. To be known as Junior Recruits, over 13,000 young 15 year old Australian boys joined the navy between 1960 and 1984. They too saw the war front of Vietnam and many peacekeeping operations along the way with the transition to modern steel ships of electronic missiles to the full on computer age warships of todays modern naval fleet of 2021.

**In 2010 at the 50th Junior Recruit reunion, HMAS Leeuwin Perth, several boys gathered the idea and formed the TINGIRA Australia Association.**

**A decade onward. The membership numbers are increasing as they too are a strong and willing association to assist their veteran community, keeping the name SOBRON and TINGIRA alive and again in the public forefront as has been for the past century.**

**TINGIRA Boys - Marching nationally with their banner and flag on Anzac Day, is an annual highlight for many of the boys in these changing times for veterans and their families.**

**"Long Live TINGIRA"**