

TINGIRA AUSTRALIA



# VOICEPIPE

JUNE 2021

TINGIRA  
Welcome  
National  
Committee

BRAD  
MURPHY  
Tingira  
President

ANZAC  
DAY  
National  
Roundup

JRTS  
Billy  
Stokes  
1st Intake

JOHN  
PERRYMAN

2021 Stonehaven Medal

TINGIRA.ORG.AU



**PATRON**  
VADM Russ Crane  
AO, CSM, RANR  
ACT



**CHAIRMAN**  
Lance Ker  
QLD

# TINGIRA

NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
2021 - 2024



**PRESIDENT**  
Brad Murphy - QLD



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Chris Parr - NSW



**SECRETARY**  
Mark Lee - NSW



**TREASURER**  
David Rafferty - NSW



**COMMITTEE**  
Darryn Rose - NSW



**COMMITTEE**  
Jeff Wake - WA



**COMMITTEE**  
Graeme Hunter - VIC



**COMMITTEE**  
Paul Kalajzich - WA



**COMMITTEE**  
Kevin Purkis - QLD

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JUNE 2021

## DISTRIBUTION & CORRESPONDENCE

E. [tsec@tingira.org.au](mailto:tsec@tingira.org.au)  
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- No other correspondence (social media) in any format will be recognised or answered
- VoicePipe is published 2-3 times annually on behalf of the Committee for the Tingira Australia Association Inc, for members and friends of CS & NSS Sobraon, HMAS Tingira, HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus Junior Recruit Training Schemes
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1 January 2011



### FRONT COVER

John Perryman with his  
refurbished antique 25 cm  
Admiralty Pattern 3860A  
signalling projector

Photograph  
**Meredith Perryman**



# WHEEL to MIDSHIPS

## Welcome - Tingira National Committee



**Lance Ker**  
Chairman  
Tingira Australia Assoc

“ **L**ife is like a rolling stone, well so be it.

**Here at Tingira, we don't sit around gathering moss, we are again rolling onwards with good wind in our sails!**

*I stepped down from the President's role at the recent Annual General Meeting and took the new option to rollover into the newly created 'Chairman's' position for the association.*

*My new role will be more involved with Senior Defence and Corporate officials. This is to allow the national President and his committee to work on the 'day to day' role of running the association. This allows new blood at the helm. With that, I am honoured to congratulate and welcome my ship mate, JR Brad Murphy, for taking the step forward to become our President for the next three years.*

*So far all things Tingira look healthy on the horizon. I*

*predict that we move through the rest of 2021 with more confidence on life than the experience of the 2020 Covid year.*

*The newly elected committee are all on board with 'wheels to midships' to commence their new term. They have a well balanced Strategic Plan in place to give them a solid direction to finish the second half of the year and power Tingira forward into 2022.*

*I must also congratulate those other Tingira Boys being elected and for stepping up to committee positions. Volunteering their time for the association over the next three year term is a great gift to us all.*

*Jeff Wake, Graeme Hunter, Paul Kalajzich and Kevin Purkis have all committed to our cause and we look forward to assisting the state organisers in their home regions.*

\*

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**PRESIDENT**  
**Brad Murphy**



**COMMITTEE**  
**Jeff Wake**



**COMMITTEE**  
**Graeme Hunter**



**COMMITTEE**  
**Paul Kalajzich**



**COMMITTEE**  
**Kevin Purkis**

*And none of this happens without you, the Members.*

*I often get asked by members and other sailor ratings what do we do? I just tell them to download our current Annual Report and or the last VoicePipe magazine from the website; we don't just do Anzac Day is usually my polite response.*

*This years Annual Report, tabled at the recent AGM, is another great achievement and production for the big dramas of the 2020 Covid year that was.*

*AGM went very well after the Sydney Anzac Day march, again another great job by the Secretary. I loved our 'flag' exercise, another time and another place, this will be a great little performance with some practise!*

*The 2020 JR Reunion cancellation, followed by the demanding process of moving the association forward with an election and AGM. To draw up the Strategic Plan with some real 'possible' action items was certainly a big and time consuming event for many within the committee at the later part of 2020; but we*

*did it, that exercise alone I am very proud of for the team at Tingira.*

*Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was Tingira from her outset. Like most good ships, many seeds are sewn to bear the fruit long before they bloom. With wind and salt air in our masts, we take 'old navy' experience on our side to make this a better ship for all, past, present and future.*

*My time is now done on the committee deck, this will be my last page of comments for some time. I would like to once again thank the past two committee's for all their support and efforts my period of seven years as President.*

*Special thanks to Tingira Vice President Chris Par and Secretary Mark Lee, who have been on board since day one of this association for the past 10 years, and have both been the Tingira backbone, they deserves the big BZ.*

**Thank you 'Team Tingira'**  
Lance Ker



2021 Tingira Australia Association - Annual General Meeting, PRIMUS Hotel Sydney

# TINGIRA STRATEGIC PLAN - COMMITTEE UPDATE

## COMPLETED

### 2020 PROPOSAL

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc requests to RAN Chief of Navy to consider to name the replacement ship for STS Young Endeavour, Sail Training Ship TINGIRA”***

Official letter and supporting documents lodged with RAN Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, October 2020



Work in Progress

### 2020 PROPOSAL

***“That the present Tingira Memorial Rose Bay, Sydney, is restored to present as a modern and well represented Navy War Memorial”***

DELIVERED TO COUNCIL

1. Letter from Local Member, Gabriel Upton, clarifying that Woolahra Council is the Trustee of the Tingira Memorial, Rose Bay, Sydney
2. Official invitation sent to Woolahra Council requesting first meeting for support and directions October 2020



Work in Progress

## IN PROGRESS

### 2020 PROPOSAL

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc to conduct the annual ANZAC DAY Dawn Ceremony at Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle, WA”***

1. Official letter sent to CEO Leeuwin Barracks requesting second meeting and discuss the elements for the MOU to be in place before January 2021 if possible



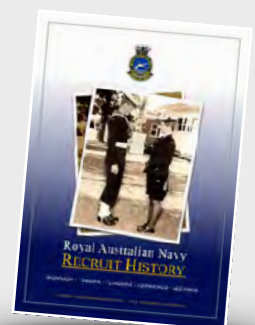
Work in Progress

## COMPLETED

DELIVERED TO HMAS Cerberus

***“That TAA and RAN Recruit School produce with a sponsor, a RECRUIT history publication for HMAS Cerberus Recruit School graduation parades”***

1. Publication now in printing
2. after approval from Navy
3. Secretary to deliver hard copy to
4. HMAS Cerberus January 2021



AVAILABLE  
TINGIRA WEBSITE  
[www.tingira.org.au](http://www.tingira.org.au)

MU  
SEA  
UM

COMPLETED

## 2021 PROPOSAL

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc make closer contact in 2021 with Australia National Maritime Museum, possibility of using museums RAN ship facilities and or future use with the former HMAS Tingira ships vessel, SY ERNA”***

1. Content has been made with the national marketing manager for possible future Tingira functions at the museum and on board the SY Erna.

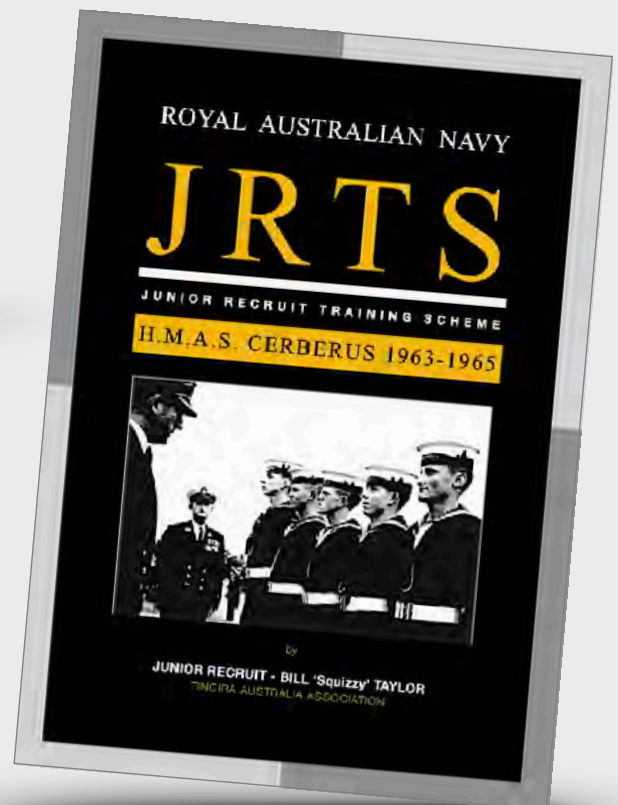


## 2021 PROPOSAL

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc assist in production, design and content first intake member Bill Taylor to complete a book on the two intakes that served their initial JR time at HMAS Cerberus”***

1. Content has been received from Bill Taylor. Tingira Secretary, Mark Lee, project manager, seeking more content from No 2 intake members. No 1 intake member, Bill Stokes, has contributed a brilliant extra 8,000 words for a book that will now go out to 150 odd pages with history of Navy Recruits, the Cerberus JR intakes and our Tingira association timeline.

Work in Progress



DELIVEREY  
March 2022  
Cerberus JR Reunion  
TBC





*Tingira President, Brad Murphy, performs his first official duty, laying a wreath on behalf of the Tingira Australia Association at the annual Coral Sea commemoration, Canberra*





## TINGIRA PRESIDENT - Brad Murphy

“Is there a doctor in the house? Well, yes there is today! On the bridge, with binoculars in hand, brew cup at the ready and watching the seagulls soaring into the blue skies over Bundaberg, oh how I wish!

Welcome shipmates, as your new President, I am honoured to step up to support the Tingira Australia Association. Taking over where my fellow shipmate, Lance Ker has left off, I know have big shoes to fill here, I'm up for the hard yards!

As our new Chairman, Lance is in the communication loop, it's the new committee that will take the present and future tasks to challenge for the association.

After the 2020 Covid year and the shadows that have carried over so far this year, it's still anything from normal or smooth sailing from day to day for this overworked doctor on some days!

I am very supportive of the Executive that have stayed on committee to assist. Vice President Chris Parr, Secretary Mark Lee, Treasurer David Rafferty and Committeeman Darryn Rose, they bring a 'shipload of experience' to the Tingira upper deck.

We can only count ourselves so lucky, for these men continue on in their voluntary roles to keep our association rolling. The four newly elected committee members, Jeff Wake, Graeme

Hunter, Paul Kalajzich and Kevin Purkiss; thank you lads for stepping up to assist, it is men like you that are the future of our association.

Anzac Day, it happened but not as we would all have liked. Well done to many statewide coordinators that put in many hours behind the front line to get our lads on the street. As it was officially my first day at the Tingira helm at midday that day, I was in my hometown here in Bundaberg. I was host to Rear Admiral Jenny Firman who was a delight to work with at our local Dawn Service held in our medial practice grounds.

My first official role in public as President came much quicker than I thought.

Three weeks later whilst in Canberra with work commitments, it was good timing as opposed to good planning that I was able to lay our annual wreath at the USA Coral Sea commemoration.

The following day was the presentation of the Tingira Stonehaven Medal. What a great few days it was, to catch up with some familiar faces and make new friends with members I had not met before. A very cold Canberra, yes it's winter, makes my Queensland very special on days like those experienced down there!

The 2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal was awarded to John

Perryman. What an absolute pleasure to meet John and his wife Meredith. His CV during his navy days and on the civilian side of life, is all very admirable with many 'gold distinction stars' achieved along the way. John's true love, the classic Ford Mustang car, is a real credit to his other community commitments. This is what Tingira Boys are about; hard work, supporting mates, family and other communities. BZ John Perryman and a great article on his lifeline with Voicepipe editor Mark Lee on page 15.

The next big Tingira event to my surprise is an upcoming Presidents Dinner on Saturday 10 July, in downtown Brisbane to celebrate Tingira Day, our JR Birthday and we will throw in our ten year anniversary for good measure. Brisbane boys, this one is for you so lets see you support it please, we need 15 couples I. The room, please make the wives welcome to all our events its where the next level of friendships really kick in.

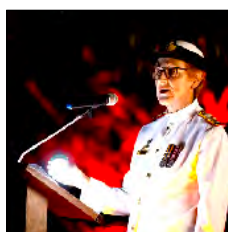
I'm looking forward a true celebration of our 61 years since that first intake that entered HMAS Leeuwin gangway and gave us this rich JR heritage we share today, Tingira.

My door is always open for what ever reason. An email to me or the Secretary is the quickest way to the 'IN tray' all requests considered!

**Long Live Tingira**



**Brad Murphy**  
President  
Tingira



*Coral Sea commemoration, ANZAC Day Bundaberg, Stonehaven Medal*





2020 Annual Report now available from Tingira website

**CUMBERLAND** RSL sub - Branch  
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## STONEHAVEN MEDAL PRESENTATION

*A special thank you to Warrant Officer of Navy, Deb Butterworth, for her presentation of this years Tingira Stonehaven Medal in Canberra recently.*

*Tingira Patron, Russ Crane, was also generous with his time and gave us a real insight as to what drives the true Tingira spirit in all former RAN Junior Recruits during and after their time in the service.*

*Well done to Canberra Tingira coordinator, Eric Pitman, for organising a great event at the Southern Cross yacht club.*

*Unfortunately Eric took sick on the morning of the event. Eric missed out on another great team photo and introducing his new bride, another time mate, BZ.*

**Brad Murphy**  
President Tingira



*2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal Presentation - John Perryman with Tingira shipmates in Canberra*

You Hear There ...

# TINGIRA DAY

Saturday 10 July 2021

61st  
Birthday

## **NATIONAL TINGIRA** **BIRTHDAY**

Tingira birthday celebrates the first intake to the enter RAN Junior Recruit Training Scheme HMAS Leeuwin, East Fremantle July 1960

ADELAIDE  
BRISBANE  
CAIRNS  
CANBERRA  
FRANKSTON  
FREMANTLE



**TINGIRA WEBSITE**  
[www.tingira.org.au](http://www.tingira.org.au)

MEDIA RELEASE - MID JUNE - STATEWIDE LOCATIONS - COSTS





W. [TINGIRA.ORG.AU](http://TINGIRA.ORG.AU)

# INVITATION

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL DINNER

**HMAS LEEUWIN**  
61st BIRTHDAY

**TINGIRA**  
Australia Assoc  
10th ANNIVERSARY



### The **PLOUGH** INN

29 Stanley St Plaza  
South Brisbane, Queensland

**Saturday 10 July 2021**

1800 - 2300 hours

#### DRESS

TINGIRA - Formal Black Tie

Military - Mess Uniform - Miniature Medals

#### BOOKINGS

Tingira Website - Ticket only entry - Numbers limited

\$75 per person (Earlybird to June 14)

\$100 per person from June 15

Three course dinner, beverage and birthday cake

Bookings for Presidents Dinner - NOW available from Tingira website

# RSL DefenceCare

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Through RSL DefenceCare, RSL NSW helps Australian veterans and their families in times of injury, illness or crisis.

Services include DVA claims and advocacy support, counselling, disaster assistance, financial assistance, and housing assistance. These services are free of charge and are available to veterans in need, as well as the families of veterans.

Military service can have an impact on the wellbeing and quality of life of individuals and their families. This can include physical and mental illness and injury. The impact can also extend to family members who support an ill or injured veteran.

Through the services RSL DefenceCare provides, RSL NSW aims to help Australian veterans and their families get through difficult times.

Visit the [RSL DefenceCare website](#) to find out more.



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*Always there*



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*“ I am honoured to announce that former Royal Australian Navy Junior Recruit, Tingira Boy, Duncan 'John' Perryman is the winner of the 2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.*

*“John has gone beyond and above the normal call of duty in his 41 one years of navy and defence service duties with his contribution to the historical storylines of the Royal Australian Navy.*

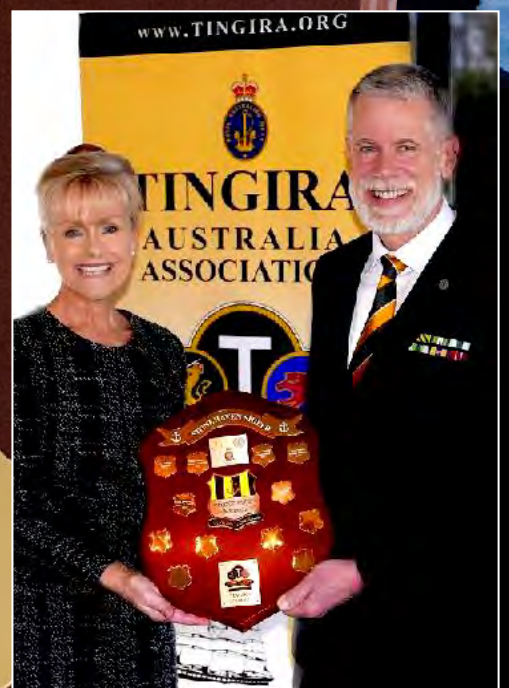
*“Congratulations John Perryman, winner of the 2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal*

Warrant Officer of Navy  
**Deb Butterworth**  
 OAM, CSM and Bar



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 TINGIRA STONEHAVEN MEDAL





2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner John Perryman and wife Meredith



# STONEHAVEN

## Discovers Our

# SEA POWER

Storyline by **JOHN PERRYMAN** with VoicePipe editor **MARK LEE**



1986 - At sea - Leading Seaman Signalman, John Perryman, HMAS Hobart  
in company with the USS New Jersey battle group,

**T**his year's Tingira Stonehaven Medal has been awarded to Tingira Boy, John Perryman, of Canberra.

John's nomination was one of three former RAN Junior Recruits. All there were outstanding contributions to meet the requirements for the annual Stonehaven Medal, awarded annually by the Tingira Australia Association.

John's resume is outstanding. One lifetime employer with over 41 years continuous Defence service. On many occasions this 'Tingira sailor' has gone above and beyond the normal call of duty in his role and commitment to many work related and life projects.

"This came as a complete surprise to me and I am very much aware of the achievements of previous recipients whose company I now share on the very handsome

Stonehaven Shield" said John when receiving his medal from Warrant Officer of Navy, Deb Butterworth, in Canberra recently.

Tingira President, Brad Murphy, was at the award ceremony and said "it was a great honour to be in the same room as the man we can call our 'seapower of naval history'. John Perryman is very much part of that naval history."

John and his team have relocated thousands of navy publications, photographs and memorabilia items into the safety net inside the Sea Power Centre - Australia over the past two decades. This salon will give future generations the opportunity to study our rich naval past.

Along the way John has in his own time produced a few books related to his navy work of exceptional standard in content and presentation. Bravo Zulu John Perryman

*This is John's story ...*



TAA MR 7-21  
Monday 17 May 2021

AUTHORITY  
Brad Murphy  
President

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AUSTRALIA  
ASSOCIATION

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# STONEHAVEN

## DISCOVERS OUR SEA POWER

Tingira Australia Association President, Brad Murphy, announced today that former Royal Australian Navy, Junior Recruit, **John Perryman**, from Canberra, ACT, is the winner of the 2021 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

The Stonehaven Medal is awarded to the Tingira member who can show cause in their local community or present naval duties 'going beyond and above the normal call of duty'.

"We had several very genuine nominations for this year's annual Tingira Stonehaven Medal. Once again they were all of high quality with glowing achievements that meet the Tingira requirement to be named the Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner. John is an outstanding member of the association to win this years Medal" said President, Brad Murphy.

As one of several RAN historians, over the past two decades John Perryman's research and production of the navy history chapter has been an outstanding contribution to the Defence Department. His nomination was a true 'Stonehaven Standout'. John has put a genuine mark of professionalism into the naval history records and collections, showing his true 'sea power' strength in this role after compiling 41 years of service and history with Navy and Dept of Defence.





Canberra school boy John Perryman, his first welcome aboard flyer, HMAS ANZAC from 1974 ship visit and 2021 receiving the Tingira Stonehaven Medal from Warrant Officer of Navy Deb Butterworth.

## DUNCAN 'John' PERRYMAN

### Canberra, Australia

1963

“ I was born in the Canberra Community Hospital in August 1963 just prior to the Molonglo River being dammed to create Lake Burley Griffin. I recall that my mother was quite chuffed that on leaving the hospital in my dad's Ford Anglia, theirs was one of the last cars to pass over Lennox Crossing before it was closed and the lake flooded. Robert Menzies was Australia's Prime Minister, Beatlemania was sweeping the world and Holden was just about to release its new EH motor car replacing the EJ series.

With the exception of 18 months spent living in England, I am a proud Canberran and have always considered the A.C.T. and Ngunnawal country 'home'.

I was one of five siblings and, together with my parents Jean and Terry, the seven of us lived mainly in a small A.V. Jennings government house in Waramanga. I was number two in the pecking order of children with an older brother, two younger brothers and a sister. My father and mother were both ex-Navy, having served in the Royal Navy and Womens Royal Naval Service respectively. They met in Malta during the Suez Crisis while serving on the Commander-in-Chief's staff in the communications centre. Both were to attain the rank of petty officer in the signals category. My younger

brother Lindsay was also destined to join the navy and he too became a signalman, later attaining the rank of warrant officer and receiving a Conspicuous Service Medal for service during his time in HMAS *Perth* (II).

My father's naval training began at a very young age. He had been placed in the care of Dr Barnados Homes when he was just four years old and was later fostered out. At age eleven he was sent to Watts Naval Training School in Norfolk, an institution jointly run by the Royal Navy and Dr Barnados Homes to school and train 'stray' boys with a view to them joining the Navy. I understand it was, at times, a harsh and disciplined environment. My father officially enlisted in the Royal Navy in February 1944 at age 16 as a boy signalman. He completed his training at HMS *St George* on the Isle of Man and was serving in the Royal Navy cruiser, HMS *Bellona* when the war ended and was present for the German surrender in Norway. He left the Navy in 1958 having served in a battleship, several cruisers, a survey ship, two 'C' class destroyers and even a landing craft kitchen. Destroyers were, however, his favourite ships and he had a particular affinity with HMS *Concord* in which he served during the Korean War.

My mother's naval service was similarly interesting. She was quite adventurous and spent a good deal of time at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton (HMS *Heron*) where she got to fly in various aircraft including AVRO Ansons and Vampire jet trainers. She never passed up an opportunity to sea-ride and along with other Wrens she enjoyed sea days in a number of famous Royal Navy ships.





*1955 - Malta - Leading Seaman Signaller, Terry Perryman RN*



*Petty Officer Wren Signals, Jean Adams RN (later Perryman),  
presenting HMS Heron's band to Princess Marina Duchess of Kent,  
on the occasion of a formal visit.*

She was an accomplished communicator and coder and was promoted petty officer at a very young age. My mother was also a gifted musician and held the distinction of being the first female rating to be appointed a drum-major of a Royal Navy band – an ancillary duty she performed at Yeovilton that saw her present the band to the Duchess of Kent at divisions. She was intelligent, loving and kind and was the glue that knitted our family together

I was often captivated by my dad's stories of 'life at sea'. He had an inquiring mind, was largely self-educated and his ability to recall events coupled with a gift for storytelling was to have a profound effect on me. He was also an avid photographer capturing much of his naval career through the lens of a Kodak Box Brownie camera.

At the time of my birth my father was a codes and cyphers officer working on the staff of the British High Commission on Commonwealth Avenue in Canberra. At the end of that posting, my family returned by sea to England where we lived in Essex. Having caught a glimpse of what Australia had to offer, my mother and father decided to migrate to Australia to give we children better opportunities in life. They packed up their meager possessions and we subsequently returned to Canberra in 1967 by which time I had circumnavigated the world by sea in the Chandris liner RHMS *Ellinis*, crossed the equator twice and transited the Panama Canal.

In need of work, my father took a job as a door-to-door salesman selling World Book encyclopedia. He was good at it, and he earned himself a very smart set as a reward for his efforts. It was to prove an invaluable asset during our school years. Later he worked at the Canberra Times newspaper before settling in a job with the well-known Australian department store Waltons. My mother was occupied raising children but she later secured part-time work at Parliament House working with Australian Associated Press in the parliamentary press gallery. There she played a part in helping to break some of the big news stories of those times such as Cyclone Tracy and the Dismissal. Much later in life she joined the Department of Defence working in IT.

In 1968-69 I attended Lyons Infants School where I recall watching the Apollo 11 lunar landing in July 1969, it was an exciting time to be a child. In 1970 my family moved to the new Canberra district of Weston Creek where we were among the first 'inhabitants' of Waramanga. I attended the newly built Waramanga Primary School whose motto was 'Endeavour', quite fitting given it was the name of the ship in which James Cook achieved so much during his voyages of discovery and perhaps an early sign of what lay ahead for me. I later attended Weston Creek High School where I did quite well in English, history and industrial arts but recall having a distinct aversion to maths and physics. It was there that I met my future wife Meredith although at the time we were just good friends.

1974

### Visit to HMAS *Anzac* (II)

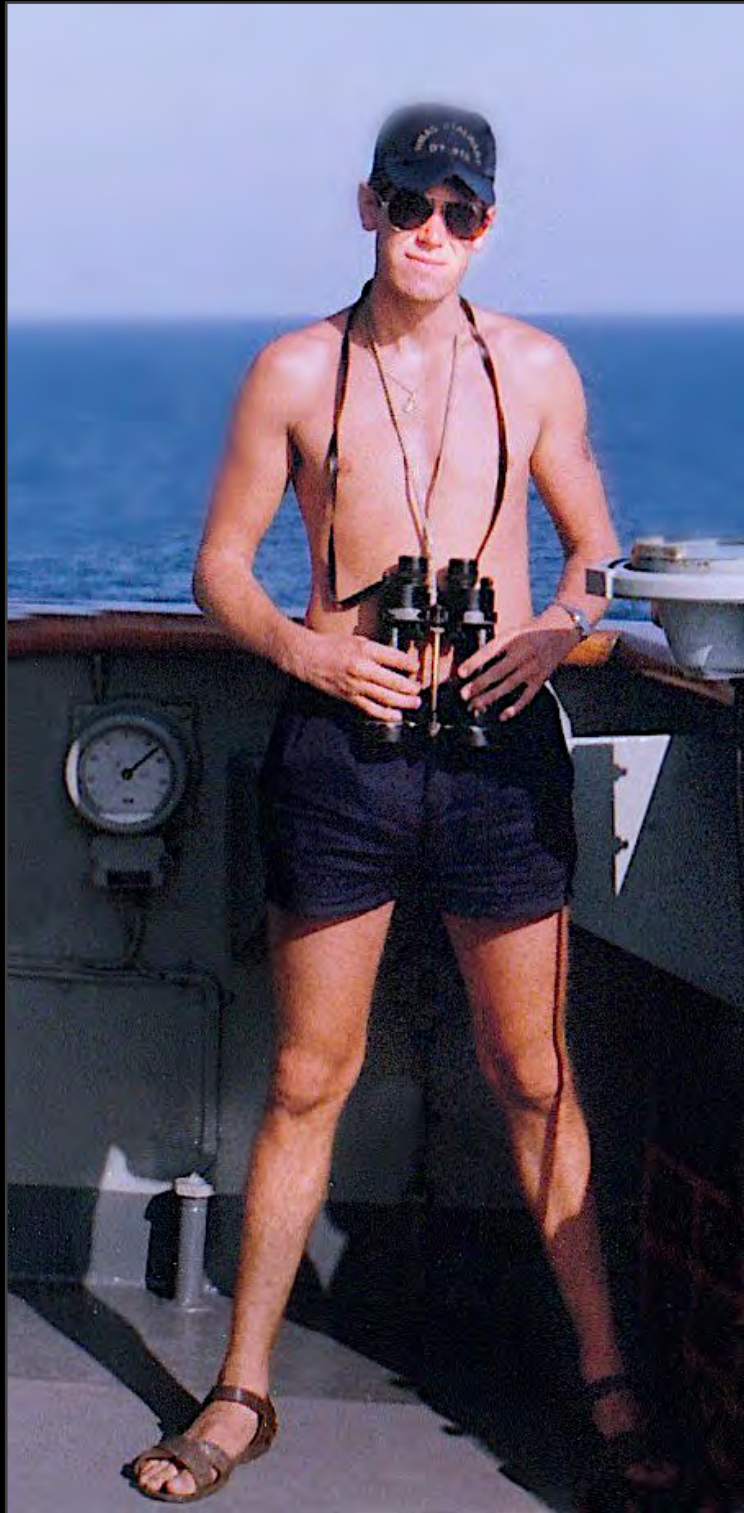
My parents had saved enough money for us to go on a family holiday to Manly. It was there that my father read in the newspaper that there was to be an open day at the Garden Island naval base. He appeared very keen to go and it was during that excursion that I first got to tread the decks of an Australian warship - the ageing Battle Class destroyer, HMAS *Anzac* (II). I was enthralled by what I saw and recall the sailors on duty enthusiastically answering my many questions. I still have the 'Welcome Aboard' brochure to this day. Following that visit I gained a better understanding of my parent's naval service and began thinking that this might be something I might like to do myself one day.

My life as an adolescent in Canberra was a happy existence and fairly typical of those times. I had a bad hair cut, was dressed in denim, T-shirts and desert boots and life was spent mainly outdoors, riding bikes and getting together with other neighbourhood kids - of which there were many. I joined the Waramanga Primary School brass band in which I played the bass drum and was to get my own drum kit, becoming a reasonable drummer. At one time I had aspirations to be the next Ringo Starr, Mick Tucker (Sweet) or Stuart Copeland (Police). I also spent time in the Cubs and Boy Scouts before my father made a suggestion that I might like to 'adjust course' and consider joining the local Naval Reserve Cadets.

This sounded like a rather good idea to me and I subsequently joined TS Canberra at HMAS *Harman* in 1976. There I came under the influence of one Ian Nicholson, a World War II Royal Navy veteran and form schoolteacher who was to take a grandfatherly interest in me and help guide me towards a naval career. I learnt much from 'Mr Nic' and spent many a weekend rowing and sailing a 27-foot whaler under his direction on Lake Burley Griffin. During my time in cadets I enjoyed two memorable stints of annual continuous training, firstly on board the destroyer tender, HMAS *Stalwart* (II) and later the aircraft carrier, HMAS *Melbourne* (II). A wonderful experience for a teenager intent on joining the navy, going to sea and one day travelling the world. I felt very much a part of a man's world in spite of my young age.

Shortly after turning sixteen I went down to the Defence Force Recruiting Office at Woden and began the process of joining the RAN. Things moved quickly and I was soon on my way to Sydney for interviews and medicals etc. That was also my first experience of flying which I found quite exhilarating.

Later in the year I was on my way back to Canberra with other naval cadets, following a stint in HMAS *Melbourne* in December 1979, when I learned from my father in a telephone call that a letter had arrived at home accepting me into the Navy and that I would be leaving for HMAS *Leeuwin* on 9 January 1980.



*1982 - John on board Stalwart:  
keeping a 'vigilant' visual watch as a young signalman  
HMAS Stalwart, South China Sea*



1980 - HMAS *Leeuwin*  
RAN Junior Recruit,  
John Perryman

**1980**

**H.M.A.S. *Leeuwin***  
**Junior Recruit Training Establishment**  
**Wednesday 9 January**

On 9 January 1980 I joined HMAS *Leeuwin* as a member of the 70th intake of junior recruits. I was fortunate to see two familiar faces in my intake, Brett McDonald, a fellow TS Canberra cadet and Mark Gerrey who had been at school with me. My first day in the Navy saw me fly from Canberra to Sydney where I was sworn in, before continuing on to Melbourne and then Perth by air. For a young sailor I was getting plenty of flying hours up and I recall arriving at *Leeuwin* at around midnight.

My experience at *Leeuwin* was overwhelmingly positive. I made many good friends and seemed to do reasonably well in my studies etc. I was particularly pleased when I was advised that I could be a communicator and held high hopes of becoming a signalmen like my parents.

I recall looking forward to those times when ships or naval task groups would visit Fremantle and we would be taken down to the docks to look them over. On one occasion the USS *Okinawa* task group visited on its way back from the Middle East following a failed rescue attempt to free US Embassy hostages being held in Iran. A number of her helicopters had been destroyed in that mission, Operation EAGLE CLAW, and quite a few US servicemen killed. Other news coming out of the Middle East at that time concerned the USSR's adventurism into Afghanistan, something that I overheard divisional staff discussing in hushed tones with concerned looks on their faces. I did wonder at the time how that might affect us.

While at *Leeuwin* I got my first introduction to Navy logic, or possibly humour, when volunteers were called for to join the drum and bugle band. As a competent drummer I threw my hat in the ring, was immediately accepted and promptly handed a bugle. My protestations fell on deaf ears and I soon found myself marching around the very large parade ground strangling a variety of well-known naval tunes and

marches. My career in the band was short-lived as I was later made a leading junior recruit that meant I had to choose between the two. LJR it was. I still, however, enjoy music to this day and in recent years have spent considerable time trying to master the guitar.

My best friend at *Leeuwin* was Bruce Parker, a country boy from Forbes. We were extremely tight and we kept in touch for many years. He became a 'greenie' and transitioned to submarines serving in a number of the 'O' boats. It came as a terrible blow to me when I received news that he had been killed in a motorcycle accident in April 1995. Attending his funeral at Forbes was a particularly sad and difficult affair from my perspective.

**1981**

**H.M.A.S. *Cerberus***  
**Communications School**  
**Basic Communications Training**

Following the normal pattern of navy training in the 1980s, I joined HMAS *Cerberus* attending the Communications School where I got my wish of being anointed a signalman, news I was particularly pleased to share with my parents.

The signalman's course was long and challenging, but I enjoyed it immensely and was soon proficient in sending and receiving flashing light by Morse code, reading flag signals and sending semaphore. The course also introduced me to basic naval fleet work, voice communications procedure, message handling, and cryptography, all of which I found particularly stimulating.

While at *Cerberus*, my class was seconded twice to perform ceremonial guard duties. The first was a Royal Guard for the Governor General, Sir Zelman Cowen, while the second was for the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral G.J. Willis, RAN. This was hardly a challenge for we ex-JRs following the parade training regime at *Leeuwin* under the watchful eyes of Chief Petty Officers Quigley and Hammond





*1993 - John with ABSIGs Chris Hunt and Nick Jones,  
in troubled waters of Somalia*



*1998 - WO Perryman, Bridge wing of HMAS SUCCESS, Sydney*



**1981**

**DEFCOMMARS Canberra  
First working posting**

On completion of my category training I was rated a Seaman Signaller and my first 'working' posting was to DEFCOMMARS Canberra. At that time it was the Australian Defence Forces primary communications automatic relay station within the Defence Communications Network. I was happy to return to my hometown, Canberra, the hub of naval communications and a place that I would continually return to in the course of future postings. There was not much signalling or flag-waving to be done at DEFCOMMARS CANBERRA, but under the watchful eyes of some very capable WRANs (Womens Royal Australian Naval Service) and Yeoman, Grant 'Windy' Gale, I was introduced to the intricacies of cutting edge computer-based communications. It was also at that time that I began going out with Meredith.

**1982**

**H.M.A.S. *Stalwart*  
Fleet Flagship  
International deployments South East Asia**

By 1982 I had turned 18 clearing the way for me to join the fleet. My first posting was to HMAS *Stalwart* and we were soon on our way 'Up Top'. At that time *Stalwart* was shaking off the mantle of 'Building 215' at the EMS mooring at Garden Island and when HMAS *Melbourne* decommissioned in 1983 we became the RAN Flagship and were rewarded with a very memorable SE/NE Asian deployment with the Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Hudson embarked along with his staff. At the end of that deployment I posted ashore but took with me many happy memories and valuable lessons. I had also passed out for promotion to Leading Signaller under the watchful eye of the Fleet Warrant Officer Signals Yeoman, John Curbishley, a man I hold in great respect to this day. My first taste of life at sea in the RAN had proven a great experience. Long days, hard work and great camaraderie.

**1983**

**DEFNAV Canberra Navy Office**

In August 1983 I joined the Main Signals Office in Navy Office Canberra - DEFNAV CANBERRA as it was known. It was a Watchkeeping billet that meant that I worked four days on/four days off processing signal traffic. This gave me plenty of time to pursue other interests and renew old civilian friendships.

During that time I developed a keen interest in cars and was a founding member of the ACT Street Machine Association. I worked on numerous cars, spray painted a few, pulled others apart and put them back together. The best of those was my original absinth yellow 1976 LX Torana Hatchback. Somehow, with a little help from my friends, we 'shoe horned' a 327 small-block Chev into it and it was soon a pretty tidy 'street machine'. Regrettably I no longer have it but I understand it is in good shape somewhere in South Australia. I maintain an interest in cars to this day. In 1985 I was promoted Leading Signaller prior to being posted to the guided missile destroyer HMAS *Hobart* (II).

**1985 - 1988**

**H.M.A.S. *Hobart*  
International deployments USA West Coast  
South East Asia**

Within weeks of joining *Hobart* we deployed to Canada and the United States of America - a tremendous trip undertaken with fellow Leading Signaller and former *Leeuwin* Junior Recruit, Steve Nixon. While overseas we participated in the Canadian Navy's 75th Anniversary at Esquimalt before escorting the new guided missile frigate, HMAS *Darwin*, back to Australia.

In 1986 *Hobart* deployed to SE Asia where we joined the USS *New Jersey*/USS *Long Beach* battle group operating in the Gulf of Thailand. It was an exciting time to be at sea and we were treated to a full fire-power demonstration by *New Jersey* whose call sign I recall was 'Heavy Hitter' - very apt.

It was during the 1987 SE Asian deployment that the RAN Task Group, of which *Hobart* was a part of, was buzzed by a Soviet Bear Delta aircraft at about 200 feet. Very exciting at the time and our Electronic Warfare personnel did well to give the 'command' plenty of warning that it was inbound. During that posting I also participated in the 1986 fleet review that proved to be a week long party for those of us in the fleet at that time.

**Promotion Courses  
further sea time  
H.M.A.S. *Stuart***

In 1988 I undertook advanced signals and man management promotion pre-requisite courses at *Cerberus* before returning to sea in the destroyer escort HMAS *Stuart* and again deploying 'up top'. On *Stuart*'s return we took part in the Bicentennial Naval Salute during which time I was promoted Petty Officer Signals Yeoman, by Commander J.S. O' Hara, a true gentleman. It was a very satisfying occasion for me having attained the same rank as both of my parents.

**1989**

**Service in the Fleet Communications Centre and a return to DEFCOMMARS Canberra**

Following my promotion to petty officer I then served in the Fleet Communications Centre at HMAS *Kuttabul* before being posted for another stint at DEFCOMMARS Canberra in 1989. It was during that posting that I married my long-time partner Meredith and we remain at one another's side to this day.

In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait and this event was to reverberate throughout the RAN as a Task Group was hurriedly prepared to deploy as part of a multi-national naval coalition. After many years of routine exercising, suddenly the 'real thing' was happening and the RAN was again off to war. The First Gulf War went 'hot' in January 1991 and as history records many ex-JRs were to take part in it. For me, however, my role was to be one of overseeing communications support back in Australia.



*1996 - HMAS Success - John with long-time friend  
and fellow Junior Recruit, CPOQMG Tony Howard*



*2019 - Trophy Day for Millie - Shannons Choice Award*



*Chief of Navy Commendation - VADM Shackleton*

## 1991

### Back to Sea in the Navy's Heavy Lift Ship HMAS *Tobruk*

In 1991 I returned to sea in the amphibious heavy lift ship HMAS *Tobruk* (II). This posting proved to be a particularly happy one with a great ship's company, comprising men and women, with a 'can do' attitude. We spent a great deal of time away from Sydney and as my wife was to later remind me, in 1992 I saw her for just 31 days. During that year we took part in Exercise KANGAROO 92, battled two memorable tropical cyclones christened Fran and Neville, took part in the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Savo Island and received a warning order just days before Christmas to prepare to deploy for Somalia in support of Operation SOLACE/RESTORE HOPE.

*Tobruk* sailed on Boxing Day 1992 embarking a full load of military vehicles and equipment in Townsville en-route. HMAS *Jervis Bay* (I) had preceded us and, at that time, it was to prove the largest military sea-lift operation conducted by the ADF since the Vietnam War. *Tobruk* sailed from Townsville on New Years Eve and we were farwelled by the Fleet Commander RADM R.A.K. Walls, who promoted me to Chief Petty Officer on the flight deck that morning. Later he would become a firm friend and mentor to me in my post service life as a naval historian.

In mid January 1993 we found ourselves off the coast of Mogadishu, Somalia, as part of a US led Unified Task Force. I enjoyed serving in Somalia and it was to prove an exciting time for the crew of *Tobruk*. There was plenty going on ashore to disarm rival warring factions and helicopter air assets from the naval task force routinely responded to calls for support from coalition forces ashore. *Tobruk* was to remain there until May. I, however, received orders to return home in March, news that came as a bitter disappointment.

## 1993 – 1995

### On the Beach in Canberra

My premature return home was to prove a blessing in disguise. With a more reasonable sea-shore ratio as a chief petty officer I enjoyed getting to know my wife again and the following year, 1994, our first son was born. At that time I was working in a Tri-Service communications posting in Canberra at a facility in Deakin but by mid 1995 it was time to rejoin the fleet, this time as the Chief Yeoman in the fast underway replenishment ship HMAS *Success* (II) under the commander of Captain J.S. Moore, RAN. I was by then 32 years of age.

## 1995 - 1998

### Service in the Battle Tanker

*Success* proved to be a busy posting for we signalmen. We were always in company with other ships and coordinating replenishment operations and manoeuvres involved plenty of visual signalling and fleet work. This certainly proved the case during Exercise RIMPAC 1996 when *Success* was at the heart of numerous

replenishment operations and complex formations and dispositions. A glancing blow from the USCGC *Sherman* as she bounced off the side of *Success* during a replenishment before ripping out the entire fuelling rig from Station 5 was to prove memorable too. The following year *Success* deployed to SE/NE Asia before receiving a warning order to deploy to Bougainville as part of Operation BEL ISI (II). It proved to be another Christmas and New Year away from home and my last in a sea going unit of the RAN. I was promoted to Warrant Officer Signals Yeoman during the deployment and on returning home the following year I joined the Communications School at HMAS *Cerberus* as the Senior Instructor and Divisional Officer.

### The Communications School HMAS *Cerberus*

Having avoided *Cerberus* throughout my career I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed giving something back to a new generation of trainees at a time when the Communications Branch was undergoing great change. During my time there my wife gave birth to our second son Christian and for a while life was about as normal as I had ever experienced. However, in late 1999 the ADF was put on notice to intervene in a rapidly unfolding situation in East Timor following a referendum seeking independence from Indonesia. Rejecting the outcome of the referendum, pro-Indonesian militias ran amok as the media broadcast scenes of mass destruction, murder and looting. It was not long before the RAN was deploying as part of a multi-national naval coalition supporting the International Force East Timor (INTERFET).

As I was well and truly 'on the beach' I never expected that on Melbourne Cup Day I would be tapped on the shoulder as an operational relief for long-time friend and former JR, Warrant Officer Ted Cummins, who was at that time serving with COMFLOT in HQ INTERFET in Dili. Several weeks later I arrived in Dili where I was to spend the next three months working as the Naval Component Commander's staff officer. It was to prove an enlightening and challenging experience.

## 2000

I returned home in early March and within days of my arrival was advised that I had been selected to sit an officer selection board. In somewhat of a daze I managed to 'pass muster' and the following year was promoted a Lieutenant (Signals Yeoman), something my parents were particularly proud of.

I remained at the Communications School as the Course Implementation Officer and it was during that time that our daughter Isabelle was born, completing our family. Sadly it was also during that time that my father, who I was particularly close to, passed away. This was to precipitate a move back to Canberra where I worked in the Communications Directorate until November 2004.

At that time my attention was drawn to an advertisement for a civilian job in Defence as the Senior Naval Historical Officer. While I was in no great hurry to leave the Navy I recognised that it was time to put my young family first so I applied and was the successful applicant.





*2000 - East Timor - WO Signals Yeoman, John Perryman, HQINTERFET*

At that time my attention was drawn to an advertisement for a civilian job in Defence as the Senior Naval Historical Officer. While I was in no great hurry to leave the Navy I recognised that it was time to put my young family first so I applied and was the successful applicant.

At this juncture I should mention that throughout my life I had held a deep interest in naval history. During the hundreds of Pioneer and Murrays bus trips commuting between the fleet and Canberra I read continuously, devouring everything from George Hermon Gill's official histories of the RAN to the swashbuckling J.E. McDonnell classics concerning the fictitious adventures of the RAN during World War II. I was also an avid collector of naval badges and insignia and had, over time, seemed to digest and learn a great deal about Australia's naval forces from colonial times to present day. Coming up through the ranks was also to prove extremely advantageous and I now consider it the best apprenticeship I could have hoped for in my new role as a naval historian.

**2004**

#### **Sea Power Centre - Australia**

And so I joined the Sea Power Centre - Australia in November 2004 where I was fortunate to work for Dr David Stevens, a former RAN Commander and Principle Warfare Officer, who at that time was the Director of Strategic and Historical Studies. I was to learn much from David and before long I had been entrusted with the day-to-day running of the history section that involved responding to myriad enquiries from a broad client base, coupled with research and writing tasks.

It was during that time that I became involved in matters concerning the loss of HMAS Sydney (II), achieving a number of small 'wins' that ultimately helped to lead to the discovery of the grave of the unknown sailor on Christmas Island in 2006 and the discovery of the wrecks of both Sydney and her aggressor HSK Kormoran, in concert with the Finding Sydney Foundation and shipwreck detective David Mearns, in 2008. The success of those activities involved numerous people and I was very satisfied to have played a part in that. The support of former JR, Vice Admiral Russ Crane in his capacity as both Deputy and later Chief of Navy deserves special mention as he backed me all the way. At the time of writing, work continues in an attempt to identify the remains of the unknown HMAS Sydney (II) sailor who washed ashore in a Carley float at Christmas Island in February 1942. During my time in the Sea Power Centre - Australia I have become involved in hundreds of historical activities aimed at capturing, preserving and promoting the rich history of Australia's naval forces. I understood that it was important to ex-Service men and women to know that their commitment to Service life mattered and that their years of putting service before self had not been in vain. I like to think that the collective efforts of the Naval History Team have gone some way to achieving telling their story. A visit to the Naval History web pages will reveal how far we have progressed in this activity: <https://www.navy.gov.au/history>

**2016**

I was promoted Director of Strategic and Historical Studies and have been privileged to meet, over many years, numerous interesting and wonderful ex-naval members who have shared with me the stories of their lives in the RAN. Many of them are no longer with us, but I am richer for knowing them and in many cases, their families and friends. I have also been fortunate to have researched and written several books concerning the RAN's rich history as well as contributing articles or chapters to many other publications and narratives including David Mearns' book the 'Search for the Sydney, How Australia's Greatest Maritime Mystery was Solved'. I was very flattered when he asked me to write the 10,000 word prologue after forming an enduring friendship with him prior to and during the search for Sydney's wreck.

Almost all of my research and writing is done in my own time, as directing naval history at the SPC-A is a full-time occupation. There simply isn't time in the office for that pursuit, but I have not minded the early morning starts, late nights or working on weekends to get words onto a page or ready for publication on the RAN history web pages.

**2021**

#### **What is the next life chapter for John Perryman?**

Forty-one years in Defence is a long time and my wife, Meredith, has been employed with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for a similar length of time. We're looking forward to retirement and 'pausing between the notes' and spending time doing some of the things we've been looking forward to. Hopefully the COVID 19 situation will have abated by then allowing international travel to resume. Jerusalem is a city I would very much like to visit one day. Our three children are all now in their twenties and each of them continues to bring us special pleasure as do their partners.

I have maintained my interest in cars and these days I enjoy driving a 1966 Ford Mustang coupe in near original condition. I am the 3rd owner and my historical researching skills led to me getting in touch with the original owner's son in the USA. It turned out that his dad, Lieutenant Commander Mildon Medaris, USN, was a fighter pilot during WWII who bought the car from Fred Lautze motors in San Francisco in February 1966. She's now christened 'Millie' out of respect for Mildon and she routinely gets a run with the Mustang Owners Club here in Canberra. I like the fact that the car is very much mechanical in nature, the only concession being a retro AM/FM radio. It's a good way of clearing one's mind, there's nothing quite like getting behind the wheel and hitting the road with the windows down and listening to the purr of a small block Windsor V8. By way of coincidence, a Mustang is the military slang term used in the US Armed Forces to refer to a commissioned officer who began his or her career as an enlisted person, so its quite a good fit for me.



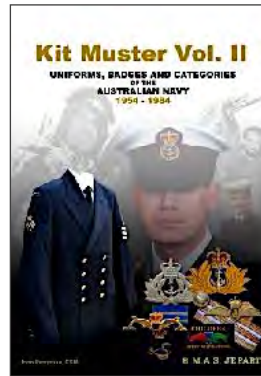
*Award of CSM from the  
Governor General, Quentin Bryce*



*2004 - My last appearance in Naval uniform  
following a public speaking engagement  
concerning the history of the RAN*



Sea Power  
Centre Australia



Third book  
*Kit Muster Vol. II*

**Who will fill my position in the Naval History Section when I move on is a question that I am occasionally asked.**

I don't know... but whoever it may be, that person will inherit a history section in great shape and a great team. It will be up to them to put their stamp on the position and take it forward into the future. They will no doubt have a different approach to me but that in itself will bring new ideas and renewed energy to this role. Some of Australia's younger naval historians are displaying enormous potential and that buoys me greatly, former able seamen Rob Garratt and Libby Pearce are two that spring to mind along with Dr Honae Cuffe.

I should mention the overall director of the SPC-A is also a former JR, Captain Sean Andrews. We served together in HMAS *Hobart* as junior sailors and he has done very well during his career as a commissioned officer, having commanded HMAS *Yarra* (IV). We have enjoyed reliving 'old times' during our time together in the SPC-A and he can be relied upon to spin a good 'worry' – I should mention, however, that he is not averse to 'gilding the lily'.

**Former JR's**

I would also like to point out that there are numerous other former JRs who have achieved a great deal in the Navy and beyond. From my intake alone Wes Heron attained the rank of Commander and Jeff Goedecke reached the rank of Commodore having commanded HMAS Ships *Townsville* and *Ballarat*. I know of many other former JRs who made similar contributions. I note that my old friend and former 52nd intake JR, Commander Ted Cummins (another Signals Yeoman) was recently presented with his second Federation Star clasp for 45 years continuous permanent navy service. While on ANZAC Day this year I was reunited with another former shipmate and ex JR, Roger Dalby, who recently retired from the RAN after 51 years of service – 37 of which were spent at sea. With my historian cap on I believe he holds a very unique record.

I have recently completed my third book, *Kit Muster Volume II*. A companion volume, that continues the history of the Navy's uniforms, badges, insignia and categories up until 1985 at which time the Naval

Women's Forces Regulations were repealed and women formally became part of the RAN. This seemed a good place to pause as the book had by then reached more than 50,000 words.

The post-war period was a time of great change for the Navy and many old categories gave way to new technical based categories. There was a proliferation of new uniforms, badges and categories as the RAN moved to the computer, missile and jet ages and established its own modern submarine squadron. Former JRs are very much a part of this story. The book is all but complete but I am at present without a publisher. It may have to be a limited self-published run. Watch this space.

With many other interests and close links with the ex-Service community I think there will be plenty to keep me occupied when I call it a day. Veteran suicide is something that concerns me greatly, having lost two friends to this in recent years, and this might be an area in which I could do some good in the future.

I may even contemplate writing my memoirs one day although this collaboration between myself, and Tingira shipmate, Mark Lee, has achieved that to some extent.

As a 1980 second generation 'Tingira Boy' from HMAS *Leeuwin*, I am very honoured to be awarded the Tingira Stonehaven Medal for 2021. It came as a complete surprise to me and I am very much aware of the achievements of previous recipients whose company I now share on the very handsome shield.

Thank you very much indeed for this high honour. JP



2021  
*Tingira Stonehaven Medal*



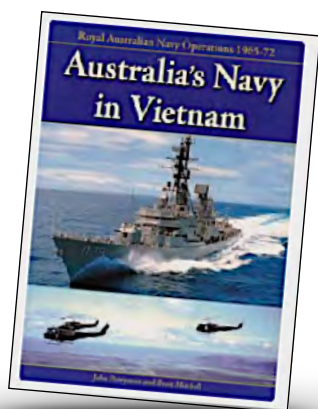
*Congratulating David Means after  
finding the wreck of HMAS SYDNEY*



*John with his 20cm  
signal projector*



*Congratulating former Prime Minister, John Howard,  
at the opening of the Howard library*



## AUSTRALIA'S NAVY IN VIETNAM

by

**John Perryman & Brett Mitchell**

Between 1965 and 1972, elements of the Royal Australian Navy saw continuous service in Vietnam...at sea, ashore and in the air. This unique new volume takes an in-depth look at the largely forgotten naval aspects of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Authored by Sea Power Centre – Australia historians John Perryman and Brett Mitchell, this unique volume sets out the RAN's operational service in Vietnam between 1965 and 1972, covering the activities of:

- \*Destroyers on the gunline*
- \* Fleet Air Arm contributions to a US Army helicopter assault company and RAAF No. 9 Squadron*
- \* Clearance Diving Teams*
- \* Logistic support, with transport and escort ships*
- \* Plus HQ and Embassy support and Fleet Band tours*

Although the Vietnam War was not markedly a naval conflict, for the 13,500 members of the RAN who saw active service it was definitely a high-tempo environment.

This book shows that the RAN's contribution, although small compared to that of the USN, was diverse and played a significant part in the Australian Forces' overall commitment.



## KIT MUSTER

Uniforms, Badges and Categories of the  
Australian Navy 1865 – 1953

by

**John Perryman CSM**

This fantastic and long awaited new book is the comprehensive reference on Royal Australian Navy Uniforms, Badges and Categories between 1865 and 1953 and not made available to the public! A must for anyone interested in the insignia of the RAN.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) is the naval branch of the Australian Defence Force. Following the Federation of Australia in 1901, the ships and resources of the separate colonial navies were integrated into a national force: the Commonwealth Naval Forces. Originally intended for local defence, the navy was granted the title of 'Royal Australian Navy' in 1911, and became increasingly responsible for defence of the region.

Britain's Royal Navy continued to support the RAN and provide additional blue-water defence capability in the Pacific up to the early years of World War II. Then, rapid wartime expansion saw the acquisition of large surface vessels and the building of many smaller warships. In the decade following the war, the RAN acquired a small number of aircraft carriers, the last of these paying off in 1982.

Today, the RAN is one of the largest and most sophisticated naval forces in the Pacific region, with a significant presence in the Indian Ocean and worldwide operations in support of military campaigns and peacekeeping missions.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY - HERITAGE CENTRE - GARDEN ISLAND, SYDNEY**



[www.navy.gov.au/ranhc](http://www.navy.gov.au/ranhc)  
**'Home of Tingira history'**





# AUSTRALIA



*“Tingira Boys  
marched with  
pride and glory  
across the nation  
on their day of  
commemoration  
for our ANZAC’s*


*Bravo Zulu*

*Brad Murphy*  
Tingira  
President

**Tingira Sailor - Sydney Cenotaph**  
Leading Seaman John Vercoe  
Entered the RAN on 3 June 1913  
Boy Second Class HMAS Tingara - served WW1

# National ANZAC DAY 2021

MARK LEE - Editor - VoicePipe



**S**ocial distancing restrictions limited the normal large numbers at many Anzac Day dawn services and parades across the country.

Many people were just not prepared to be involved, whilst organisers were giving a constant message of 'change' right up to the very last day.

For the those of us who attended, it was a welcome advance on 12 months prior when onlookers were restricted to their driveways for their own dawn service.

Several of the statewide Tingira coordinators were on tender hooks right up to that final week when specific arrangements were still in doubt.

That all came to reality when the West Australian Government closed down the Anzac Day march with less than 24 hours before sunrise on the Sunday morning of 25 April.

Eric Pitman in Canberra, was told on several occasions, it will just be two persons on a banner parade in front of the Australian War Memorial.

48 hours out and Canberra gives permission for a full march. The bird had flown, many Tingira Boys and other service persons had made other arrangements. Eric did well to get a few to the march at short notice on the day.

Sydney was well down on participating marching numbers and the crowds covered a few blocks compared to recent years when many streets were lined 10 deep.

The story was the similar in Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin, Brisbane and a very wet Cairns, restrictions at all levels seemed to rule the day.

Sydney was more concerned at having half the entire NSW bus fleet block every street entrance to the city for fear of tourist attack. The message of Anzac Day was well and truly lost on this day when looking at the Sydney streets.

The images that swept the nation of veterans onlooking behind wire fences at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance were just a total disgrace to all concerned. State Government and RSL VIC certainly not on the same page.

We live in a 'different world' was certainly the overriding theme of Anzac Day 2021. Today as we publish at the end of May, more Covid breakouts in Melbourne!

And what will 2022 bring?

One can only guess with all future street parades there will be a new standard on normality, probably not for the liking of most.

Time will tell.





Adelaide Tingira Boys - Banner High - Proud to March





## ADELAIDE



### ANZAC Day Report

“ A small but enthusiastic contingent gathered under a cloudless sky this morning to attend the 2021 ANZAC Day March in Adelaide.

A little different from last year after all the cancellations, with magical military band music pounding through city speakers and no big crowd like previous years. However, of the loyal 5,000 of the general public attended that did attend, they were generous with their applause to acknowledge those involved.

We were ably supported by two graduates of the Tingira Sailing Scouts. I invited their leader, a grandson of an original Tingira Boy to march with us and he had the biggest and proudest smile on his face ask

day, a small gesture with a big reward for us all.

A few of the Tingira Boys then ventured back to the local Plympton Glenelg RSL for a coldie or two, sausage sizzle and some Leeuwin reminiscing, that's what a good ANZAC Day is all about

A brilliant day when you wrap it all up, no hitches just the small crowd. Could only think of the poor WA and ViC boys you were just cut from the whole thing at very short and late notice: its a new covid world out there.

A big thank you to all the Tingira Boys that made it on the day, sure there will be changes hopefully for the better next year.

**STEPHEN BEAL**

SA - State Coordinator



**RSL DefenceCare**

*"Proud supporters of all RAN Associations"*

[rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au)



Queensland Government

# Brisbane Suburbs



Brisbane Tingira Boys - Proud to March





## BRISBANE



### ANZAC Day Report

“

It was sunny one day and beautiful the next, we are in Queensland, that's how good our ANZAC Day was on Australia's north eastern seaboard.

**HMAS Moreton - 5am** Leaving my home at 4.30am in the dark hours like thousands of others across the state, I navigated to the Dawn Service with a most welcome 'Gunfire Breakfast' at HMAS Moreton.

Organised on our behalf by Tingira Boy, Col Scott. Col looking very military in full navy uniform, he is still a serving Warrant Officer.

We were not alone in the black suit, beret and our striking Tingira tie. Two other Tingira Boys also made the early trek. Alan MacDonald, Ray Moxon and families were there to make our numbers swell at this early stage of the day.

Many thanks to the Commanding Officer, Commander Phillipa Hay

and her Ships Company for making us very welcome, for such a moving event presented by our fellow navy shipmates.

### City of Brisbane - 9am

The Tingira boys have gathered once again as they have for the past five years. A ground swelling number of 12 Tingira members have arrived for the march.

After all political drama and circumstance that proceeded this event, I was very surprised and delighted that we had good numbers, this year. It was certainly better than the proposed three of us with banner doing a 'sprint lap' of the show grounds!

Drums beating and brass instruments blasting, those wonderful military marching overtones flowed down the streets of Brisbane.

Onward we marched.

Tingira banner held high, boys in step. The crowds gathered on every street corner to greet and cheer us as we marched by. Enthusiastic at

it's best, is my best description, which made us all feel a little taller.

It is a wonderful feeling, I now why I do this. Overall it is just a small effort with such a big reward. It leaves you with a sense of real true pride, life is valued as a Tingira Boy. Representing those former seafarers that we, as an association represent, this is their day.

Our afternoon 'refreshment run' was held again at the now famous 'Ship Inn' on the Brisbane River south shores.

Along with many other veteran Naval Associations inside this 'ship' establishment, it all added to the real navy atmosphere on the day. We were the 'Pride of the Fleet' in our own little corner of the world.

Thanks to all the lads that assisted me on the day, 'Bravo Zulu' Brisbane Tingira Boys.

**DANNY O'RIORDAN**

Sth East QLD - State Coordinator

**CUMBERLAND** RSL sub - Branch  
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Cairns Tingira Boys - Banner High - Wet and Wild Weather



## CAIRNS



### ANZAC Day Report

“

Tropical North Queensland, sunny one day, very wet the next! And very wet is was, umbrellas to the front line as protection item number one! Rain, cats, dogs and buckets loads, we got pelleted from sunrise to sunset, it was one of those days.

From the early start it was wet and wild however a good turnout of Tingira Boys to commence the day at the Dawn Service on the Cenotaph of the Cairns Esplanade.

North Queensland Tingira coordinator Rod Howard laid a wreath on behalf of the association. A welcome gunfire breakfast, coffee and refreshments was served prior to a quick turnover and regroup for the main parade.

Mother nature didn't let up or miss a beat which dampened the spirits for a few of the boys who remained in the dry rather than taking to the streets to battle monsoonal conditions during the parade.

At the form up of the parade, with many spirits dampened and dwindling numbers, the Tingira banner was paraded proudly by the local Naval Cadets with a few of us behind it. Unfortunately for the grand occasion, health considerations couldn't be overlooked.

The local crowds were also in retreat mode. The many brave families and children who did line the streets, gave us a welcome cheer and handclap; we responded with smiles of thanks amongst the rain drops!

The young navy cadets battled the wind on the foreshore of the Cairns city

streets. The new Tingira banner certainly proved its money worth, to be waterproof and with stand gale force winds, 10 out of 10 test conditions!

The remaining Tingira Boys were marching in uniform with the HMAS Cairns contingent, in the ex Navy squad or under shelter.

In spite of the monsoonal trough, a good turnout, with an afternoon of good navy company and many stories told as we tried to stay dry by the bar!

Under harsh conditions, well done North Queensland Tingira Boys, may the sun shine on our parade next year!

**ROD HOWARD**

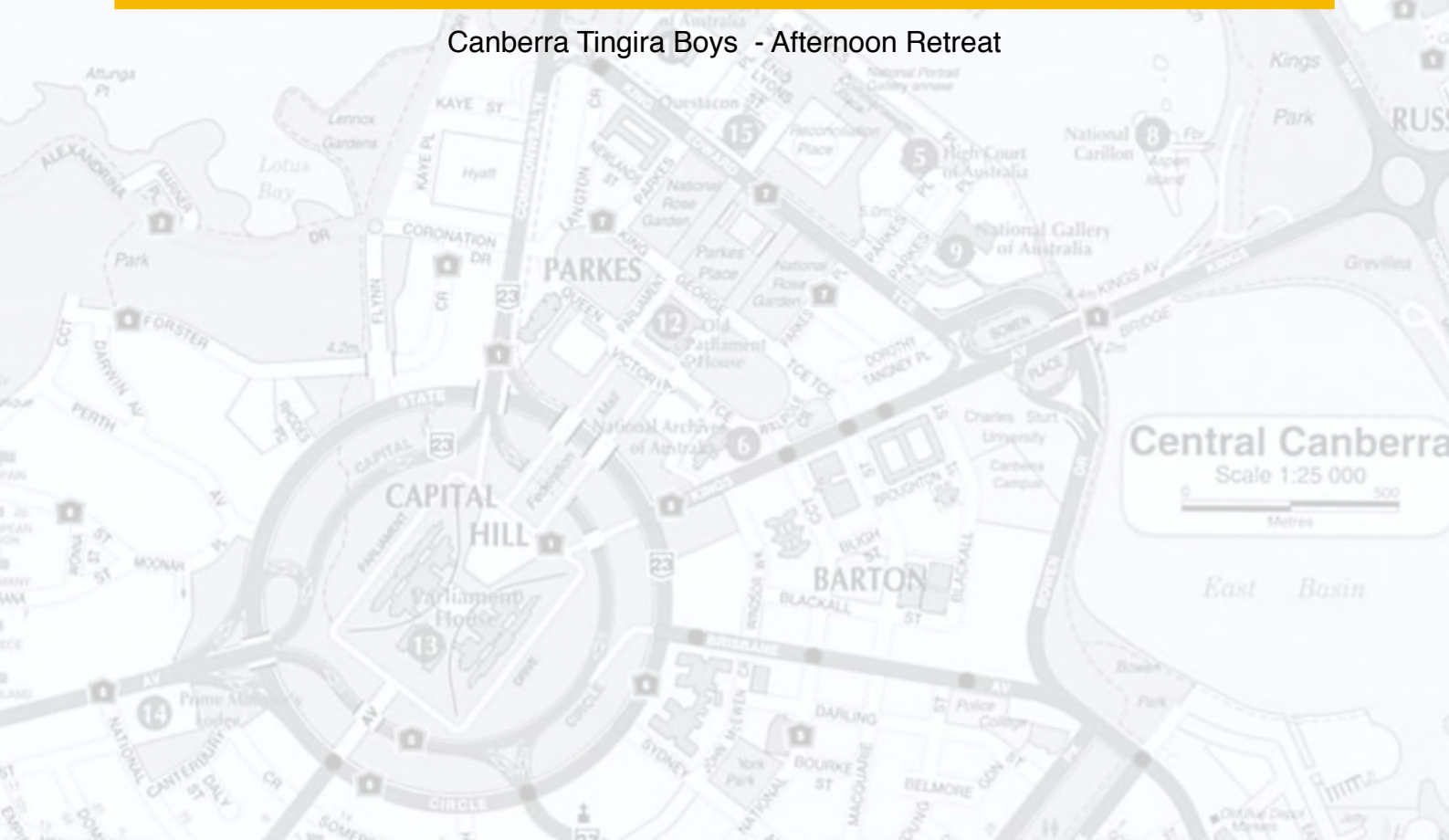
Nth QLD - State Coordinator







Canberra Tingira Boys - Afternoon Retreat







## CANBERRA



### ANZAC Day Report

“

After the ACT Government relaxed their Covid rules 48 hours before ANZAC Day and we were allowed to have a small march here in Canberra.

It started out four months before of just two banner boys and a flag attendant! Covid 19, well he seemed to be missing in action, adrift in most states on the day!

It was great to have at least five local Tingira members make it at the last minute to participate in the march past at the Australian war memorial at 10am on what was like a summers day in Canberra for this time of the year! No wind, no rain, no gloves, no scarves, no wooly hats, just a nice change from past years, sunshine!

One very positive outcome; with the reduced numbers in the parade, the ABC announcer was able to read out the full details of each group.

This is normally so rushed and shortened. Our whole Tingira story (in 200 words) was read out, even with the

correct pronunciations, well done Tingira Committee on the very professional Media Profile for the march broadcasters, it worked its purpose here!

All in all a beautiful Canberra day topped off by a great march and camaraderie afterwards at the old Olins hotel.

Great to have in augural Tingira President, Warrant Officer Chris Perrin, in full naval uniform, join us for a first time, I know he has a soft spot for navy photos, past and present!

Thanks 'Team Tingira' for a great day, after many unforgiving weeks and days to the build up, it was certainly worth the effort.

On a sad note, this is my last march in Canberra as I am retiring towards end of 2021 and moving up the coast. So we are looking for a replacement volunteer Tingira coordinator, easy job someone has to step forward, please call anytime if you would like to assist!

**ERIC PITMAN**

ACT - Territory Coordinator



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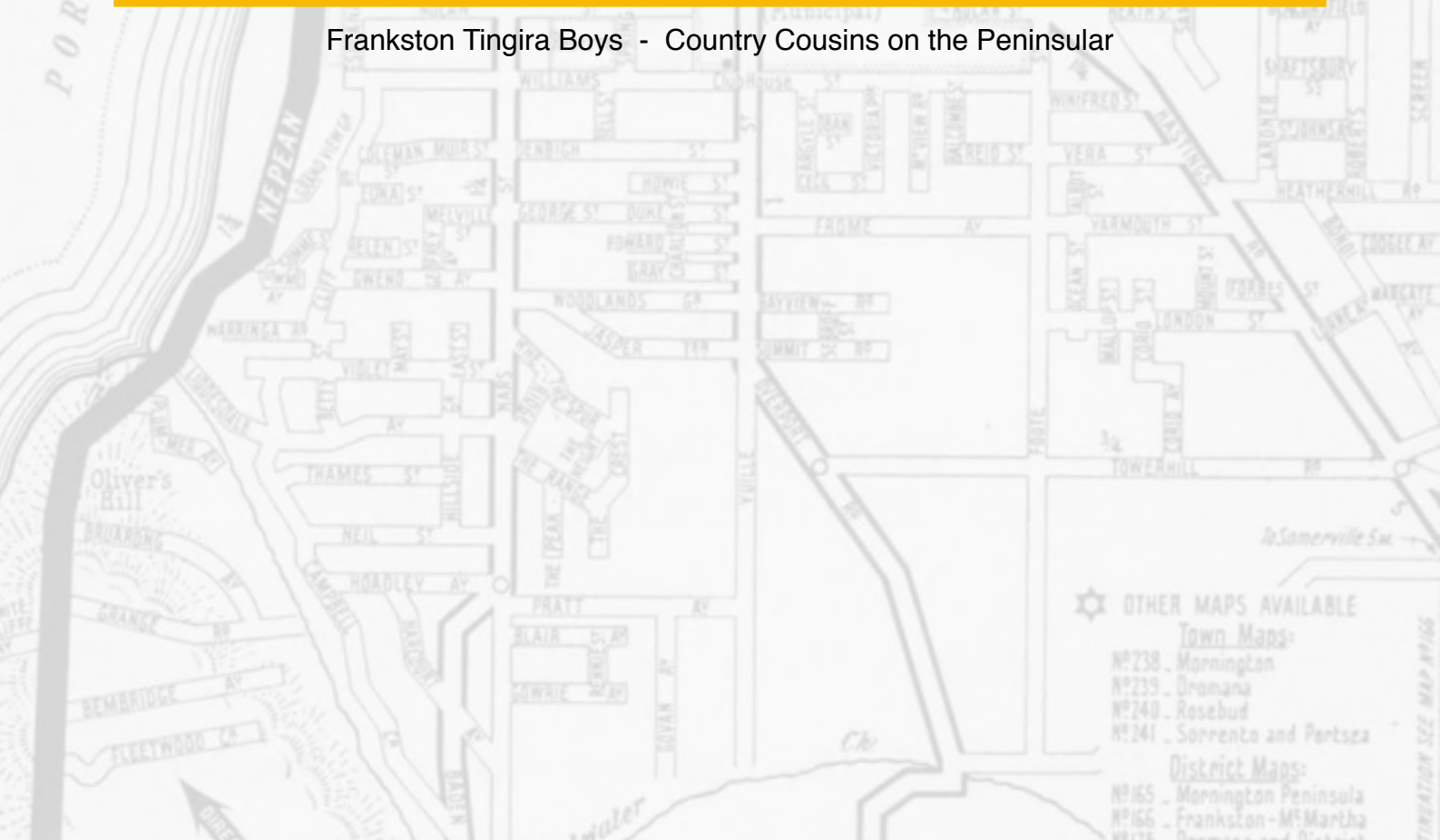
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Frankston Tingira Boys - Country Cousins on the Peninsular





## FRANKSTON



### ANZAC Day Report

“

This year has presented everyone with a series of challenges of getting our ANZAC Day activities off the ground, Victoria just seemed to be ahead of the pack at the start of most weeks when the status was pit out there to our veteran community!

Exceptionally difficult, at the top my list! Frustrating and the levels of confusion seemed to escalate daily and with everyone I had dealings with had a different agenda!

Between the Melbourne RSL march committee, local and federal politicians, as well as the local RSL's, nobody had any idea, even virtually up to the last minute of what was going to present on the day, unless you had a red Sherrin football in your hand!

Two weeks out, our 'Tingira' home, the Frankston Naval Memorial Club, stepped up and rescued the day for us that had not made other arrangements at that late stage.

ANZAC DAY - 0900 Veterans and family members gathered at the club in Langwarrin. Troops in action stations, coffee and medicinal additives consumed with some good old home cooked Anzac bikkies to accomodate the appetite.

The warries and laughs started as the day was destined to be a good one for those who were able to make the occasion for our group.

The preceding got soon underway with a small march up the access road to the Memorial Wall where we had a poignant service and wreath laying ceremony.

Members then ventured into the club for drinks and smallie eats with even more warries, laughs and catch ups, this is the Anzac Day spirit as we know it. The day lasted longer than everyone expected it to, how good is that to report! Judging by the ear to ear grins on everyone faces, a great day was had by all.

A huge thank you to the Frankston Naval Memorial Club (President, Secretary and Committee) for a great day and a warm welcome to us.

We will be back, this works for us Tingira Flags and Banners in 2022 now that we have a foundation ground to work with.

**GRAEME HUNTER**

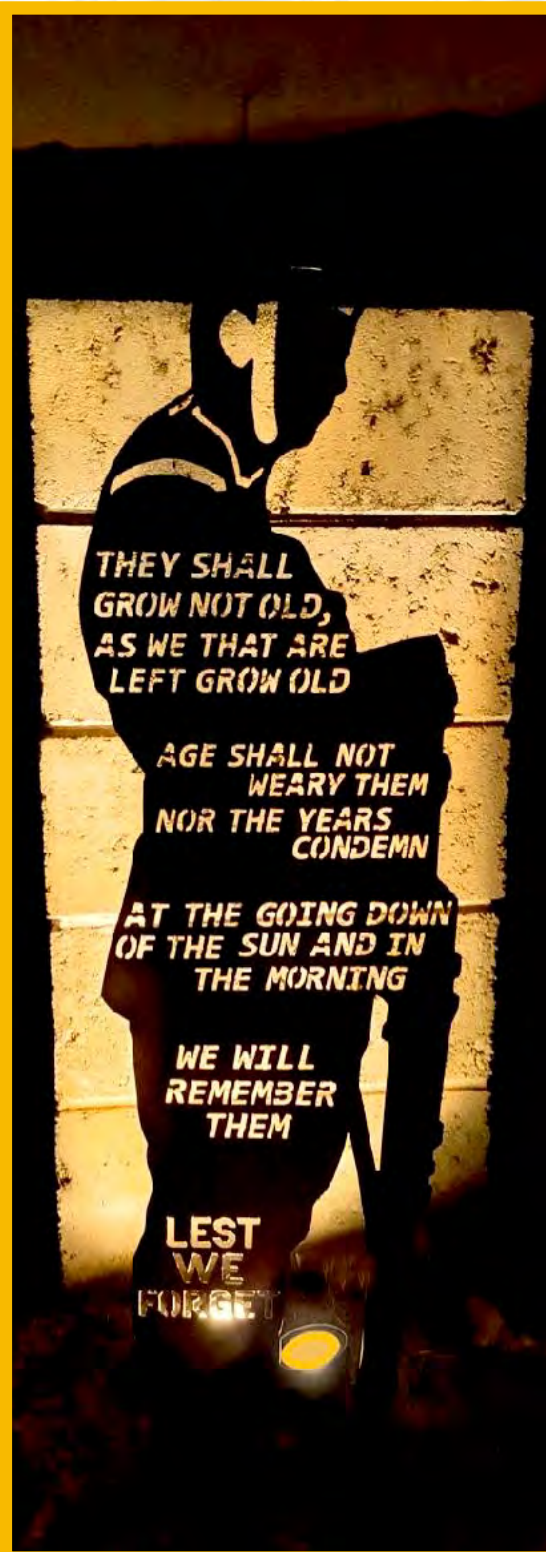
VIC - State Coordinator



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North and South Perth, Tingira Boys - Driveways Deliver!



## PERTH



### ANZAC Day Report

“

Organising Tingira State based events holds much value and consideration when the backing comes from those you know who continually support the association year in year out.

For those of you we are yet to meet, one day sooner rather than later we look forward to your mateship joining our culture, that is a natural amongst the former RAN Junior Recruit attendees.

The tiring part is when unknown factors are set to topple the best laid plans, the old elephant in the room, we knew she was there!

The Perth ANZAC Day parade was set to be one of the best for the Tingira crew. Many new

members to our ranks were to march for a first time under the Tingira banner.

The disappointment of the 2020 cancellations, ANZAC day and the JR Reunion for the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration; we were all set for a big Perth ANZAC day weekend for April 2021.

The numbers were strong, luncheon bookings made, deposits paid, medals out, tie pressed and shoes polished, here we go.

24 hours out from the dawn of ANZAC Day.

Last minute decision, cancel the ANZAC Day, from the state politicians. The Premier, a former RAN Legal Officer for those who do not know, there is 'a' covid case in town! The skies are about to fall in. We were most disappointed and

devastated, along with thousands of others who put in so many hours of preparation.

Leeuwin Barracks at East Fremantle, made an early call many weeks before hand. Leeuwin was not available for Tingira or anyone for that matter, to host the local annual ANZAC Dawn Service.

\*

At 5.30 on ANZAC Day, a few Tingira Boys made it to Kings Park Memorial.

Tingira Australia laid a wreath in honour of all our past seafaring brothers from the ships Sobraon, Tingira, Cerberus and Leeuwin.

Yet again, our good mate 'covid' and the WA State Government put overall safety first for us to abide to the orders, just what we wanted!

From my family driveway on Perth's northern shores, I performed the sunrise Remembrance duties with my family and many others in our district. A Soleman moment in time and a great community initiative, well done RSL National again.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of our Tingira colleagues, who chose to prepay for the luncheon and then donate the \$ back to the association. A generous gesture of appreciation from Tingira; an association that relies on members giving nothing more than their participation, BZ 'Team Tingira'.

**PAUL KALAJZICH**

WA - State Coordinator

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Sydney Tingira Boys - Danaan Ker and his father Lancer, lead our boys.





## SYDNEY



### ANZAC Day Report

“

After months and weeks of planning the march on Sydney's streets, the dawn arrived and the sun was shining, big bonus for Sydney in autumn, it often rains on this day about 9am and that was the early morning forecast for today.

In a leisurely manner, several of the lads vacated the Hilton coffee shop after a heart warming coffee and toast breakfast and strolled up Castlereagh Street towards our form up position.

They were mentally prepared to spend the usual one hour plus standing around and waiting before some army Marshall gives the 'march on' order.

Finding our position towards the top end of Castlereagh Street and they were told 'five minutes to march off'. No time for some good old Pussers Rum that found its way into the secretary's back

pack? Drinking think not we are late, some sour faces all round!

Tingira Patron, Russ Crane, in the big brown hat, dropped in on his way to the divers group. Russ had a few pix and handshakes all round as the Secretary and his team of helpers were busy ripping the sticky tape and getting the flag and banners into place. Rushed? Yes, very much so!

In no time President, Lance Ker, had us formed up and into the 'quick march' action, of marching sailors, we were off!

With young Dannan Ker, the President's son out front on the Tingira flag with his father right behind him calling the step, this was a nice family affair!

Lance was keeping a close eye on the pace of the march. It was quick, no sooner had we stepped off and we were at the bottom of Elizabeth Street, eyes right at Anzac Memorial and then fall out. With half the normal numbers in the parade and with

the Sydney streets half bare, it was certainly disappointing and not like the old days of past.

However we were suddenly at our resting point at the PRIMUS hotel. an hour early, duty manager made a snappy decision, the bar was open!

A very quick AGM followed by a sombre small ceremonial flag presentation, where the Tingira Boys sang 'God Save The Queen' in honour of the late HRH Prince Phillip, our Admiral of the Fleet, made it a very warm and eventful finish to our day.

The lads on beers, rum and ladies were on the bubbles, a great help they were to us all in carrying the shackles and making good conversation, thank you Tingira Sydney, BZ to all.

**MARK LEE**

NSW - State Coordinator

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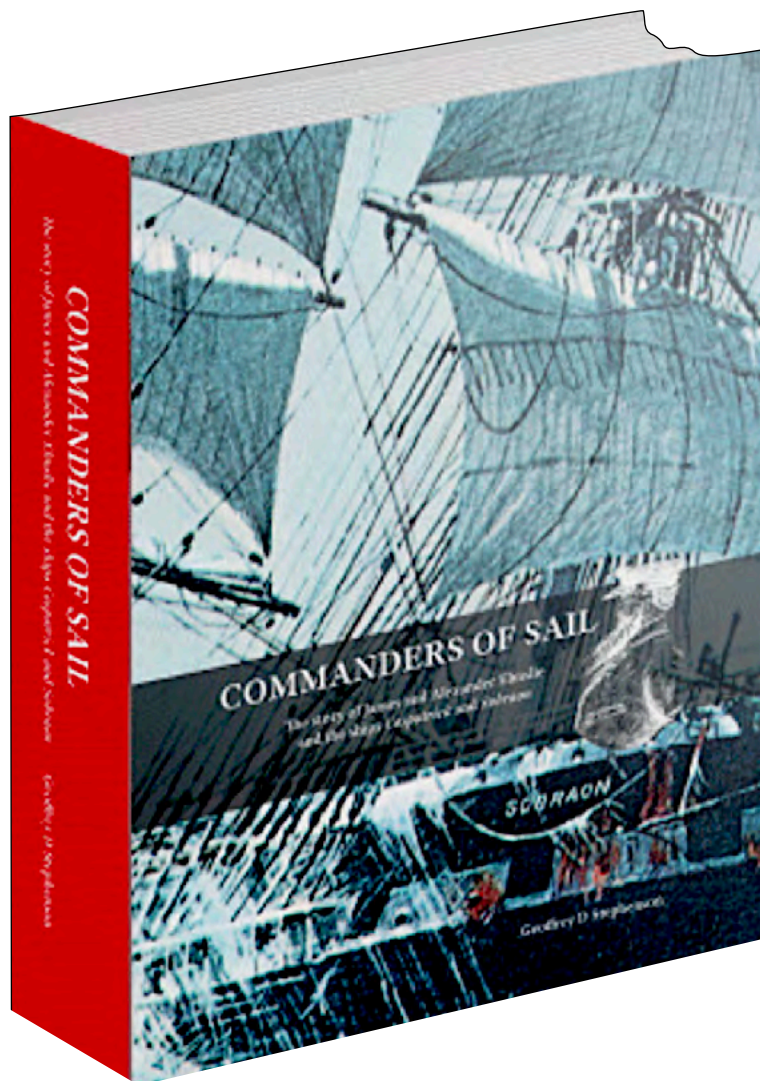
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**MARK LEE**

*Tingira National Secretary*

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# POSITIONS VACANT

## Northern Territory & Tasmania

### STATE Coordinators

**State Coordinator - Small and simple event management required supported by your HQ at National Tingira Committee**

**You are the custodian the Tingira banner, Anzac Day meeting point, provide a refreshment location, group photograph, scribe a few words repeat process in July 'Tingira Day' birthday celebration Christmas cheer drinks if applicable to your group**

**Contact Tingira Secretary if you can assist  
Email: [tsec@tingira.org.au](mailto:tsec@tingira.org.au)**

***"Your new Tingira banner is ready for the State Coordinator"***

**CS & NSS SOBRAON**  
1866 - 1911

**HMAS LEEUWIN**  
1960 - 1984  
*I SHALL MAINTAIN*



**HMAS TINGIRA**  
1912 - 1927  
*LEARN or DEPART*

**HMAS CERBERUS**  
1963 - 1965  
*FOREVER VIGILANT*



Squizzly Taylor from the first JRTS intake of HMAS Cerberus, will endeavour to publish his book in the first quarter of 2022 with several intake members contributing storylines and pictures like Billy Stokes effort on these pages



JRTS - Intake No.1 - 1963 - Macquarie Division - HMAS Cerberus



**Bill Stokes**

February 20, 2020 · 🌐

1963 HMAS Cerberus JRTS - Macquarie Division my class aged between 15.5 and 16.5 yrs old. Now nearly 57 yrs ago many were stayers who did their 20 plus. I think I am the one kneeling with the Bollard Bonce, lucky I wasn't sitting on the FX they would taken a few turns around my head. We had Outstanding Divisional Staff and Instructors that guided and helped us to adjust to our new Navy way of Life.



MACQUARIE DIVISION

# RAN JUNIOR RECRUIT BILLY STOKES

“Those Were The Days”



JR Billy Stokes  
1963



LCDR Billy Stokes (Ret)  
2021

**R**oyal Australian Navy Recruit School - Is well documented by the service records and official public relations presentations over the past decades. Official documents and websites have a very similar 'clean' storyline, however the real storylines comes from 'the boys' within those ranks and decks of the fleet over the decades. Years later after their service time, many boys are itching to tell those war stories. One of those boys from the first Intake of 15 year old navy Junior Recruits, drafted to HMAS Cerberus in 1963. A young wild boy from the backstreets of Sydney, Billy Stokes shares his story.

*Billy led a busy and colourful life during his time of 47 years service from Junior Sailor to Officer, as a gunnery rate, then Physical Training Instructor. In his hey day, a rough and ready front row forward at all levels of Navy and Service rugby. A man of great discretion and respect when he held that silver referees whistle between his lips in charge of a rugby game.*

*Today in 2021, Billy is retired, a distinguished navy veteran, with family following in his naval footsteps. A daughter in the Officer ranks, with navy still fresh on his sleeve any time you need a good yarn with a guaranteed laugh!*

*As part of Squizzy Taylors 2022 book "RAN JRTS" - Bill shares his 'words of wisdom' from those early training days as a Junior Recruit at HMAS Cerberus, combined with life at sea as an ORD Seaman on his first war ship, HMAS Derwent, a true blue Aussie Tingira Boy!*



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## Cerberus Water Polo

The Victorian Schoolboy Water Polo team to play in the Annual Interstate series in N.S.W. in March next year, will have their final preparation match against the Junior Recruit team at H.M.A.S. CERBERUS.

This was decided recently by the Water Polo Association.

Our CERBERUS Water Polo correspondent writes that this is a great feather in the cap of the Junior Recruits that they be chosen to provide the final competition for such a team.

Since the competition began both the Navy senior team and the Junior recruits side have yet to win a match. Their form at times has been encouraging but on other occasions disappointing.

The Depot team played Sandringham, the present leaders in the competition and after their 5-1 loss to them a fortnight before, Navy were given a good chance of winning.

What a shock Navy received. Sandringham won 10 goals to nil in a very one-sided affair.

Comment by Sandringham players after the game was: "this is not the same team we played last time". Well, it was and the less said about it the better.

Navy are capable of far better polo than this.

### JUNIOR RECRUITS

The Junior Recruits game opened up well and they were leading 2-nil at the end of the first quarter and looked as if they were in for an easy win.

That's what they all thought but their opponents Power House, had other thoughts and caught the boys napping to win 7 - 4.

Navy had all the play but when they got the ball to their forward line they could not go on with it.

In the previous match against Sandringham, Navy Senior Team, although beaten 3 - 1, showed some improvement.

A misunderstanding of the time of play could have cost the sailors their first victory.

They had to play earlier than expected and consequently several of the regular players were forced out.

A pleasing feature of Navy's play was that some thought was going into their movements around the pool.

The passing still left a lot to be desired but this will come with hard practice.

The Junior Recruits, who had to fill in to make up the team, must be complimented on their good play, especially the young goalie.

In the match Junior Recruits v. Melbourne, Melbourne, with several ex-state players, was far too strong for them and won 11-0.

Lack of knowledge in attack was the main reason for the score being what it was.

Best for Navy were: Stokes, who when shifted from centre forward to centre back, did a very commendable job.

Shirley as always, played with determination.



**“I have decided to spin a longer dit than normal on what life was like to be a Junior Recruit (JR) and Ordinary Seaman (Ord) when I joined the Royal Australian Navy about 56 years ago, along with some tales of my first sea posting to the River Class Destroyer, HMAS Derwent, enjoy!**

Growing up in Bexley, NSW, I attended the Carlton Public School. Aussie actress Jackie Weaver was in my class, often she was my partner in ball room dancing lessons; that's my claim to fame, I should finish here! Graduating out of shorts and long socks, I'm off to Hurstville Boys High School, where I must admit, my education did not fair well. After four weeks into year three, I left!

Got my first job in factory for six pounds a week. Lack of school education was due to many days of wagging school, hanging out in the local milk bar, playing the pin ball machine and that juke box that sucked silver coins.

I was more interested in playing sport, rugby league and baseball for Bexley, Kingsgrove and attending the Mortdale Police Boys Club. I took classes in weight lifting, judo, basketball and water polo. My life was going fairly normal for 15 ear old, until one Saturday night.

I got picked up outside the White Horse hotel, Hurstville, for underage drinking and resisting arrest by the boys in blue. My father bailed me out from Hurstville police station and more or less said to me by surprise "instead of a flogging it's part of growing up, don't get caught again". However, when I got home my mother gave me a good belting, more painful then being caught by Trevor Clarey in a rugby maul, somethings you just don't forget!

I attended Children's Court with my mother. She told the Magistrate I attended the Church and Fellowship at the Bexley Congregation Church where Fred Nile was the Minister and she also presented a character reference from him. Mum said "I had got in with wrong crowd and was due to join the RAN as Junior Recruit, a conviction would go against his chances of career joining the Navy".

The Magistrate relented in a conviction, gave me one hell of dressing down and said "the only thing saving you from not going to Gosford Boys Home was that I was joining the Navy".

I stayed good but life didn't change that much. I submitted my navy Junior Recruit application forms on my mother's direction about three months later. In January of 1963, I received a letter of invitation to attend an interview, examination and testing at navy recruiting headquarters to become a possible navy Junior Recruit in March of the same year, well this is progress I thought

Dressed in my good Sunday best church suit, I attended HMAS Rushcutter Recruiting Office for the education test, medical and first interview by an old Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Hurst. He was dressed immaculately in navy summer white uniform, with many medal ribbons on display. A big old black labrador dog was laying under his desk eying me off, I was petrified, this wasn't in the recruiting flyer!

30 days later - I got the small yellow envelope with the navy crest on it. I was sort of excited, am I in or out? This was to be letter of my letter of offer, I was in the navy! My mother was very happy, very very very happy, probably more happier than me! I had mixed feelings at the time. Dashing off to the unknown and leaving my present life style, I was only 15, there was not much else on offer from where I was sitting with no real life qualifications.

The navy letter gave me instructions of what to pack and what not to bring, very direct in tone. Mum said "thats navy talk son, wear your good suit so you can impress them from day one Billy Stokes".

**HMAS Rushcutter Recruiting Office** - After the swearing in ceremony, hand on bible, picture of the Queen and national flag on the wall, it was all a bit over my head at the time, not simple like the Monday morning school parades with the flag and country ceremony.

**Sydney Central Station** - A bunch of us new raw bone navy recruits boarded the 8pm 'Spirit of Progress' train for an overnight journey to Melbourne. The first time I had ever been on 'Platform One' and heading south of the border on the big silver train. Under the direction of our on train escort, Chief Petty Officer, (CPO) Tom Cowan, a fierce looking sailor character, you would never give lip to this old salt, except to respond "yes Chief - three bags full", think I knew right now where I was and what was possibly ahead, these guys were not running pirate ships!

**Sunday 16 March 1963** - The first intake of "HMAS Cerberus JRTS Legends" 125 of us from all over Australia were given our indoctrination navy lectures. Addressed by the Officer In Command - LCDR Peter Holloway, Divisional Officer LEUT Geoff Dove, Regulator CPO Lou Pettifer, Divisional Chief CPO Less McCullough and our instructor Leading Seaman (LS) Dusty Miller. We were allocated a dormitory and a Division, mine being Macquarie Division.

Our Accommodation was in G Block, an old wooden structure, a little better than the three little pigs straw hut! We drew our bedding and hammocks, packed our civi gear into our lockers. Then we were marched to the dining hall for our first feed of navy food followed by an early night to bed, a hammock!



*HMAS Derwent, Sydney Harbour*



*Continued ...*

The next day we were given a guided tour around HMAS Cerberus and doubled (run) all the way with a stop off at the Chapels for a brief introduction by Protestant Chaplain, Wally Long. For the next three days, I was doubling around the base with my 'new grub' mates in my Sunday best suit, I remember 'wear to impress', thanks mum

We finally got our navy kit issue, guess what "one size fits all" said the chief. Before we marked our kit with Indian ink, there was lots of swapping to get the right size!

The Able Seaman charged us 6d each to tie the new cap tally bands, creeps!

Over that first week, haircuts, learning to march as a squad and eventually fully kitted out. We were given our 'Official Number' mine being R59949. This number stays with you for life, interesting system I thought, like a police record I suppose.

Then we started 12 months of solid training. Real training, this was nothing like school or a session at the Police Boys club. School education was on the fore front again, Maths, English, Science, Geography and History. Seamanship, Navigation and Ship's Husbandry on the old Bathurst class corvette HMAS Castlemaine; this was all new to me, challenging, exciting and very content to participate.

A long march out to the rifle for Small Arms qualifications, and plenty of domestics duties in our G Block. Scrub floors with steel wool and cheese cloth, wipe everything that doesn't move and then they show us this thing called a 'kit muster', how to fold your kit into 12 inch square blocks and fit it all into one kit bag. Then there was sewing the Tingra patches on our uniforms and learning how to spit polish boots and use white cleaner on sand shoes. These are all fine art skills for a fifteen year old in 1963.

There was plenty of Sport and Fitness. The Physical Training Staff consisted of LSPT Bob Pullar, LSPT Bob Phillips, POPT Dixie Ford and POPT George Daniels, who was our water polo coach. These guys left a great impression on me, they seemed to walk on water in this place!

Learning to march as a squad, carry an old 303 rifle from drill routine, wear a belt and garters was all part of parade ground training. Under the supervision of our train escort, CPO Tom Cowan, who was a legend to me in the end, made such an impression on me that I just wanted to be a 'Gunnery Chief' like him one day!

We would complete three weeks of education and one week of mess deck duties around our dormitory block.

Throw in cafe duties, which also included farmed out as working parties to all other parts of the base.

In 12 months apart from mid winter leave (two weeks at home) we had day leave from Saturday 0730 to 2359 that night, (had to learn this new 24 hour time zone language as well). I took the train into Melbourne, about hour and half from the back end of this Mornington Peninsular to the heart of the big smoke at Flinders Street station, downtown Melbourne. It didn't take me long to find my old mate 'trouble' (story for another time). On return I was quickly introduced to a new routine for me, navy punishment.

The only 'out of hours' entertainment was the Southern Cross cinema where you were marched up and back to the cinema or attending outings the Chaplain had organised to Church Fellowships or Youth Groups. If you were good enough to play navy representative sport for Recruit School or HMAS Cerberus in civilian competition life was a little different. I made sure I got into every thing that was going.

I attended Religious Instruction with JR Laurie Shirley and Ian Costa mainly for the treats. We attended various Fellowships at other Churches off the Depot, it was good to get outside those front gates on official duty!

I involved myself in plenty of sport. Rugby against various toffy public and private schools such as Geelong Grammar. Sunday night water polo at the Melbourne Olympic Pool, transit in on navy bus with cut lunch, as JR's we stuffed ourselves and could hardly swim no wonder we didn't win many games!

Water polo was when I first met this young Officer, Graham Sloper. I played Inter Service rugby for Victoria and other games with and against him. Graham was an outstanding person, a fine example as a RAN Officer, along with many other RAN characters and identities that had such an early mentoring influence on me in these early days of my new navy life.

One working detail involved working for a survey with Officer LCDR Mike Calder. He took us to Rosebud, Dromana and Portsea to repaint the wooden shore navigational beacons. We had to clear the shrubbery around them then lay on plenty of good old white deluxe on these big bollards all looking out onto Port Phillip Bay. It was a great couple of days outside of our normal training routines. He gave us a good wrap up to our OIC. I took 'navigation fixes' on the same navigation beacons many years later when I was trending out of Port Phillip Bay as a control room watch keeper on the submarine HMAS Oxley. I felt a connection there!

After 12 Months of JRTE, different food, ironing, washing, sewing, kit musters. Doubling at all times everywhere, night and day.





*The Fleets In - The Basin, Semberwang harbour, Singapore. Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom warships, all at berth for repairs, restore combined with R&R for crew*

*Continued .....*

Sometimes with hammocks on our shoulders to the West Gate, and to the outer West Gate and back to G Block, all dependent if someone had taken their bedding out of their hammock, my god could we bloody run!

This form of extra training was implemented especially after the duty Able Seaman or Leading Seaman. Usually with a gut full of 'lunatic soup' returning from the Junior Sailors bar or a Recruit Staff member riding a pussers push bike and yelling at us all the time; conveying how "useless we were" and just because they could! Along with parade ground punishment of 303 rifles at the high port and doubling, physical training shakeups and playing lots of organised sport; a very physical time with high fitness levels were achieved by most recruits, especially me!

During my 12 months at JRTS I did not learn much educational wise, it took me two attempts to get my ET1. Certainly a time of no sympathy given with the attitude of Staff were tough men "dry your eyes princess or request to see the Chaplain" if things got tough; we even had white handkerchiefs!

Junior Recruit Training Scheme at HMAS Cerberus, overall it was pretty good for me at this stage in the life of Billy Stokes.

March 1964

Billy Stokes - aged 16  
RAN Ordinary Seaman

**J**ust before my 17th birthday, I joined NuShip Derwent at the Williamstown Dockyard, Victoria. Ranked at the bottom of the ladder as an 'ORD Various Weapon Mechanic' what an eye opener. This was not for the faint hearted, life in the RAN was certainly up a few notches up on civvy street and a little different to the colourful reciting flyers!

On joining this NuShip Derwent, I was assigned two 'sea dads' whose job it was to mentor me in all aspects of ship board life, routines. A good rounding of what was expected of you, along with ship evolutions and an occasional clip round the ears when you got a bit trouty. The sea dad's assigned to me were 'Pop Elwood' a Gunnery rate and 'Bluey Ellern' a Tas rate; they knew their stuff and I knew these blokes would be hard runners ashore, I'm in good hands here!

I mainly worked 'Part of Ship' and kept duties, one in four. Short leave was expired at 2359 nightly being an under 18, you were right for the weekends if you had a sponsor or stopped at the White Ensign Club in Melbourne for a cabin. At 10 shillings a night, it was great so long as you bought back a receipt as proof.

During weekdays our allocated 'sea dads' would take us to the local Williamstown Hotel, where 6pm closing time was in force for Victoria. What made me laugh was when they shut doors at 6pm, drinks continued to be served drinks to us sailors in one bar trying to keep quiet and the Vic Police in another bar, at the end of the night noise factor would increase with much singing. I never knew of anyone getting charged for after hours drinking.

Come Friday night I was off to the Melbourne big smoke with starters at the Young and Jackson on Flinders Street. Then up to the White Ensign, pay for a cabin and grab a bite as there were ladies who used to run a cafe there for a small charge. This also used to be part of a Cerberus duty to White Ensign Club, as cleaning party duties with old Harold the Manager doing rounds. After stowing our gear, locking our cabin which had wire over the top to prevent personnel from entering without paying, but being Sailors many found a way. Then it was off to the local 'Duckboard RSL' if you could get signed in or I think the City Hotel which was a suspect place of different persuasions.

Besides the required ship board stuff they instilled in me many good things when one looks back. They taught me how to drink and financial advice. How I could spend my money on wine, women and song along with loyalty to your ship mates in that you had their back no matter what the situation was.

After Derwent's work ups and the dockyard hand over for commissioning, we headed to Sydney as HMAS Derwent, this was the navy in 1964, those were the days!

I have decided I am going to become Weapons Mechanic (WM) after the next 12 months on board HMAS Derwent learning the finer skills of navy seamanship in a very hands on training exercise.

I got to work in various departments on board. In any given week you could be on the flag deck, main galley, down the hole with some very warm engines, packing and or counting stores, upper deck painting, mess decks cleaning, Petty Officers's or Chief Petty Officer's messman - Jack do this, do that, at the rush, bloody hell!

Duty during the day was also time on the ships helm. Getting your 'Helmsmen Certificate' was a must during this period, plus learning a fair amount of seamanship and basic gunnery knowledge along the way, these were good times. I was as keen as mustard to learn everything.



*Dance of the Flammers - Bugis Street, Singapore*



*Trishaw bike ride - Hong Kong*



*Melbourne Bar - Semberwang, Singapore*



Continued ...

The Idea of this was to give you a good overview of all working departments onboard ship life then also giving you the option to change your branch allocation if you wished and if it was possible with the navy at the time. I must admit, I did learn quiet a bit and managed to pass above my expectations, my ordinary seamanship board of theory and practical exams.

We were required to do ORD's PT at 0630 every morning, at sea or in harbour except Sunday's, fitness was still a big thing. The only down side to ship life was 2359 'cinderella leave'. If you were adrift you got run in, to front the Commanding Officer with a please explain.

If you did not make the first liberty boat ashore at 0805 on a Saturday or Sunday morning you had to clean up for Officer of the Day Rounds, (inspection) this was extra work until 1130, the next liberty boat was 1200.

I remember when we got to Sydney. With my two 'sea dad's', they stepped me ashore and with a pocket full of personalty we were off for some good times. Hours later after doing the Sydney sailor's pub runs that they showed me with their eyes half closed, I was soon incoherent. No one checked your age in those days as you were in sailor rig, man of the world!

That first night I ended up at Kings Cross in the 'Hasty Tasty' at the top of William Street. Under the big Coca Cola sign with my bottle of 'medicated wine' in a brown paper bag, purchased from the chemist opposite. Revolting stuff and putting it into just as revolting coffee. I thought I was on to a good thing and my luck was changing, I was in the process of trapping this lady of the night at about 2330. Suddenly I realised I only had 2359 leave. I asked one of my sea dad's that had introduced me to the lady, what should I do?

One of them said, "ring the duty Petty Officer (PO) and tell him you missed the last train and you are stuck at Campbelltown until the first train in the morning".

I took his advice and rang the ship, spoke to the Quartermaster who put PO Hughes on to me. I spun him my dit, he said, "Stokes you have 30 minutes to get your face back onboard this ship or you will be logged as absent". Fearing the worst that I would front the Ships Captain, Commander Swan, I ran fast, very fast, all the way down Wild Street, onto Cowper Wharf Road, through Garden Island main gate flashing my identity card and to the old 'cruiser wharf' where HMAS Derwent was tied up. Two miles I reckon at double pace in my fastest time ever!

On making it onto the gangway just in time, PO Hughes was their waiting. Looking me in the eye he said, "lad that was a shit dit you spun me. 30 minutes to run from Campbelltown to Garden Island, I am putting you in for

the Olympics lad, you are sure to get a gold medal. Stokes, I will remember that name!"

December 1964

HMAS Derwent sailed Sydney bound for South East Asia

**D**ecember 1964, HMAS Derwent sailed on a three month South-East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) deployment.

SEATO had been established under the auspices of the 1954 Manila Pact between Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the USA, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, and France. It was intended to be a vehicle for collective defence, in the same way as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO. The regular involvement of Australian warships such as Derwent in large multinational exercises provided the RAN with a high operational tempo and valuable experience it would have otherwise lacked.

In the early 1960's the new nation of Malaysia was proclaimed. Indonesia strongly opposed this and embarked on a policy of 'confrontation'. The Australian government made plain its resolve that if Malaysia was subjected to invasion or subversive activity, then Australian military assistance would be added to that of Britain to defend Malaysia. Consequently, Royal Australian Navy warships in the Strategic Reserve based in Singapore were made available for naval patrol and escort operations to counter possible Indonesian attacks.

During her first SEATO deployment, HMAS Derwent spent Christmas at anchor off Tawau, Sabah, acting as Guardship. The main task of the Guardship was to provide naval gunfire support as required, as a deterrent to Indonesian activities. Suddenly no one gave much notice about U/18's or 2359 cinderella leave. We became men overnight, we were sailors of the RAN, off to a possible war front.

On arrival in Singapore, we docked in the Semberwang Basin, a naval shipyard run by the British forces. I was now a 'Ship's Diver' and we were put into two watches to conduct 'Jack Stay and Yo Yo' searches, as the Necklaces system had not been introduced as yet. The reason for this was that the Royal Navy ton class mine sweeper, HMS Wilkinson, had undergone attack by insurgents while in Singapore.

**South East Asia** – During our ports of call, after many weeks on patrols in the Mallaca Straights and Borneo on the Tawal River with 'naval gunfire support' for our Commonwealth troops ashore. Anchored in the Tawal River delta, skipper Commander Swan rolls out an upper deck BBQ beer issue, soft drink for us U/18's, funny how

*Continued ...*

certain times they suddenly remember your age. Then all hell broke out; the gunners yeoman accidentally dropped the armament keys over the side!

Our Leading Seaman Clarence Diver, Joe Vendetta, a big scary individual said to me "this is your big chance Stokes, to impress and recover the keys you are on this dive". The shot was dropped and down about 50 to 60 odd feet on dark muddy waters, like an eel on a sewer pipe I hit the bottom of Samberwang harbour, I was shit scared!

The visibility was not like zero on reaching the bottom and my breathing was very heavy. At this rate I would have expelled air in my tanks in about 30 minutes. I was about to give the diving signals to start my directional search and put my hand out and then out of no where I found the big key ring, gave the five bells and the signal to surface, thank bloody goodness. I kid you not, I was absolutely shit scared, a 17 year old ORD on a dive operation just for a set of bloody keys!

When I look back on this era I am amazed we had a Chinese 'Wacka Tack' (boot-maker), a Tailor working out of the empty non fitted Ikarra magazine that also served as our gym. Several Chinese laundry men running the ship's laundry on board during our deployed operational periods on Patrols. I have heard about civilian canteen staff on our ship's in WW2. I often wonder would these Chinese be covered by DVA and entitled to the two Confrontational Medals?

HMAS Derwent had various 'rest & recreation' (R&R) visits to Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok over the period. Many adventures were on offer for a young OD. My Sea Dad's and others, had nicked named me the 'Fleet OD' because these adventures did also incur several periods of punishments. During our ports of call, other than consuming copious amounts of 'Lunatic Soup', I was always the first to attend all venues during these up top adventures to see what was on offer in this exotic land.

My first introduction to the 'dance of the flamers' on top of the brick shithouse in Bogus Street. I did it, up there on that rooftop with a few others! Egged on by the Aussie sailors in the street crowd. Returning onboard late that night in a local bright red sarong dress; the 'Beanie's' had taken my sailors rig! To much of my surprise, I did not get run-in, as several Officers and Senior Sailor's were in the crowd and said it was good entertainment and well expected from an Aussie Ord seaman.

We also played a great deal of all forms of sport. My first introduction of playing Rugby in Singapore under lights at HMS Terror. Followed by the after game liquid refreshments at the Amanda Club with loss of memory of the nights festivities. Plus waterpolo, swimming

championships at the Terror pool; just an incredible period of sport in all forms you could involve yourself in unless you were detailed off to make up numbers for a ship's team.

I used to step ashore with my old sparring partner from JRTS, ORD various WM, Eddie Bak, ORD various Dental Barnyard Kenward not from our JRTS intake, but one who was also always in the shit, top bloke.

During the confrontation period in Singapore, Barnyard starts letting off sky rockets in a bar. The barman went ballistic, so we legged it, however, half way down the street he threw a lighted bungie in to a tri-shaw full of fire works, which of course started to explode, great show!

Armed police came from everywhere, luckily we were past the area and managed to leave without being noticed. I said Barnyard "I am going back to the Wang, then onboard, he said "so am I".

On arrival back at the Wang he starts arguing with the taxi driver. I gave him a few \$'s and said "pay and shut up". Off we go to get our fish and chips from the caravan wrapped in the Straights newspaper. We eat our tucker and have a couple more beers in the local samberwang bars. We leave and start heading for the dockyard gates. On the short walk to the gates several drunken Royal Navy sailors make a number smart arse comments about our Navy. So Barnyard belts a couple of them and it's on for young and old until the red caps and shore patrol restore order.

The HMAS Derwent Leading Seaman in the Royal Navy Shore Patrol saved our arses by saying "I will get this lot back onboard".

The next day Barnyard says "what time are we stepping tonight Billy?" I said "no way, you near got us shot and beaten up last night", he just laughed and said "but it was a good run".

Those were the days!

Sailing back to Bangkok in Company with HMAS Teal, several of us onboard Derwent and Teal Personnel were directed to the Bangkok swimming club to play water polo for the expatriates against the Bangkok Universities team. I can't remember the score but I think they beat us. Their was a large crowd their and the club put on a magnificent spread after the game.

An Australian Embassy staff member, who had also played in our team, took us on the town to numerous bars in his VW Carmen Gia, then drove us back to the ship on completion, a top run at very minimal cost. I think it was on his expense allowance as well, great run!





HMAS STALWART & HMAS Hobart - South East Asian deployments



*Continued ...*

During one of our patrols on the Tawal river, the rugby team also got to go ashore for rugby training. The lads found the first bar, passed the football round, that was trying, time to drink more beer!

After about two hours later, the ship sent the 'Sea Boat' in to pick us up from the wharf. By tis time I was shit faced and the older hands kept me quiet and got me down the mess deck without incident.

The run to Hong Kong involved much sport including novice boxing bouts of three x two min rounds at the China Fleet Club boxing championships against the Royal Navy and Pommy Army. Bit of a sore head after the occasion but not to bad. The Commanding Officer, Officers and Senior Sailor's were suitably impressed by our performance of the ships company!

I used to get a bit of bridge watch keeping on Derwent. Every time I was 'watch on deck' and keeping 'look out tricks' SBLT Rak Walls was on the bridge. He would corner me and tell me "Stokes you are a clown, you be lucky to make it past Ordinary Seaman lad". When I joined Hobart in 1965, their is LEUT Walls. I thought to myself why am I being punished, but luckily he turned out not a bad hand.

I came across him years later, he was CO of Tobruk, we had a good laugh reminiscing about our times on the good ships Derwent and Hobart, he was certainly amassed at what I had achieved in my career to that point!

## 1966 - HMAS Cerberus Basic training course Weapons Mechanic

On return to Australia I was posted off HMAS Derwent for HMAS Cerberus for my Weapons Mechanic gunnery course.

Armed with my new tailor made rigs with 'coloured dragons' inside the jacket cuffs, drop front bells, shark skin shorts and white fronts, a whole new world of adventure and drama was about to unfold for me, with the usual discipline matters incurred.

I look back today and am very grateful for my time on HMAS Derwent. I was mentored by a wide range of excellent personnel of all ranks. They showed me from an impressionable young age what the RAN was all about and what it expected of you. Ship life certainly took me from adolescent to adulthood in a very short time, would not have got that on the streets of Bexley.

I believe my time and training at HMAS Cerberus JRTS and HMAS Derwent set me up for life and provided me with high ethical standards. Those standards were entrenched in me and they served me well during my RAN career, through various ranks and branches and sit high with me today in my day to day life.

Royal Australian Navy - Definitely the start of a good long run for a young lad from Bexley. Plenty of adventure on the voyage, few punishments routines along the way, not to hard just toughed me up, however not a life for the faint hearted!

The 1963 HMAS Cerberus JRTS legends, those were the days!

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY - HERITAGE CENTRE - GARDEN ISLAND, SYDNEY



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# WANTED

## Pictures & Stories 1963 - 65

### 1st & 2nd JR Intakes H.M.A.S. CERBERUS

Former Junior Recruit, Bill 'Squizzy' Taylor, of the first HMAS Cerberus JRTS intake, has been inspired of late to put his old recruit day photographs and memories into a book.

It is almost finished, he thought it would be such a shame to miss the opportunity not to include the only other intake that went via the Cerberus gates, the 'Second' intake.

Squizzy needs a shipmates from the Cerberus **SECOND INTAKE** to stand up and deliver if possible. 25 empty pages awaits for photographs and stories of the times at Cerberus. There is also pages allocated for the next 12 months after Cerberus, if you have material available, Junior Recruits who graduated and went to sea before training, as 'Ords Various' into the RAN fleet to get a taste of the real sea salt, add some words and help Bill please.

**Please forward any copy or photographs possible to  
Tingira Secretary for this publication**

Email: [tsec@tingira.org.au](mailto:tsec@tingira.org.au)

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# JRTS

JUNIOR RECRUIT TRAINING SCHEME

H.M.A.S. CERBERUS 1963-1965



by

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# TINGIRA - NAME HELD HIGH IN HISTORY



*Bev Fairbairn with her Tingira Flash, one of eight that she has donated to Tingira Australia Association*



**“Get that banner high boys  
Let’em see TINGIRA”**

**W**hen Tingira President Lance Ker said “Get that banner high boys, let’em see Tingira” he knew that he was walking into a ‘cross fire of TV cameras’ on the corner of Elizabeth and market Streets in Sydney at the recent Anzac Day parade.

“They get a real good look at us every year at this spot. Leading the Tingira Boys is a challenge some years, I just seem to stop a bit longer than others and catch my breath about this part of the march” he said with a smile in his eye!

It’s another great part of ANZAC Day, when you get home! For the next 24 hours everyone on the home front says they saw the ‘Tingira Boys’ on the TV with their big navy banner. This year, an ABC Sydney north shore viewer, Bev Fairbairn, also

saw the big Tingira banner and said ‘she had an instant vibe that jolted her memory when she recognised the name Tingira’.

Her late husband, Allan, was a navy man of many years and collected hundreds of ‘navy things’ as he would call them.

Bev remembers seeing the small Tingira uniform shoulder flashes in his old sea box that she had recently stowed away.

A visit to the Tingira web site, Bev was instantly reunited with all things navy and happy that she had done so.

Contacting the Tingira Secretary, who lived near by in Beecroft, they arranged to meet for a good old navy chat.

Bev donated four pairs (8) of these very rare original TINGIRA uniform shoulder flashes to the association for their growing memorabilia collection.

“We are most grateful of donations like this” said the President when told of this TV outcome.

“We shall make sure our colleagues at the navy Sea Power Centre history branch get a set for their archives as wall, might even get one into Chief of Navy’s historical glass cabinet collection” said Lance

Bravo Zulu Tingira. Lance Ker, not just a pretty face in the ANZAC Day parade!



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# TINGIRA BOY - WORKDAYS ARE COMPLETE



*Tingira Boy, CMDR Mark Shelvey displays his Service Medallion after completing 38 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy.*

*Photo: POIS Bradley Darvill*

## Marking his Mark - NAVY is Everything

**W**hen Tingira Boy, Commander Mark Shelvey, began his naval career as an RAN Junior Recruit in 1977 at HMAS Leeuwin, he never imagined the change it would have on his life and the sense of community his career would provide to him.

Mark developed a lifetime of experiences accumulated through his service at sea, including in HMA Ships *Stalwart*, *Launceston*, *Canberra*, all three Perth-class DDGs and culminating in command of HMAS *Warrnambool*.

Mark participated in Gulf War 1 in 1991, led the HADR response after Cyclone Ofa in Western Samoa in 1991 and did further active service during INTERFET in East Timor in 1999.

On February 24 a retirement ceremony was held to farewell CMDR Shelvey with VCDF and Head of Naval Engineering, RADM Katherine Richards.

As part of her speech, RADM Richards thanked CMDR Shelvey for his 38-year service to Navy, in particular his efforts in authoring the Navy Governance Suite.

"It is very rare to see a warfare officer willingly take up the challenge of writing policy and governance and to do it with passion and drive is something Navy needs more of," RADM Richards said.

CMDR Shelvey said the Navy had not just provided him an opportunity to continue his education and develop his professional mastery, but provided him with life-long friendships and social standing.

"What does the Navy mean to me? Everything," CMDR Shelvey said.



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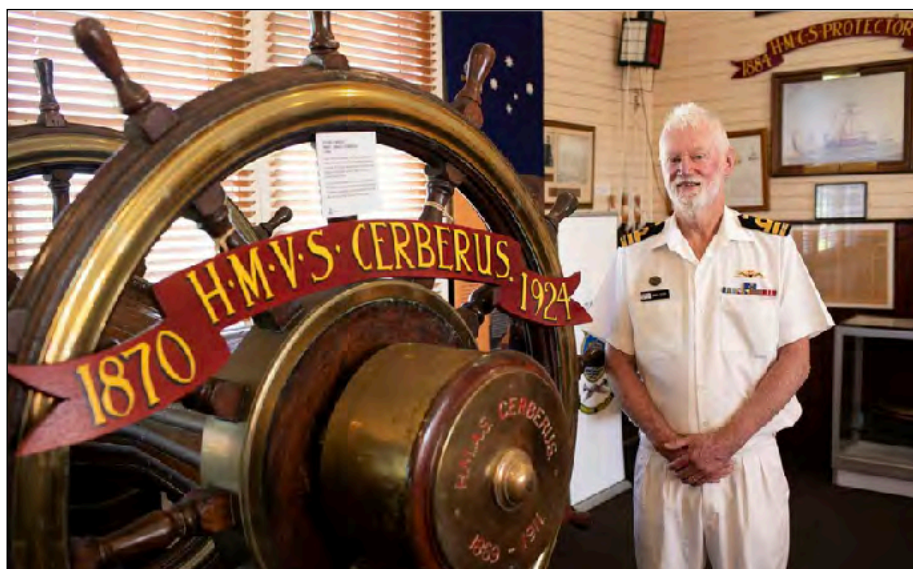
*The Military Beret has been reproduced for current serving members, cadets and ex service organisations. Various colours and sizes (see fitting gallery) easy fitting with vinyl trim and eyelets*



### **JUNIOR SAILORS INSIGNIA**

*This Junior Sailors insignia has been reproduced for current serving members, cadets and ex service organisations. This badge complies with DOD policy standards and has a double pin butterfly on rear*

# TINGIRA BOY - STILL AT WORK



HMAS Cerberus Museum Manager and Tingira Boy, Commander John Goss, with historic items from HMVS Cerberus in the HMAS Cerberus Museum in Westernport, Victoria

Photo: Leading Seaman Bonny Gassner

## Her Majesty's Victorian Ship CERBERUS

Australia Post issued a stamp in March to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Her Majesty's Victorian Ship Cerberus' arrival in Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, in April 1871.

The stamp depicts a painting by Sydney-based artist Ian Hansen of HMVS Cerberus during the late 1880s, steaming on the waters of Port Phillip Bay. The painting shows the ship in the fourth colour scheme, which was introduced in 1888.

*Cerberus* – named for the three-headed dog that guarded the gates to the underworld in Greek mythology – was commissioned as a coastal defence ship to safeguard Melbourne, Australia's largest and wealthiest city of the time. The funding agreement also allowed for Britain's Royal Navy to call upon her in times of war.

The ship was the most powerful warship in the southern hemisphere when it arrived on April 9, 1871, after a beleaguered departure from England and dramatic 123-day voyage.

Despite her original captain dying before departure and more than 50 crew members preferring to go to jail

rather than fulfil their engagement obligations, the ship departed Chatham, England, on October 29, 1870, and made many stops to refuel with coal before arriving in Melbourne.

The Museum Manager at HMAS Cerberus, Commander John Goss, said the voyage included a notable passage through the new Suez Canal.

"*Cerberus* only had three feet of clearance on each side, and had either of the two propellers touched the bank, they might have snapped off," Commander Goss said.

He also discovered many reports of public bafflement at the small and unconventional-looking vessel on its arrival in Australia.

"HMVS *Cerberus* was notable for her place in the evolution of warship design. An early example in the iron ship era, this breastwork monitor was the future of battleships," he said.

"*Cerberus* was iron clad and steam powered, the first British warship to do away with sails altogether, apart from for her voyage to Australia, and she had raised revolving gun turrets on a

central superstructure and a low freeboard."

Upon Federation in 1901, *Cerberus* was incorporated into the Commonwealth Naval Forces, adopting the prefix HMAS.

In 1921, she was towed from Williamstown to Geelong, serving as a depot vessel for the RAN's six J-class submarines for two years and was renamed HMAS *Platypus*.

In April 1924, the vessel was sold as scrap to the Melbourne Salvage Co. and two years later to the Black Rock Yacht Club, with some assistance from the Sandringham Municipal Council. She was sunk at Black Rock, where she remains today as a breakwater.

The name *Cerberus* is perpetuated in the RAN's premier training establishment, HMAS *Cerberus*, situated at Westernport, Victoria, which coincidentally is about to celebrate its own historic milestone – a centenary of commissioning in 1921.

Commemorative products will be available from Australia Post outlets and the first day cover will carry the postmark HMAS *Cerberus* VIC 3920.

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# TINGIRA BOYS - AT WORK



## RSL NSW - Cover Boy - JR Jessie James

**O**n the front cover of the recent RSL NSW Reveille magazine, newly elected President, former RAN Junior Recruit Ray 'Jessie' James. Great feature story on the short and long term strategic plan of the new board to unite and refocus the charity works of the RSL NSW.

The feature article also uncovered a very young picture of 15 year old Ray from 'Tingira Boy' days at HMAS Leeuwin.



## Canberra Is Always Hard Work

**O**ffice for the Day - DVA HQ in Canberra for the Prime Ministers Advisory Council on Veterans Mental Health - Tingira Boy Russ Crane, Chairs the Council (since 2014) and Dr. Brad Murphy was appointed by the DVA Minister last year - There were two proud Tingira Boys in their ties around the decision table

making a difference for the lives of our 'Brothers and Sisters'. The background painting is by one of Brads patients in Bundaberg Chern'ee Sutton - a Kalkadoon lady of the Mt Isa area - her talented work is very popular.



# TINGIRA BOYS - AT WORK



## GOLD Welcome for the new Chairman

**O**ur new Tingira Chairman, Lance Ker, was awarded (by surprise) his GOLD Life Membership to the Tingira Australia Association at the recent 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Secretary, Mark Lee, made the presentation to Brad and also handed him a copy of the book 'Commanders of Sail' as a fair read for his work done at the helm of Tingira as President for



# NAVY BOYS - SOCIAL MEDIA



Paul Lipscomb updated his cover photo.

33m · 🌐

🇦🇺🇬🇧🇬🇪 It's a family thing!!



James Bishop was with Martin Pearson.

May 5 at 4:28 PM · 👤

Happy Birthday mate



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## NAVY BOYS - SOCIAL MEDIA



34th Marks and Morrow Junior Recruit Reunion - Coffs Harbour May 2021



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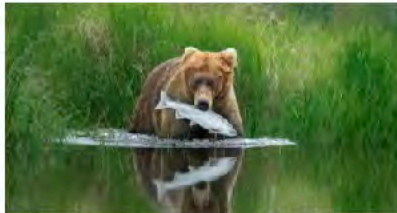
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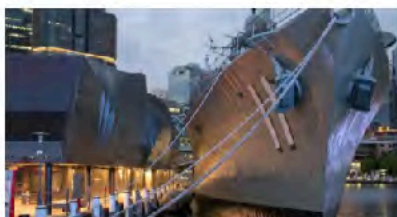


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MARITIME MUSEUM



**Free entry for  
Australian Defence Force**

The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) has partnered with the National Maritime Museum to provide every Defence Force veteran, serving member and current cadet with a complimentary ticket to the museum.

#### entry

Simply present a valid Defence ID card, DVA-issued card, service medals or arrive in uniform to receive your free ticket which allows entry to everything open at the museum on the day of your visit.

As a bonus your accompanying friends and family receive a 50% discount off the same **See It All** ticket so you can enjoy the day together.

#### What's included with your free ticket

Access to all permanent galleries and special exhibitions including:

- Under Southern Skies
- Sydney Harbour Gallery
- The Navy Gallery
- Action Stations

You also get access to all museum vessels including:

- HMAS *Vampire*, *Onslow* and *Advance*
- HMB *Endeavour* and *Bark James Craig*
- Steam Yacht *Ena*

Defence Personnel receive a **10% discount** at the museum's Café and Store.

As vessel availability, opening hours and exhibition dates change, please check [www.sea.museum](http://www.sea.museum) or call **02 9298 3777** on the day of your visit.

**Australian National Maritime Museum**  
2 Murray Street, Sydney NSW 2000



**Commonwealth  
Superannuation  
Corporation**

[www.csc.gov.au](http://www.csc.gov.au)

@CommonwealthSuperannuationCorporation  
 @CommSuperCorp

**MU  
SEA  
UM**

Offer valid to  
30 June 2022

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS**  
VETERANS - SHOW ID or RSL MEMBERSHIP



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

## **MyService makes it easier for you to access DVA services online**

### **Claiming made simple**

- › Apply for free mental health treatment
- › Access support for a service-related condition or injury
- › Upload supporting information with your claim quickly and easily

### **Easy access**

- › Access your digital DVA Veteran Card
- › View your accepted conditions
- › Track the status of your claims



#### **We're listening to you**

Use MyService to tell us how your service-related conditions are affecting your life. This helps ensure you get the right support.



#### **We're linked to myGov**

Once linked, use your myGov login details to access MyService.



#### **We're improving things**

While MyService expands, MyAccount will still be available. If you are an existing MyAccount user you will also have access to MyService.



**MyService** BETA

We're here to support you. With MyService, you can easily access DVA services online. Try it out today.



# MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

The HON. DARREN CHESTER MP



## Media releases

**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
**Minister for Veterans' Affairs**  
**Minister for Defence Personnel**

[Back to media releases](#)

Saturday, 22 May 2021

### Preparations for Royal Commission moves to next phase

Preparation for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has moved into the next phase.

Over the past month I have had discussions with hundreds of veterans, serving members and families across the nation.

The feedback has been extremely positive and constructive and while opinions have been incredibly diverse, we all have one common goal – to prevent suicide within the Defence and veteran communities.

More than 1400 pieces of written feedback on the themes that will inform the Terms of Reference have been received by DVA alone.

Some of the common areas of concern identified throughout the consultation process relate to the transition process from Defence to civilian life, dealing with DVA in accessing assistance and the complexity of the legislation and the claims process, as well as mental health support, operational tempo and rotations, negative treatment of personnel, and a number of issues that impact families of those who serve.

Publication of the feedback is optional and where consent has been provided, DVA has been progressively making these available on the website.

The consultation phase has now concluded and all feedback provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will be passed to the Attorney-General's Department, who will draft the Terms of Reference. This is standard practice for a Royal Commission, and as evidenced by the Aged Care and Disability Royal Commissions, the community can have complete confidence in that process.

To be clear, DVA, the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Defence are not involved in the conduct of the Royal Commission itself or the drafting of the Terms of Reference. The Royal Commission itself will be completely independent of Government.

We have a world-class system of support for veterans and their families and Australians can be proud of the fact that \$11.8 billion in taxpayers' money is provided every year to allow DVA to do its work.

There's an enormous amount of help available through DVA, ex-service organisations and community groups which is making a difference every day and it is so important that none of this stops during the course of the Royal Commission.

But the system isn't perfect and the Royal Commission is an opportunity to identify any weaknesses, listen to the ideas of Australians, and implement changes that can help to save lives.

I would like to thank all those in the community who have provided their feedback.

And for any member of the ADF, veteran or their families who may be struggling as a result of this process, please reach out to Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on 1800 011 046. Help is available.

**ENDS**

# Australian NAVY CADETS

## TRAINING SHIP TINGIRA

Looking for Adventure and Fun? These are two key elements to all of our activities at TS Tingira!



### WHO ARE WE?

The Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) are a leading provider of youth development experiences for Australian youth aged between 12 1/2 - 18 years, sponsored by the Royal Australian Navy.

### WHERE AND WHEN?

We are located on a working Navy base, HMAS Cerberus, Crib Point.

We parade every Friday night (during the school term) from: 1800 (6pm) to 2130 (9:30pm).



### WHAT DO WE DO?

We cover everything nautical from sailing, knots, seamanship and marching to activities such as camps, ceremonial parades and events, sailing regattas, ship visits, sea rides and interstate trips. We also help you build personal skills including leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, independence, resilience, trust and respect through fun and rewarding maritime and Defence opportunities. The life skills cadets learn while at Tingira complement their academic achievements and stand them in good stead for rewarding careers.

### CONTACT INFO:

Email:

[tstingira@navycadets.gov.au](mailto:tstingira@navycadets.gov.au)



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