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JACK & ANITA

Strong grip on Stonehaven Medal

Tingira Australia Association President, Brad Murphy, announced today that former Royal Australian Navy, Junior Recruit, Alan (*Jack*) Strong, and his wife Anita, from Rockingham, Western Australia, are the dual winners of the 2022 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

The Medal is awarded annually to the former RAN Junior Recruit Tingira member or members, who are nominated and can show cause in their local community or present naval duties of going beyond and above the normal call of duty.

“Again for the sixth year of the award, we had several very genuine nominations, all with high quality with glowing achievements that all met the Tingira requirement to be named the Stonehaven Medal winner, said Brad Murphy.

Jack and Anita’s family storyline touches all our hearts; their combined contribution of marriage and family over four decades is an outstanding achievement for them both. They are a great credit to military family life and worthy recipients to both receive this year's Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

THEIR UNIQUE FAMILY STORY ...

Jack and Anita met on the deck of HMAS Stalwart in 1975 when Jack and his fellow shipmate, John Cameron, were showing a few visiting army ladies a 'ships tour' while docked at the Sydney Garden Island EMS mooring. Sailors being sailors - the rest is history. Jack and Anita married in April 1977 in Anita's hometown of Tatura, Victoria. Jack went on to complete nine years of navy service as an electrician and stayed on for another four decades as a Navy Reserve member. Jack was employed long-term locally for the next 33 years by the Kwinana power station up until its final days before closure. Jack was then contracted another seven years during the closing downstage of the power station for maintenance and support duties. After that stint Jack's working days were over, and he now enjoys full retirement.

Anita completed three years in the army in the transport section and soon after discharge in 1979 presented their first daughter Catherine, followed by Rosemary in 1981 to commence their new family life. They quickly settled into a normal Australian lifestyle of the 1970s and 80s, in their new Rockingham local community, south of Perth.

However, life did change constantly over the next four decades for the Strong family. Jack and Anita would become 'foster parents' to many very young infant children as part of the Western Australian government's child protection and family support scheme for the department of communities. Their first child for care in 1994 was welcomed by their teenage daughters at the time and since that first initial day, Jack and Anita they have assisted to raise 37 infant babies from childbirth age over the next four decades.

At 8-12 months of age, all of these children would either return to their birth family, join an adoption program or become 'Wards of the State'. As recently as February 2022, Jack and Anita accepted another infant child, number 37, into their home as they continue to serve the state's childcare program. They have lived and raised these children all in the same home for their entire family journey and are very happily married after all these years of caring for children.

Jack and Anita Strong have shown good cause in their local community that their care contribution over these past four decades has gone beyond and above the normal call of duty and they are acknowledged by the Tingira membership that they are worthy dual recipients of the Tingira Stonehaven Medal for 2022.

Stonehaven's origins trek back in our history to 1926. Governor-General of Australia, Lord Stonehaven, presented the 'Stonehaven Shield' to the best divisional intake as an annual award to the 15-year-old navy 'Tingira Boys' on board the RAN training ship HMAS Tingira in Rose Bay, Sydney. This is the sixth year the Stonehaven Medal has been presented by the Tingira Australia Association to its recognised outstanding member.

The Stonehaven Medal is donated and supported by the RSL NSW Cumberland sub-Branch, Sydney, for which the Tingira Australia Association is most grateful for their continued support in all matters Tingira.

ENDS RELEASE

Further information

Secretary Mark Lee
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VERY HAPPY FAMILY

Alan and Anita Strong of Rockingham, Western Australia, display their well deserved Tingira Stonehaven Medal and Shield at the presentation event in Fremantle last weekend, with a gathering of past local RAN Junior Recruits from the former navy base at HMAS Leeuwin.



KEN DOBBIE
TAS
2017

PHILLIP LANCASTER
WA
2018

DAVE CASSIDY
QLD
2018

DARRYL WALTON
WA
2019

BRAD MURPHY
QLD
2020

JOHN PERRYMAN
ACT
2021

JACK & ANITA STRONG
WA
2022

