



TAA MR 11 - 21  
Saturday 10 July 2021

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ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brad Murphy - RAN Junior Recruit - 74th Intake 1981

**Tingira Day - Saturday 10 July 2021**

## HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE

"Welcome Tingira Members, Associates, former RAN Junior Recruits, and Friends of Tingira

Tonight you are the lucky ones, Cairns, Canberra, and Fremantle. The Tingira boys here tonight have the law of the land on their side, with the freedom and ability to congregate and celebrate, 2021 **TINGIRA DAY**. A freedom that our Tingira boys in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide are not able to enjoy on this day due to the ongoing national COVID situation.

I take this opportunity to thank Paul Kalajzich in Fremantle, Eric Pitman in Canberra and Rod Howard in Cairns, for their efforts to organise their local Tingira Day celebrations tonight, BZ lads.

A special welcome in Fremantle to the boys of the third HMAS Leeuwin intake. Several of the lads are gathered there tonight during their well timed Perth reunion.

The 'black tie' Presidents Dinner to be held in Brisbane this evening, canceled on Monday, due to venue and travel restrictions, you boys are certainly the lucky ones tonight!

This is our tenth year anniversary as the **Tingira Australia Association**. Combined with today's 61st celebration of the first RAN Junior Recruit intake at HMAS Leeuwin on 13 July 1960, this is what we have become, an association that is a treasured part of the rich story of Australian naval history.

For the past five years, Tingira Secretary, Mark Lee, has produced and delivered an extensive speech on this day relevant to our historical Tingira storyline. Unfortunately, that will not occur tonight.

Mark is deep into the Sydney lockdown stage for another seven days. He was able to 'Dress Ship' on the Tingira Memorial at 7 am this morning. An image of the Rose Bay Tingira Memorial, is part of this media release which is now on our website tonight.

As the newly elected Tingira President of only 10 weeks past, I am quickly gaining a deeper knowledge on our Tingira history. Where it now fits with the 'vision' that the Tingira National Committee is working towards in their new Strategic Plan of 2020.

### **The English Clipper Ship Sobraon**

The world's fastest and largest sail ship in her day of the 1860s. We as an association continue to find more photographs, paintings, publications, and descendants from her past. With our consistent reference to the name 'Sobraon' in as many situations possible, the 'World Wide Web' and social media has opened a new chapter for us in the research channels of this ship's glorious history.

### **NSW Naval School Ship Sobraon** (*former CS Sobraon*)

The NSW 'street boys reform ship' at anchor at Cockatoo Island 1890. Their champion swimmer Barney Kieran, would put the name 'Sobraon' across the newspapers of the world. He was Australia's first world champion swimmer, never to lose an official race with many world records.

Barney passed at 19 and was given a NSW State funeral. Today we as an association, we annually visit and clean his grave in the grounds of the Gore Hill cemetery, North Sydney.

Their Sobraon history is also very strong. Many of those lads became apprentice builders and stonemasons and constructed most of public sandstone buildings in Circular Quay, Bridge and Macquarie streets of Sydney.

### **HMAS Tingira** (*former Sobraon*)

The first Royal Australia Navy training ship. Commissioned 25 April 1912, over 3,000 boys would train for 12 months at anchor on Rose Bay, Sydney. Then man the ships of the new RAN Australian fleet and ships of the British RN fleet, and take to the high sea lanes for the battles of WWI. Many boys went back to Tingira as Officers and Senior Sailors, and they also went on to serve in WWII and the Korean conflict. Those 'Tinny Boys' were 14-16 years of age at the time of their recruitment, they were the backbone of the navy.

## **HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus**

The two establishments conducted the new RAN Junior Recruit 'boy sailor' training scheme for young 15-16-year-olds. A 12 month period of further education, combined with seamanship, physical training, first aid, rifle, and ceremonial marching drill, making these young lads ready and fit for sea duty.

From July 1960 to November 1986, over 13,000 young Australian boys, from all states and walks of life would journey into this 'life long sea voyage', they would become the second generation of Tingira Boys. Many saw front line service on the Vietnam gun ships, peacekeeping missions and modern era conflicts. Some are still serving the RAN today with over 40 years of continuous service.

This is the baseline story of our history as we move into the next decade. Our National Tingira Committee is challenged to keep the name Tingira alive, in front of the navy and the Australian general public, our history is our flag.

## **Tingira Old Boys Association**

1977 our former association put forward to Navy Office, Canberra, the proposal of HMAS Tingira, as a new ships name for the former Tasmanian ferry, the Able Taman. However, we ran second, she became the new training ship HMAS Jervis Bay.

The Tingira Old Boys Association then presented to the British government the same Tingira name proposal when they presented Australia with the gift of a sailing ship, for the Bicentenary 1988. Again we ran a good second, that ship became 'Young Endeavour' is crewed by the RAN and run by a private foundation scheme.

This ship 'Young Endeavour' is now nearing the end of her 35-year lifespan. Last year the **National Tingira Committee** presented to the RAN Chief of Navy, that perhaps the next 'navy sail training ship' could be known as HMAS Tingira? Proposal accepted and on the table. That is one of our main potential challenges, to have another ship, preferably sail, carry the TINGIRA name into our future, and create the next generation of Tingira Boys.

2021. A Memorial park, nature reserve, apple orchard, fire station, rabbit farm, girl guide troop, boat club, streets, resort, community centre, church, farm gates, pre-school, retirement village, paddle boat race, and a NSW suburb, navy cadets and this ex-navy association are some of the many landmarks across this nation that proudly carry the name Tingira. The NSW train system, TANGARA (*sound similar*) was built by many former Tingira Boys, 'engineers' from the Newcastle rail yards.

Enjoy your festivities this evening, a short history lesson is good medicine says a wise doctor! A tot of 'Pussers Rum' all round, a salute to Queen and Country, the Tingira Boys, one and all 'sailors' across this nations seas.

## **Long Live Tingira**

