

TINGIRA AUSTRALIA



# VOICEpipe

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association

SPRING 2022

G. RITCHIE  
ORDINARY SEAMAN 12529  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY  
18 APRIL 1924 AGE 17

## RIP GEORGE RITCHIE

STRONG'S  
STONEHAVEN

A SAILOR'S  
ADMIRAL

SAVING  
TINGIRA

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Lest We Forget  
Cemeteries

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TINGIRA AUSTRALIA



# VOICEpipe

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association

SPRING 2022

FEATURED CONTENT



## today's NEWS

STRONG'S STONEHAVEN  
RIP - GEORGE RITCHIE



## tomorrow's VISION

A SAILOR'S ADMIRAL



## yesterday's HISTORY

SAVING TINGIRA



## VOICEpipe

1<sup>st</sup> September  
SPRING 2022

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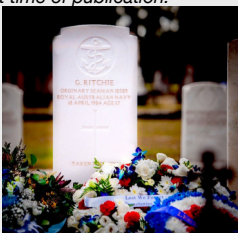
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### COVER PHOTO

The headstone of former Tingira Boy  
Seaman George Ritchie,  
Rookwood cemetery, Sydney

Official RAN Image

# VIEWFINDER IN RANGE... BEST IMAGE THIS QUARTER



“ I am often asked 'what is the best camera?

It's a fairly standard answer that I roll out ...

It's like football, the 20 centimetres between the ears is what makes the best photograph, the camera is a tool that takes pictures. It's the photographer that makes the image. Footballs don't kick goals, it's the player that decides when to score!

The conversation progresses to the quality and ability of modern iPhone systems to produce a good image. I'm a strong advocate once again, as the iPhone brings to the fore front a new status in photography, opportunity.

Most photographers, past and present don't carry their professional camera 24/7 off their shoulder. However, that's where the iPhone changed the world of photography and now into its own league, iPhones are a 24/7 fashion item to many and they are on editorial covers and billboards as well as even making movies on the big screen, that's real technology well advanced in a very short space since the first digital cameras in the 90s.

Only last month I was leaving the Navy Historical Society meeting at the

Garden Island Heritage centre. About 100 meters down the road I stopped by this old gun to put my foot up to tighten my shoelace for the big walk headed up the Macleay Street hill to the Kings Cross railway station.

Then I just pulled back and saw the rusted old name tag next to my shoe, 'the Emden gun turret'. Blow me down as I scratched my head. I have been looking for you as part of my Tingira on going story line, photo time!

Opportunity iPhone!

Worst possible light, hard and strong one direction; well it's certainly going to have good definition and sharp focus are guaranteed, I thought, just take it Mark.

I will make something out of this I thought. It's the little things like opportunity with an iPhone, that put a smile on my face on a late afternoon stroll from Garden Island.

iPhone cover pic on opposite page, my best image and graphic design this quarter!

Editor - VOICEpipe  
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OUR FUTURE

# VISION

TINGIRA AIMING HIGH



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2025  
Members ideas & input required

**SUCCESSION - STATUS - LONGEVITY**

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





TINGIRA  
AUSTRALIA



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



**CHAIRMAN**  
Lance Ker  
QLD

# TINGIRA

NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
2021 - 2024



**PRESIDENT**  
Brad Murphy OAM  
QLD



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Chris Parr  
QLD



**SECRETARY**  
Mark Lee  
NSW



**TREASURER**  
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NSW



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Darryn Rose  
NSW



**COMMITTEE**  
Jeff Wake OAM, RFD  
WA



**COMMITTEE**  
Paul Kalajzich  
WA



**COMMITTEE**  
Kevin Purkis  
QLD



TINGIRA PRESIDENT

**BRAD MURPHY OAM**



“

***Major Federal  
and State  
government  
Defence and  
DVA  
announcements  
in between the  
period, that may  
assist us on  
several of our  
possible new  
directions***

## PRESIDENT'S DESK - On The Bridge

# TINGIRA BOYS DELIVER

## JRs STRONG, FLEMING & DAVEY INSPIRATION TO ALL

“ **WELCOME** to Spring, one thing is for sure, we are in a better place today than we were 12 months ago.

*The salt air here in Bundaberg is blowing with the easterly winds of the coast, the bees are buzzing in my garden as the buds and blooms prepare for warmer sunshine and we the Tingira helm are looking at the crystal ball making plans the strategic plan.*

*Never an exciting moment, do I put my hand up, do I open my mouth, do I hit the keyboard, so easy to be reserved and keep my head down.*

*In the previous winter edition of VOICEpipe, we invited our 850 members to assist with our strategic plan. To make a submission if they felt inclined.*

*I would like to thank the few on the National Tingira Committee and one member*

*in the New Zealand ranks, who put over 2,000 words on our plate to commence the planning direction. members you still have time to hit the keyboards and submit some suggestive thoughts our way, as I stargaze in the Queensland sunset as spring rolls on this warm winter's eve as I write, new ideas are always welcome.*

*At the committee level, we will continue to fine-tune the strategic plan document with the aim to release it on Australia Day in January 2023, that's the plan.*

*Hopefully, by then we will also have some major Federal and State government Defence and DVA announcements in between the period, that may assist us in several of our possible new directions.*

*Meanwhile, back to the Tingira desk-front, I have to say I wish I had been in Perth for the Stonehaven Medal*



### THE NORTHERN PARTY

*Tingira North Queensland coordinator Rod Howard and his birthday party team at the Cairns RSL for their annual 'Tingira cup cake' party night,*

*presentation this year. Secretary Mark Lee, and the WA boys Paul Kalajzich and Jeff Wake, presented another outstanding night for the local Fremantle regional members.*

*The winning couple, Alan and Anita Strong, from Rockingham, taking the much deserved 2022 Tingira Stonehaven Medal was a real coup to the boys that found this story, it also received a well-deserved coverage at their own local level.*

*Then celebrating Tingira Day at the same event made it all very special. The lads in North Queensland certainly have a thing going with the local bakery and their mini Tingira cupcakes, well done again Rod Howard, might need a few hundred for the next big reunion!*

*Big thank you to John Perryman in Canberra for his continued support of these pages. John has again submitted a wonderful article on the state of all things 'navy' at present in the first few weeks of his new retirement status. We value your contribution, ideas, and energy John, BZ that sailor,*

*The real find of the winter goes to Mark Fleming who has taken on the Rookwood graves project, what a story and what an effort by this lone sailor. Tingira Secretary Mark Lee, was quick to assist Mark when informed this project was presently onto a case of a former*

*Tingira Boy, George Ritchie, murdered in his bunk on board HMAS Brisbane, the story is a bit James Bond and we have printed Mark's complete speech at the recent graveside commemoration with his new headstone in place, re front cover picture.*

*For Mark Fleming, I know this project will continue to pick up from here and we are very happy to support your case, BZ that sailor!*

*And the late breaking story we just received on 'postie biker' Michael Davey this week, what an inspiration, we will hear more about this lad in the future, BZ that sailor and his team!*

*On my home front, I too have also been busy, and very sick! Like many of my patients with a good bout of local flu, then the dreaded covid got me. Yes, doctors do get sick to. I'm good now thanks to my staff and my home nurse, thank you to many shipmates that sent messages along the way, it was very encouraging at the time.*

*Our local RSL sub-Branch communities are very active in my Bundaberg region; they seem to have my name on top of their list for every event these days. Not a problem when I am here: I am certainly catching up with old mates, making new ones, and finding more ex-JRs living in my region.*





**REDEDICATION** - Submarine Memorial Burnett Heads, Bundaberg.  
 CMDR Andrew Clowes, Mrs Helen Wyatt, Don Cornell OAM and Prof Brad Murphy, OAM



#### **TEAM TINGIRA**

*Thank you Tingira boys great effort again, appreciation awards from Tingira Secretary Mark Lee to Paul Kalajich and Jeff Wake for their efforts in Fremantle over past 18 months.*

*The committee can report that we have some new adverts appearing in this quarter issue, continued ...*

*with always room for new sponsors and supporters to break into our communication network.*

*We also have had a good response to many Tingira General Members taking the new Life Membership option.*

*Until the summertime Christmas issue, to care for all and stay healthy as I take in another good dose of Queensland salt air off the evening sea breeze.*

**Long Live Tingira - Mates For Life**

**BM**



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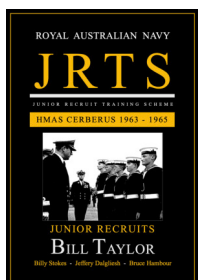
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# TINGIRA STRATEGIC PLAN - Status - Q3 . 2022



## COMPLETED JRTS HMAS CERBERUS 1963 - 1965

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

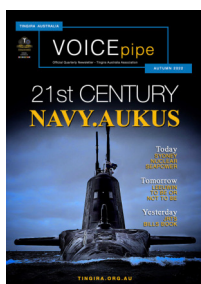
SALES COMPLETED - Publications delivered, copy to Tingira VIP list, GG, PM, CN, WoN, FC, Seapower, ANMM, Navy History, Anzac memorial, RSL NSW, TAA collection and State Premier NSW



## COMPLETED ANNUAL REPORT 2021

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc produce a 2021 ANNUAL REPORT for members, Associates, former JRs and Friends of Tingira for PDF version on website, with 100 hard copies for merchandise orders of 2022"***

Secretary completed, placed on website 1 February, presented at AGM Gladstone, Queensland, Saturday 19 February 2022



## COMPLETED NEW VP NEWSLETTER DESIGN

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc reshape the newsletter VOICEpipe with new content theme of YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMORROW displaying history, news and vision of the membership and associated supporters of Tingira and that the magazine is produced quarterly, published on the first day of each seasonal change"***

First issue of new VOICEpipe design and format delivered 1 March to Tingira Membership and Friends of Tingira, download from website only



## COMPLETED 2022 NATIONAL ANZAC DAY BOOKLET

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc provide for members a document with the meeting and march off points and after march reunion locations for all Tingira members across the Australian capital and regional cities"***

New updated version on website 1st April, followed by late media release on 22 April on website



## COMPLETED WINNER's PRESENTED - TINGIRA DAY

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc call for nominations - Tingira Stonehaven Medal 2022 - awarded annually to the 'Tingira Boy' or Boys who go above and beyond the normal call of duty"***

National Tingira Committee received several creditable nominations, and have voted an outstanding duel winners. Husband and wife, Jack and Anita Strong of Rockingham were presented with the Tingira Stonehaven Medal, and Shield Friday 15 July 2022 - Tingira Day, East Fremantle, WA.



## IN PRODUCTION FUTURE LEEUWIN ALLIANCE

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

*On hold until statement from Federal Government on the future direction of the Leeuwin Barracks base, due 2022 as part of urgent Defence property review*



## IN PRODUCTION ANM MUSEUM ALLIANCE

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

*Contact has been made with national marketing manager for future Tingira functions and presence at museum, awaiting appointment new CEO next step*



## IN PRODUCTION WOOLAHRA COUNCIL ALLIANCE

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

*Tingira Secretary is communicating with Mayor Woolahra Council, set into discovery mode the way ahead for possible restoration of the present Tingira Memorial Park. New Rose Bay town upgrade - progress updates of the Tingira Parkland are in present production*



## IN PRODUCTION 2022 PRESIDENTS DINNER

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc investigate the possibility of the 2022 Presidents dinner at HMAS Watson on Remembrance Day evening”***

*Secretary has made request in writing to the executive Officer HMAS Watson for possible joint dinner with the present ships Officers at the Wardroom for Friday 11 November with Patron as the possible VIP guest*



## IN PRODUCTION 2023 - 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

***“That Tingira Aust Assoc review the present 2000 Strategic Plan and carry forward a new updated five year plan for present and future national Tingira Committee.”***

*Secretary and Treasure have commenced the project with input from committee and the present membership.*





TINGIRA ANNUAL REPORT  
 Tingira Australia Association 2021 Annual Report  
 available to download from website ... [tingira.org.au](http://tingira.org.au)



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## **NEW LOOK VOICEpipe**

National Tingira Committee

*Well done Dixie Lee and the new look editorial team, another great Voicepipe effort.*

*I am constantly amazed at your ability to pull such a professional newsletter together so often. I wish we could bottle that enthusiasm!*

**Russ Crane**  
Patron TAA

## **BZ VOICEpipe**

National Tingira Committee

*Well done Dixie and the Tingira team, what a great read VP is once again, love the new clean and very modern format, BZ old mate.*

**Peter Jefferson**  
45<sup>th</sup> Intake JRTS  
October 1973

## **STONEHAVEN - GREAT NIGHT**

National Tingira Committee

*BZ shipmates for a very professional photo and wording of the Stonehaven presentation*

*To Jack and Anita, it was a pleasure to catch up with you guys again after so many years.*

*Jack and I go back to the Old Fremantle Port division day with him as a CPOETP and me a grunter holding down the Supply Officers billet then we move to FBW.*

*A lovely evening was had by all, my wife was full of praise; the presentation to Jack and Anita for the unbelievable work behind the scenes with sponsoring and supporting 37 young infant children over their family lifetime, what's after BZ? Stonehaven!*

**Jeff & Jenny Wake**  
Combat & Mrs Scribe

## **TINGIRA DAY**

National Tingira Committee

*The Tingira Day celebration and Tingira Stonehaven Medal presentation function on Friday night in Fremantle was a great success.*

*Meeting with such young boys was a great highlight for me. Being one of the first to join made me feel some what old, especially when one of those young ones announced, that it was his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday that night.*

*We joined Leeuwin 62 Years ago on Wednesday of that week – most of us are now 78, just a little older than the 62 year old.*

*Once again, thanks for the invite to Fremantle, because we knew there were to be drinking involved, we even stayed overnight, BZ.*

**Elaine & Alan Rodgers**  
1<sup>st</sup> Intake JRTS  
July 1960

## **STONEHAVEN EVENT**

National Tingira Committee

*Excellent effort team on another great Stonehaven success after six years on the road, well done to all involved.*

*The 2023 Strategic plan is progressing well also.*

*Thank you for all your efforts for our Association.*

*Your Aye*

**Lance Kerr**  
Chairman TAA

# JACK & ANITA

## Strong grip on Tingira Stonehaven Medal



### STONEHAVEN MEDAL 2022

*Tingira National Secretary, Mark Lee, presents the 2022 Tingira Stonehaven Medal and Shield to Jack and Anita Strong, of Rockingham, at the Tingira Day celebrations in Fremantle over the July weekend recently.*

**T**ingira Australia Association President, Brad Murphy, announced on Friday 15 July, 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.





# STONEHAVEN SHIELD



**KEN DOBBIE**  
TAS  
2017

**PHILLIP LANCASTER**  
WA  
2018



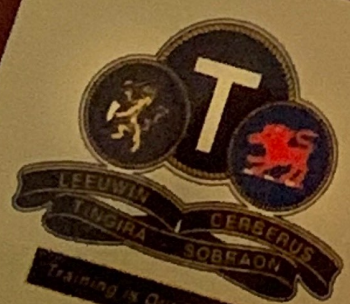
**Da DAVE CASSIDY**  
QLD  
2018

**DARRYL WALTON**  
WA  
2019

**BRAD MURPHY**  
QLD  
2020

**JACK & ANITA STRONG**  
WA  
2022

**JOHN PERRYMAN**  
ACT  
2021



**TINGIRA AUSTRALIA**





# STONEHAVEN MEDAL 2022

## Jack & Anita Strong 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. **ML**



2022 TINGIRA STONEHAVEN SHIELD & MEDAL  
 Jack and Anita Strong, Rockingham, Western Australia

**CUMBERLAND** RSL sub - Branch  
*Supporter of the Tingira Australia Association*  
[cumberlandrslsubbranch.org.au](http://cumberlandrslsubbranch.org.au)







**2022 TINGIRA DAY - BIRTHDAY CAKE**  
*Chocolate mud cake for the Tingira Team in Fremantle*





## WESTERN CELEBRATIONS

*Tingira Boys and their ladies at the birthday celebration for Tingira Day in Fremantle, with the prestigious Tingira Stonehaven Medal awarded to their shipmates, Jack and Anita Strong, to make it a very grand and happy occasion on the night.*

*In true navy tradition Steven Kelly from the 57<sup>th</sup> intake, was the youngest shipmate onboard for the ceremonial 'cutting of the Tingira Birthday cake' and then leading the crew in voice, with happy birthday.*





TINGIRA  
Foundation  
Life Member

**JOHN PERRYMAN**



“

***I think we all  
have a very  
clear view of the  
changing nature  
of military  
capabilities in  
the region.***

***The military  
capability China  
is now building  
in all three  
domains is very  
significant MN***

## TOMORROW'S VISION



*" Since the last June edition of Tingira Voice Pipe magazine, there has been a change in the Chief of Navy position, an announcement by the new Australian Government launching a Defence Strategic Review, an escalation in tensions between China, the US and regional partners surrounding Taiwan and the conclusion of a very successful Exercise RIMPAC 2022.*

*A few recent observations from my keyboard attached ...*

**John Perryman**

*Photographs Dept Defence  
Navy Imagery Specialists*



# Vice Admiral MIKE NOONAN AO, RAN

## Chief of Navy 2018 - 2022

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## A Sailor's Admiral

### Change of Navy Command ...

**O**n Wednesday 6 July 2022 a formal parade was conducted in the grounds of Russell Offices, Canberra, as the retiring Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan, AO, RAN, officially handed over command of the Navy to Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN.

During successive appointments as Deputy Chief of Navy and Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Noonan proved to be a progressive and engaging leader. While having a deep appreciation and respect for the RAN's rich history and its many achievements, he was not one to bury himself in

the past or to sit back and let the Navy 'mark time' or rest on its laurels. He was, quite rightly, ruminating about threats to regional maritime security and what that might mean for the RAN in the future.

Noonan's view of emerging threats to peace and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific might best be described as that of a realist. In a 2019 interview with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's (ASPI) Brendan Nicholson, he was to remark:

'I think we all have a very clear view of the changing nature of military capabilities in the region. The military capability China is now





#### ON DECK AT GI DOCKYARD

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, (centre), HMAS Supply Commanding Officer, Captain Ben Hissink (left) and Warrant Officer of Navy, Deb Butterworth, inspecting Supply

building in all three domains is very significant. It changes the level of competition.'

'We need to be prepared to deter aggression if it does threaten our national interests and, if necessary, take defensive action, that's very, very clear.'

Equipping the Navy for any number of future scenarios and providing the government with realistic options became central to his work in the top job, balanced against maintaining a level of contact with the People's Liberation Army-Navy that allowed a continuing and open dialogue about the international rules-based order.

Within the RAN itself, Mike Noonan was to prove a popular admiral with the officers and sailors he led. A seaman at heart, he was seldom happier than when he was visiting Navy people in their work place at sea, ashore or in the air. The mantle of 'a sailor's admiral' might well be applied to him.

Prior to his final official engagement, Vice Admiral Noonan released an official statement summarising the many challenges faced by the Navy over the last two-and-a-half years along with his deep appreciation of the commitment of its people, past and present.

Statement by Vice Admiral Michael Noonan – 1 July 2022

*"It has been my great honour and privilege to serve as Chief of Navy for the past four years.*

*I sincerely thank the women and men of the Royal Australian Navy for their outstanding work and dedication during my term. They reflect the very best of Australian society; Australians who are*

*ready to defend Australia and its national interests in the maritime domain.*

*I am incredibly proud of the unprecedented support Navy people provided to our country during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also maintaining Navy's regular operations; protecting Australia's maritime approaches and vital trade routes, conducting essential border protection activities and maintaining a consistent presence in the south-west Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific region.*

*It has been a difficult two and a half years for our nation, and indeed the world, but the way Navy people have responded to these challenges is a testament to their resilience, strength and adaptability. Likewise, our people have been ready and willing to deploy at a moment's notice to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for Australians during the bushfires of 2019-20, when floods struck eastern Australia earlier this year, and when Fiji and Tonga called for assistance following natural disasters.*

*From my first day as Chief of Navy in July 2018, I have highlighted the need to be a thinking Navy, a fighting Navy and an Australian Navy. We have achieved much in four years to this end, and I am particularly proud of the many things that we have achieved to improve the culture of our Navy and the workplace environment, conditions and safety for all of our people.*

*We have grown into a larger, more diverse workforce of more than 15,000 people, and we have enabled the Defence total workforce model to deliver a fully integrated workforce, with greater flexibility in the options to render, or in fact return, to Navy service. I am also proud to have seen the award of our Navy's only Victoria Cross for*



Vice Admiral  
MIKE NOONAN AO, RAN  
Chief of Navy at work 2018 - 2022





*Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, kept up many of his skills throughout his naval career.*

*Australia to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC, and the identification of the unknown sailor from the sinking of HMAS Sydney II as Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark.*

*We have built and deepened our partnerships with Australia's Defence Industry, and with our international friends, allies and partner navies. We have launched a robotics, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence strategy to increasingly leverage emerging technology and human-machine teaming to transform, and improve, our ability to fight and win at sea.*

*Navy's fleet has continued to undergo its biggest evolution since World War 2 in order to respond to the changing strategic environment. Our final two Hobart-class destroyers HMA Ships Brisbane and Sydney, were commissioned into Navy's fleet - these modern, advanced warships significantly enhance the lethality of our fleet and enable interchangeability with the US Navy.*

*Two new auxiliary oiler replenishment ships, HMA Ships Stalwart and Supply, joined the fleet in 2021 and have significantly enhanced Navy's capacity to conduct sustained operations within the joint force.*

*Defence has also launched NUSHIP Arafura, the first of 12 Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels, and taken ownership of the first of six evolved Cape-class patrol boats.*

*It has been a time of considerable change, and Defence has continued to assess future capability in response to changes in the strategic and threat environment.*

*The most consequential of these decisions has been the Australian Government's announcement*

*in September 2021, that at least eight nuclear powered submarines would be acquired for the Royal Australian Navy through a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, known as AUKUS.*

*The accelerating changes to regional security, outlined in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update, mean that conventional submarines will not meet Australia's operational needs in the decades ahead. With their superior stealth, speed, endurance and manoeuvrability, nuclear-powered submarines are the best option to meet Australia's strategic and defence capability requirements over the coming decades.*

*Our Collins-class submarines will continue to be Australia's most potent and agile deterrent and offensive capability until they are replaced by the nuclear-powered submarines. The Collins-class remains one of the most capable conventionally-powered submarines in the world. All six of our Collins-class submarines will undergo significant upgrades as part of the life-of-type extension program.*

*At this important and pivotal time, I am confident I leave Navy in great hands. Rear Admiral Hammond is an exceptional leader, and a submariner with experience in Australian and Dutch conventional submarines, and French, British and US nuclear attack submarines.*

*I congratulate him on being appointed as our next Chief of Navy.*

*My thanks and very best wishes to you all.*

**Vice Admiral Michael Noonan**

[www.asapress.com.au](http://www.asapress.com.au)

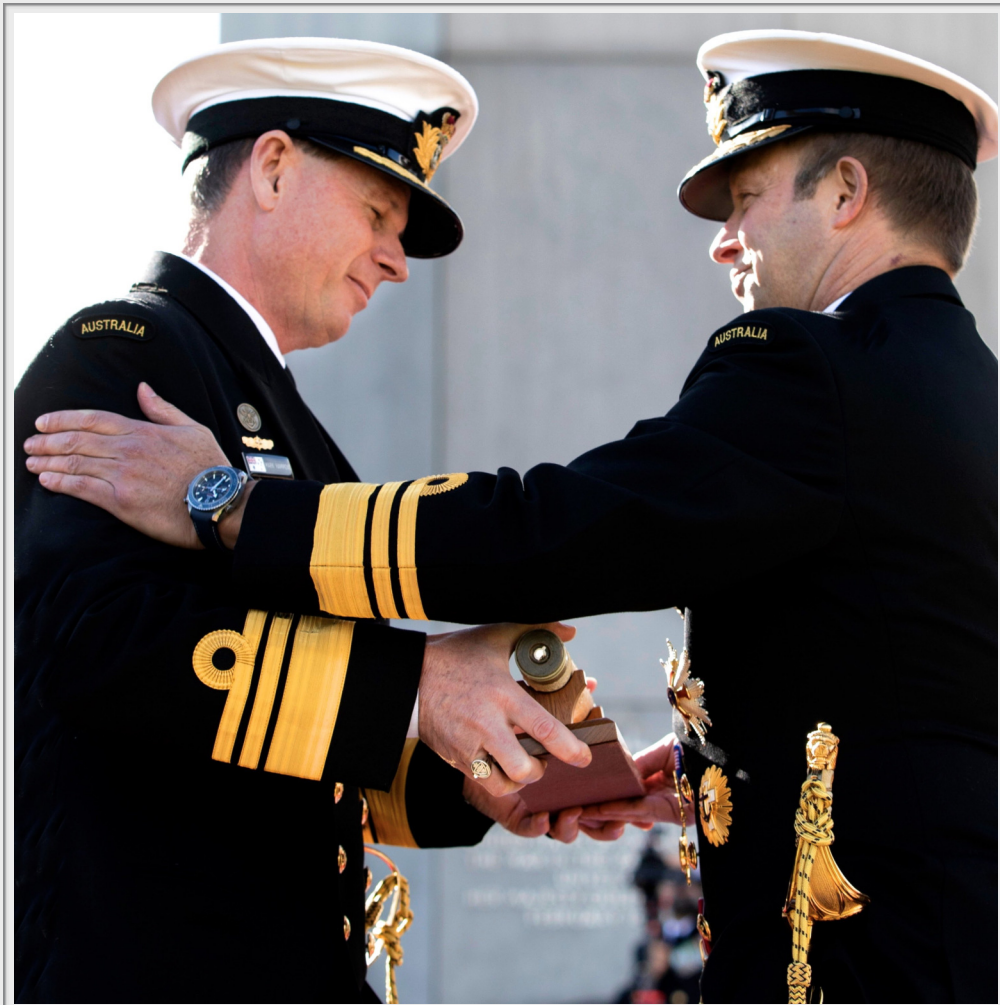


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**CHIEF of NAVY - FINAL SALUTE**

*Vice Admiral Mike Noonan presenting the 'weight'  
to incoming Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Hammond.*



## Defence Strategic Review ...

On 3 August 2022 in a joint message from the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr Greg Moriarty and the Chief of the Australian Defence Force, General Angus J Campbell, AO, DSC, it was announced that the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon Richard Marles MP, had launched a Defence Strategic Review <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/defence-strategic-review>

The Defence Strategic Review will analyse Defence's capability investment prioritisation and assess the structure, posture and preparedness of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This important work will help to optimise Defence's ability to meet the nation's security challenges over the next decade and beyond.

The Government has been clear on what it expects the Review and its recommendations to deliver.

The Review will:

- outline the future strategic challenges facing Australia that may require an ADF response;*
- identify and prioritise the infrastructure, estate, disposition, logistics and security investments required to provide Australia with the Defence force posture it needs by 2032-33;*
- consider all elements of the Integrated Investment Program and provide recommendations for the Program's reprioritisation, particularly in light of recently announced large-sale projects, to provide Australia with the force structure required by 2032-33;*
- outline the investments required to support Defence preparedness and mobilisation needs to 2032-33; and*
- outline funding needs to 2032-33 to ensure long-term strategic investments are progressed.*

Overseeing the Review are two Independent Leads, Professor the Hon Stephen Smith, former Minister for Defence, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd), former Chief of the Defence Force.

Professor Smith and Sir Angus will deliver the Defence Strategic Review and its recommendations to Government in early 2023.

## Exercise RIMPAC 2022 ...

Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 was hosted by the US Navy in the Hawaiian operational area and in waters off southern California between 29 June and 4 August 2022.

This year, RIMPAC witnessed the participation of around 25,000 personnel, 170 aircraft, three submarines, over 30 un-crewed systems, 38 surface ships and nine national land forces from across 26 countries.

RIMPAC 2022 Combined Task Force (CTF) Commander and US Navy Vice-Admiral Michael Boyle said:

"By coming together as capable, adaptive partners, and in [the] scale that we are, we are making a statement about our commitment to work together, to foster and sustain those relationships that are critical to ensuring safety of sea lanes and security of world's interconnected oceans."

During the month-long exercise, the participants performed a wide variety of maritime training drills, including disaster relief, security operations, sea control and complex war fighting.

In a first, the Royal New Zealand Navy's fleet tanker HMNZS Aotearoa participated in the exercise to conduct replenishment of the multinational ships at the sea.

The exercise also involved the first-ever embedded use of the MQ-9A and MQ-9B un-crewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) along with un-crewed surface vessels (USVs), namely Nomad, Ranger, Sea Hawk and Sea Hunter.

Furthermore, the Royal Malaysian Navy's vessel KD Leskir (F26) conducted the first ever, live missile firing outside [of] domestic waters.

RIMPAC 2022 Deputy Commander and Royal Canadian Navy Rear Admiral Christopher Robinson said:

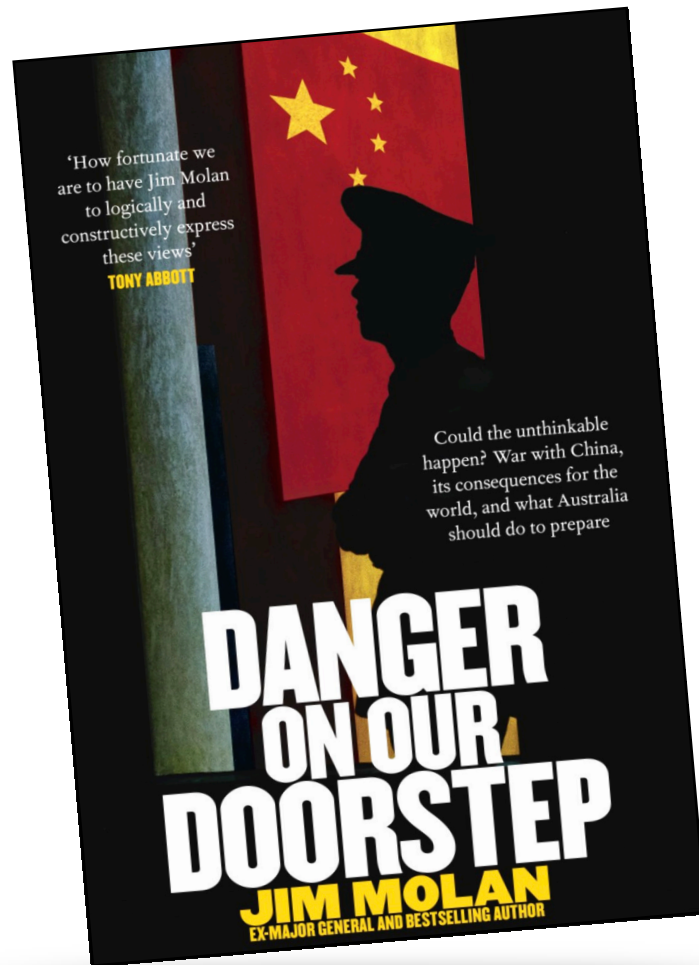
"This exercise provides tremendous training value, enabling partners to build skills and refine procedures through working together. Part of this comes from seeing how other partners approach similar scenarios, offering new perspectives."

RIMPAC 2022 saw an Australian contingent of approximately 1,600 personnel, HMA Ships Canberra, Supply and Warramunga, two RAAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving capabilities, and a Joint Landing



#### RIMPAC 2022

*Australian contingent of approximately 1,600 personnel, HMA Ships Canberra, Supply and Warramunga, two RAAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving capabilities, and a Joint Landing Force led by the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment take part.*



Force led by the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment take part.

Prior to the exercise commencing, the recently appointed Chief of the Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, said:

“Working with our regional partners is critical for remaining an agile and ready force,”

“We appreciate the opportunity to work with like-minded partners to test our interoperability and responsiveness”.

### **Growing Tension Between China and the West Over Taiwan**

Coinciding with growing tensions between China and the U.S. surrounding U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan came the release of Australian Senator, and former Major General, Jim Molan's book *Danger on Our Doorstep*.

A review on the goodreads.com web page describes Molan's book as:

*‘a sober assessment in which Molan examines the present and growing danger of China's rise, not just to Taiwan, Japan and other countries in the immediate region, but also to the geopolitical balance of power as it has existed since the end of World War II.*

He suggests what China's endgame is, how war might start, what war with China would look like and, importantly, what Australia's best interests and options are.

Acknowledging the increasing awareness of possible conflict, he stresses how important it is to prepare for the right war, not the war we would prefer to fight, or the one we think might never happen’.

*Danger on Our Doorstep* is available from a variety of booksellers online and in book stores. [JP](#)





## Young Dental Assistant ... is all smiles

**A**ble Seaman Dental Assistant, Sharni Simpson, at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022.

Able Seaman Simpson is posted to HMAS Kuttubul in Sydney where she works out of the dental facility at the base's medical centre. For RIMPAC however, she deployed in a completely different role as a Battle Watchkeeper Assistant at the RIMPAC Australian National Command Element (ASNCE)

Approximately 1,600 Australian Defence Force personnel have joined twenty-six international partners to undertake the world's largest international maritime exercise.

Held across training areas in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California from 29 June to 04 August 2022, Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2022 (RIMPAC) is a biennial international

military exercise hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The ADF contribution is substantial including HMA Ships Canberra, Supply and Warramunga, two RAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft, a submarine, mine warfare and clearance diving capabilities, and a Joint Landing Force led by the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment accompanied by personnel and capabilities from across Australian Army units.

RIMPAC aims to be the premier joint combined maritime exercise and enables Australia to strengthen international partnerships, enhance interoperability and improve readiness for a wide range of potential operations.

This year RIMPAC will feature twenty-six nations, 38 surface ships, four submarines, nine national land forces, more than 170 aircraft and approximately 25,000 personnel. [read less](#)







## Australian Navy Cadets – TS Tingira

Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) is a leading provider of youth development experiences for Australian residents aged 12½ to 19 years old, sponsored by the Royal Australian Navy. It aims to build teamwork and leadership skills in young people through exciting and rewarding maritime activities and quality learning opportunities.



Adventure and fun are the key ingredients for activities covering everything nautical from sailing, knots, powerboating, seamanship and marching, to camps, ceremonial parades and events, sailing regattas and interstate trips. We also help you learn skills you will need in the future: leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, independence, resilience, trust and respect.

The life skills that Cadets learn complement their academic achievements and stand them in good stead for rewarding careers.

### How do I join?

Come and visit the unit, based at HMAS Cerberus in Crib Point for a few weeks see if you like it, then complete the application paperwork. Once this is complete and the joining fee is paid we kit you out with your uniform (on loan) and welcome you to TS Tingira.

EMAIL.

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

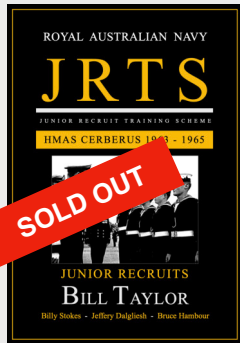




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**TINGIRA BOW TIE CUMMERBUND**  
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\$250  
Plus  
**Associates**  
Life Member



**TINGIRA MEMBERSHIP BADGE**  
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VETERAN SERVICES

# RSL LifeCare Veteran Services

One team supporting veterans and their families

**T**he delivery of Veteran Services has been core to RSL LifeCare since its beginnings over 100 years ago. Now, we have combined the services of RSL DefenceCare and our range of other contemporary services for veterans and their families under the one banner, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services.

In 2020, RSL LifeCare extended its support and focus on veterans from those in RSL LifeCare aged care facilities, to include veterans and their families across the state with wellbeing services like financial assistance, employment support, housing and DVA claims expertise.

As part of this support, several programs have been acquired or developed by RSL LifeCare, including RSL DefenceCare transitioning from our partner charity RSL NSW, bringing the Homes for Heroes program in-house, delivering the RSL Veterans' Employment Program on behalf of RSL NSW, continuing the Spur Equine Program, and opening two Veteran Wellbeing Centres.

Each of these programs, dedicated to supporting different areas of wellbeing for veterans and their families, now sit under the single RSL LifeCare

Veteran Services brand, making it easier for veterans and their families to know where to turn for support and guidance. There will be no change to the professional services or the dedication of our team members

The team at RSL LifeCare are very excited to be moving forward as one, supporting veterans and their families with Wellbeing support, DVA Claims and Advocacy, Employment Assistance, Homeless and Housing support and the Spur Equine Program.

Veterans and their families can access the range of services in person at our Veteran Wellbeing Centres in Nowra and Wagga, on ADF Bases for current-serving members or via telephone and video conference from anywhere across New South Wales.

The services we deliver would not be possible without donations from our supporters, including our partner charity RSL NSW and its sub-Branches. In 2021, RSL NSW donated \$2.1 million to support the ongoing delivery of our services to veterans and their families.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**I am currently receiving support from an RSL DefenceCare team member, will this continue, and will it be the same person?**

**A.** Yes, you will still continue to work with the same professional and dedicated team member.

**Will RSL NSW continue to support RSL LifeCare Veteran Services?**

**A.** Yes, RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare continue to partner on the delivery of services to veterans and their families. RSL LifeCare Veteran Services is a key part of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan, and the two charities are working closely to deliver Veteran Wellbeing Centres in regions that need them.

**Will RSL LifeCare Veteran Services continue to visit Defence bases?**

**A.** Yes, all current arrangements with ADF bases will continue.

**How do I contact the RSL LifeCare Veteran Services team?**

**A.** You can contact our team via phone, email or online:

- P: (02) 8088 0388
- E: [info@rsllifecare.org.au](mailto:info@rsllifecare.org.au)
- W: [rsllifecare.org.au/veteran-services](http://rsllifecare.org.au/veteran-services)

**Can my RSL sub-Branch still donate to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services or one of its programs?**

**A.** Yes, sub-Branch contributions to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services should be made via the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund as outlined in RSL NSW Standard Operating Procedure 1.

**How do I make a donation to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services?**

**A.** Donations can be made online at [www.rsllifecare.org.au/veteran-services/donate](http://www.rsllifecare.org.au/veteran-services/donate), or you can submit an enquiry to [donations@rsllifecare.org.au](mailto:donations@rsllifecare.org.au)

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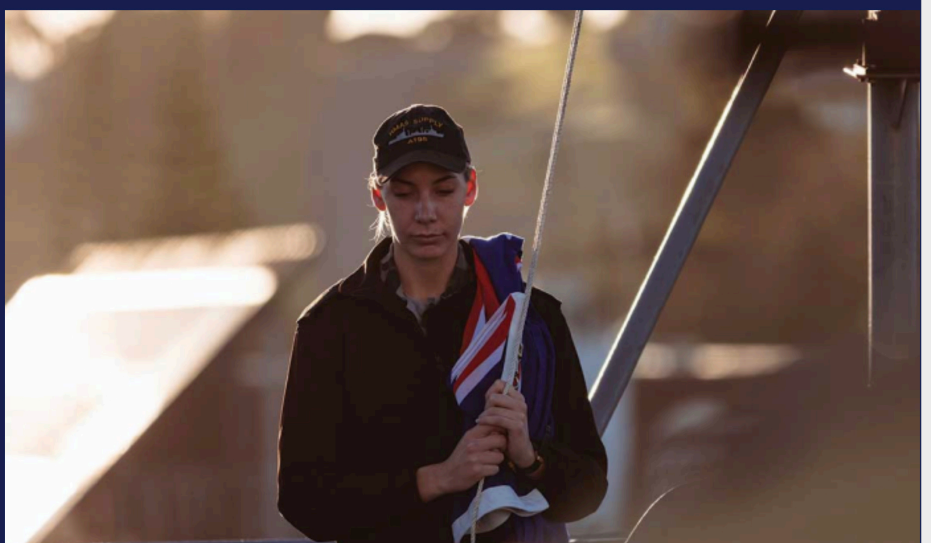
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# Your Veteran Services



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

## Another sailor makes 'Chief of Navy' rank

**T**he Royal Australian Navy has welcomed the new Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN, during a recent 'Change of Command' ceremony in Canberra.

Outgoing Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN, said it had been an honour to lead the Navy through an extraordinary four years.

"I sincerely thank the men and women of our Navy for their hard work and dedication during my term, and particularly during the past two and a half years.

"Our people have shown exceptional resilience, strength and adaptability in challenging times. They have provided unprecedented support for the Australian community during COVID-19, the 2019-20 bushfires and recent floods, while also maintaining Navy's consistent presence in the South West Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific region.

"Navy is undergoing its biggest evolution since the Second World War in order to respond to a dynamic strategic environment. At this important time, I am confident I leave Navy in great hands. Vice Admiral Hammond is an exceptional leader and I congratulate him on taking command of the Royal Australian Navy today."

Vice Admiral Hammond said he was honoured to assume command of the Navy.

"The Officers and Sailors of our Navy reflect the very best of Australian society. They are Australians who are ready to defend Australia and its national interests in the maritime domain, and work incredibly hard to protect our maritime approaches and vital trade routes. I am deeply honoured to work with these extraordinary people, and to lead them as Chief of Navy.

"I want to thank Vice Admiral Noonan for his 38 years of distinguished service and his four years as our Chief of Navy during which Navy's workforce grew to more than 15,000 people.

"His term was one of significant change. Navy commissioned two Hobart Class destroyers, HMA Ships Brisbane and Sydney, and two new Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ships, HMA Ships Supply and Stalwart. Defence also launched NUSHIP Arafura, the first of 12 Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, and took ownership of its first evolved Cape Class Patrol Boat.

"Government approved Navy's future workforce growth to more than 20,000 people by 2040, and announced that at least eight nuclear powered submarines would be acquired for the Royal Australian Navy through the

AUKUS trilateral agreement between Australia, the UK, and US.

"I commit to building upon Vice Admiral Noonan's work to evolve Navy's Fleet and grow our Service.

"It's an important time to be part of the Navy, and we will continue to work closely with industry and our international partners to maintain maritime security and a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

Vice Admiral Hammond served as Commander Australian Fleet from 2020 and as Deputy Chief of Navy from 2018 to 2020.

He joined Navy in 1986 as a sailor to become an electronics technician and was then commissioned as an officer in 1988. Vice Admiral Hammond has had an extensive career as a submariner, and served as Commanding Officer of HMAS Farncomb.

He has had sea experience in French, British and US nuclear attack submarines, Australian and Dutch conventional submarines, and multiple surface vessels.

Vice Admiral Hammond is the first graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy to become Chief of Navy and the second sailor, after former Tingira Boy Junior Recruit, Vice Admiral Russ Crane was CN in 2008.



**CHIEF of NAVY**  
*Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN,*



## Chief of Navy Australia



# CHANGE of COMMAND

## Chief of Navy - Speech

Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN

“ Good Morning Mr Secretary, Chief of Defence, VADM Noonan, distinguished Guests, Foreign Defence Representatives, Fellow members of our Navy, our Defence Force, and our Department.

*It is an honour to be here in Ngunnawal country with you this morning, and it is an absolute privilege to be entrusted with Command of Our Navy and membership of our most Senior Defence Leadership Team.*

*I am accompanied today by my wife Jodi and my son Josh. Our daughter Jessica is currently deployed. To my family I say thank you for your ongoing love and support as we serve our Nation.*

*I would like to begin by acknowledging our 1550 Officers and Sailors who today serve on, above, and under the ocean as we meet. We owe you nothing short of our very best and I will begin each day with that in mind.*

*Today I am humbled, energised and restless. But first, Mike, today as we haul down your Flag as our Chief of Navy and you step ashore for the final time, I want to acknowledge a remarkable 38 years of service to our country, and of service to our Navy, our shipmates, and to the wider Defence Family, both in and out of uniform.*

*Today, I submit that as you reflect, be proud of your multitude of professional achievements.*

*The list of these achievements is long – your efforts to set us on a path to grow our Navy to 21 000 will be a legacy that impacts a generation of our sailors – but I suspect it is your time in Command of Parramatta, and the shipmates you have served with over the years, that are possibly your most treasured memories.*

*I commend your personal investment in working to enhance conditions of service, and efforts to ensure appropriate recognition of our people throughout your career.*

*You have led from the front – and set us on the right course during challenging times - our Navy is distinctly better for your leadership.*

*On behalf of the Officers and Sailors of our Navy I sincerely thank you and wish you the very best for all that lies ahead. As I accept the weight of responsibility as Chief of Navy I am conscious that for 121 years Australians have volunteered to protect and advance our National interests while wearing the uniform of the Royal Australian Navy.*



**1986 - HMAS CERBERUS RECRUIT SCHOOL**  
Seaman Recruit Mark Hammond - Back row, top left

*For 121 years our Nation has expected us to be ready to fight and win at sea – wherever and whenever directed by our government to do so.*

*Today, as begin my watch and scan the horizon, I am at once, humbled, energised and restless as I contemplate the next four years. I am humbled to be entrusted with serving, and leading, our diverse, talented and dedicated people across our Navy.*

*They deserve no less than our very best each day.*

*As our shipmates sail the regions oceans; we must ensure that, each of us is absolutely confident that we have done humanly and legally possible to ready them, equip them and enable them to confidently face all contingencies.*

*In my view there is no greater responsibility than that which a leader has to their team, and I am humbled by this responsibility.*

*I am also energized. I am energised by the opportunities, and challenges ahead.*

*While we may be uncertain of what the future holds, we are certainly the beneficiaries of unprecedented investments by successive governments in our Navy's future.*

*We must value this investment by our nation and act with urgency to ensure our Navy, and our ADF is ready for tomorrow. This challenge energises me.*

*And I am restless. I am restless as our environment increasingly demands that we act to our full potential – as ready for tomorrow as we are today.*

*There is a palpable electricity in the air above the seas across our region, and the risks confronting our Navy teams who are operating far from home are real.*

*In this context, there is much to be done, and little time to do it.*

*This demands a restless approach. An approach that does not accept the status quo, does not flinch from challenge, and one that realises a high-functioning fighting culture in our Navy. 35 years and 336 days have passed since I walked into Recruit School as a skinny Adelaide kid from the wrong side of the tracks.*

*Today I am humbled by this opportunity to serve our Officers and Sailors, I am energized by the challenges ahead, and I am restless to cast off lines and get underway. Thank you for your support as we do so.*



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TINGIRA  
National Committee Member

**JEFF WAKE**, OAM, RFD



## LEEWIN Sub Committee

Tingira Australia Association national committee man, Jeff Wake, has been appointed to lead the Tingira Leeuwin sub-Committee 'to discover and report on the Future of Leeuwin' and naval happenings in Western Australia.

Jeff continues to keep the Tingira membership informed via Secretary of all national and statewide Statements, Minutes, Advertisements and Media as presented on the 'Future of Leeuwin' base at East Fremantle, WA.

The Tingira Australia Association has recently expanded this Tingira Leeuwin sub-committee with the addition of two former JR's in the West, Bill Prince and Paul Kalajzich.

The sub - Committee will report on all stages for the future and relevant Defence, Navy, Leeuwin and local Community meetings and correspondence regarding Leeuwin Barracks.

This sub-Committee is expected to last for three to five year period until final settlement of the Leeuwin site and future developments.

## TODAYS NEWSFRONT

### OUR TEAM

Jack & Anita Strong  
UNITED FAMILY OUT WEST

### CRUSADER

Mark Fleming  
DIGGING DEEP INTO OUR PAST

### ON YOUR BIKE

Michael Davey  
FLYING THE CHARITY FLAG

“ I was hoping to report this quarter on some new directions on the future of Leeuwin Barracks. With the new government in place, ample 'PR and Spin' on all things 'Defence' in their first three months at the table, but not to be. leeuwinn Barracks is still gathering dust as I look from my lounge window daily.

We are no wiser for the moment at present, however one would think this classic Federal asset of real estate property on the banks of the Swan River is certainly not on the waste heap, as the talk is all about 'expansion of defence assets and capabilities'.

One thing for sure that we are waiting on, if LB does come back into the navy ranks as a commissioned establishment, it would not be named HMAS Leeuwin whilst the present commissioned ship of that name, is in operation off the Queensland coast.

So I preach today, to read the three major JR stories in this issue, they are exceptional efforts by all, I just shake my head somedays when the Tingira Sec sends them to me to proof read, we just keep kicking goals, BZ JRs, hope to have an update in the Summer issue. **JK**





STRONG



FLEMING



DAVEY



#### HEADSTONE FOR GEORGE

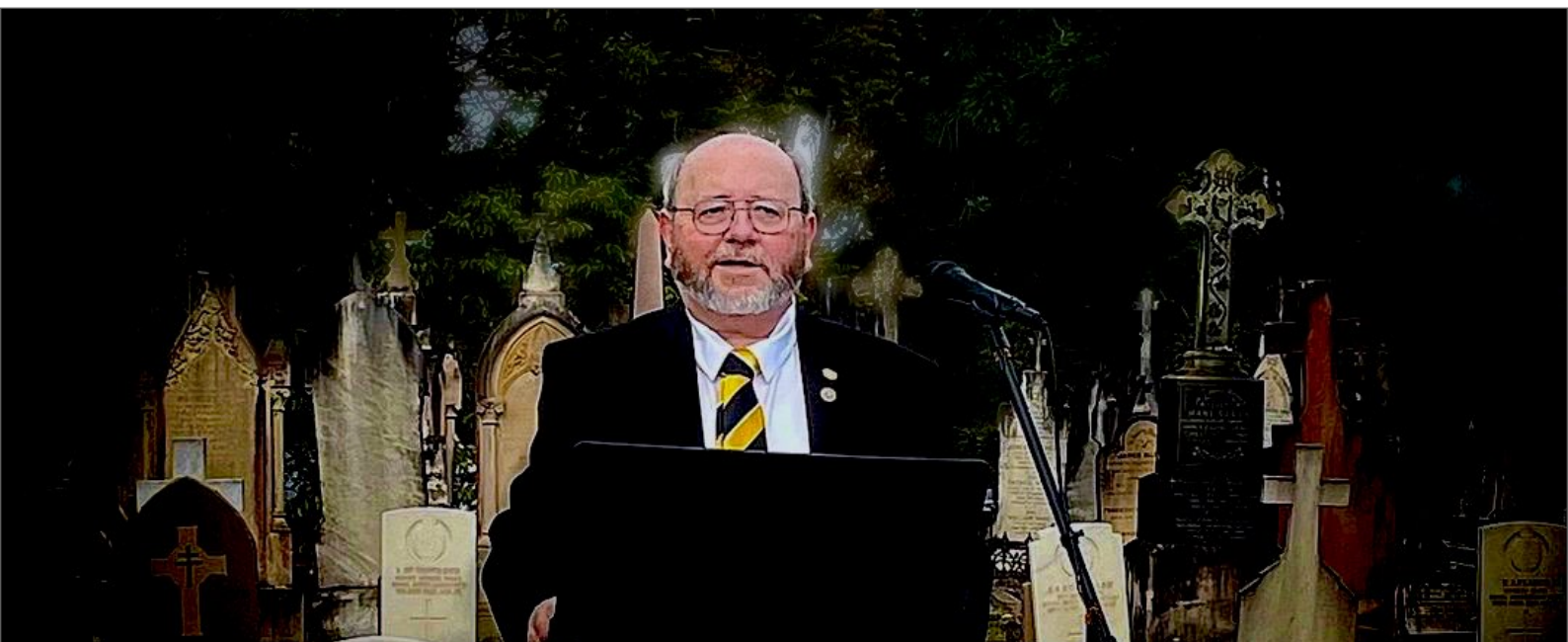
*The new RAN headstone at Sydney's Rookwood cemetery for Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie, dedicated by navy Chaplain, Rev Andrew Watters, 98 years after he was murdered asleep in his bunk on board HMAS Brisbane at Garden Island.*

TINGIRA ASSOCIATE MEMBER

MARK FLEMING

# Conquers the Challenge

RIP - Tingira Boy - George Ritchie



*With his navy days are now firmly in the past winds of time, Tingira Associate member, **MARK FLEMING**, recently embarked on a new challenge in life; to assist the 'Navy War Graves Program' and to assist with some of their more immediate aims.*

*Mark knew little of the 'War Graves Program', however he soon learnt the facts and figures fast, and soon faced his first big challenge; to supply a headstone to former Tingira Boy, 17 year old, Ordinary Seaman, George Ritchie.*

*Shortly after George graduated from HMAS Tingira he drafted onto HMAS Brisbane. A short time later, George was mysteriously murdered, in his bunk on board Brisbane, whilst along side Garden Island.*

*George was one on several navy ratings buried at Sydney's Rookwood cemetery with no headstone. Mark Fleming and his team set a task to assist George Ritchies fate, deliver him a recognised navy headstone, all be it 98 years later!*

*BZ Mark Fleming and shipmates!*





**MARK FLEMING - PROJECT PROUD**

*Mark Fleming at the new headstone of George Ritchie,  
a proud moment and wonderful achievement for him and his  
dedicated group on the war graves project.*

“Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman. Welcome to this dedication service for Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie.

My name is Mark Fleming, founder of this 'Naval Graves Project' to have a headstone and dedication service for Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie of the Royal Australian Navy.

The aims of the Naval Graves Project are “Research, Record, Remember”. Our research is done, the record is now written in stone, today with your help we remember. We are on very special ground, from so many points of view, religious, cultural and naval.

In this Cemetery, and in this section in particular, rest Australian sailors killed in action, not just the five Kuttatubul men, we have a sailor who fell in Vietnam resting here as well. The nature of Naval Warfare does not allow many burials ashore, most of our fallen rest with their ships, to quote the naval ode, “a rusting hulk is their tombstone, afast on the ocean bed”. Please spare a thought for those who rest with “no flowers at their head”. Every naval grave is also their grave.

There are three Naval Sections within Rookwood, none are well known, but this, the smallest of the three sections, is easily overlooked. I appreciate that Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria have listed this section on their self-guided tour and have erected signage regarding the sinking of the HMAS Kuttatubul on 1 June 1942, the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of which is not long past. There are 66 men and 1 woman buried here.

The first burial was Dec 1899 and the last June 1986.

As 'The Project' researched and recorded the stories of our shipmates who rest here, we paid particular attention to the seven unmarked graves, we now know who rests in them all. There were three RAN, two RN graves and two French graves unmarked.

Now there are only six unmarked graves.

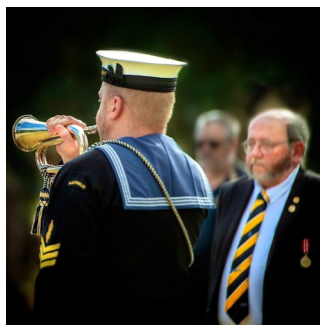
Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie was buried here with full naval honours some 98 years ago. He has lain for all that time, unmarked and largely forgotten by all but family and the Naval Graves Project.

Today we gather, to in a very real way, to give George his name back, so that from this day forward his name is displayed for all to see that here, in this grave, rests George Ritchie a sailor of the Royal Australian Navy.

George Ritchie's story stood out from among stories of the other unmarked men, he did not die of illness, in an accident ashore or at his own hand, he was murdered onboard his ship.

We felt this made his case different to the others and we decided to do something about it. The campaign to get a headstone for George lasted approximately one month, George's age and sad fate touched many hearts.

I need to tell you, that two members of the NGP were so touched by George's story they offered to purchase a stone for him, because “if he was our boy we would want him to have a headstone” however other sources too were touched and in an act of grace the headstone we dedicate today was provided.



George was born on Tuesday 17 July 1906 in Melton, Victoria. He was the first of six children born to Annie Cecilia Quinane and David Murray Ritchie between 1906 and 1917. Annie was to die on 20 June 1922 shortly before George joined the Navy on 19 July. How hard it must have been for him to lose his mother and then leave the family home in such a short time.

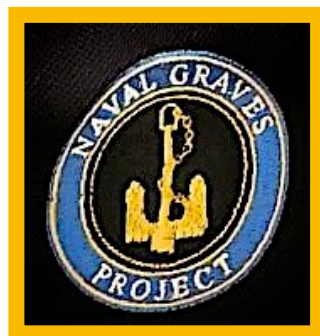
George was a Tingira Boy. That is a term used for the Navy's boy seaman, those who joined before 18 years of age. HMAS Tingira was originally the ex English Clipper Ship Sobroan. She then became School Training Ship Sobroan, run by the NSW Education Department, and was anchored at Cockatoo Island for underprivileged children.

In 1911 the Sobroan was purchased for her third life, by the Commonwealth Government and taken in hand for conversion as our first Australian navy training ship. Her masts were cut and she was painted white from top to tail forward to aft. She was commissioned on 25 April 1912, three years before Anzac Day.

As a vessel of the RAN Tingira was again moored in a new waterway at Rose Bay. Training of all Boy Seaman took place onboard her from 1912 to 1927. The boys had to be between 14 ½ and 16 years on joining and were to serve a return of service of seven years commencing from their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A second generation of Tingira Boys joined the RAN from 1960 to 1984 known as Junior Recruits; many are still serving today in the RAN. One Junior Recruit boy, Russ Crane, made Vice Admiral and Chief of Navy in 2010, the highest rank in the RAN today.

George was one of 3,158 boys who were trained in the original HMAS Tingira and one of five Tingira Boys





## STORM CLOUDS FLOUNDER FOR OUR SERVICE OF RESPECT

*About 30 persons attended the dedication for George and were also treated to late morning tea provided by the Catholic cemeteries section of Rookwood cemetery*

buried in the Catholic Naval Section. George Pages grave, Michael Mackey who rests next to George in grave, Kevin Young grave and Emile Mason grave

George joined Tingira on 19 Jul 1922 when he was 16 and was rated as a Boy Seaman Class 2 and after some training was rated as a Boy Seaman Class in Jun 1923. He made the rating of Ordinary Seaman Class 2 on the July 1923 when he turned 17.

On 3 Oct that year he joined the Light Cruiser HMAS Brisbane (I) and on the 17 Jan 1924 was rated as an Ordinary Seaman. Sadly, the Brisbane was to be his first and last warship.

In the early morning hours of 18 April 1924, he was murdered while in his hammock, his throat was cut and he suffered a severe blow to the head.

He was officially declared dead by Surgeon Lieutenant Thomas Kidston, medical guard officer of HMAS Penguin. George was only 17 years 9 months old.

The order to 'clear lower deck' was given, and the crew mustered, it was found that one of the ships company, a Cook, George Brown was missing. The ship was searched, and the body of George Brown was found hanging in the refrigeration room. The Sydney Water Police took over the investigation resulting in a Coronial Inquiry held upon the ship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1924.

Coroner Mr Jamieson found that "George Ritchie was murdered by George Brown who later committed suicide".

He then decided to comment of matters outside of his experience saying that he believed that naval discipline was too rigid and that the crew felt "it would not be wise to report to any officer a matter they would not be able to substantiate". He made these statements based on the rumours and tales that sprang up around

George's murder and regardless of having had the divisional system explained to him.

In the Navy the divisional system is in place to ensure that the concerns and welfare of its people are addressed, it has been my experience, it works. The Coroner's misunderstanding of naval discipline did not help the situation, the Press wasted little time reporting this.

At first the Navy had been content to accept the civilian investigation, however the Coroner's statement and the reaction in the press prompted the Naval Board, against the advice of serving officers to proceed with its own Inquiry.

The Naval Court of Inquiry found that the evidence against George Brown was circumstantial, and no motive was apparent, The Officers of the Inquiry found that "Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie met his death at the hands of someone unknown" but they went on to state Cook Brown "is indicated strongly as having been the murderer".

The Court's finding was based on the facts and not the "buzzes" or stories that surround any major incident. The simple truth is we do not know who killed George, we can suspect or reason, but we do not know. The records of the Court of Inquiry are available as a free download from the Australian National Archives. Newspapers report that both George Ritchie and Brown were buried at Rookwood on Saturday the 19 April 1924.

George Brown in the RAN Cemetery in Anglican section four and George Ritchie here in the Catholic Naval section.

The Daily Telegraph of Monday 21 April 1924 reported that "14 seaman of the ship (HMAS Brisbane), all young Australians attended", it went on to report "half of their number constituted a firing party and carried reversed arms".



The Brisbane Telegraph reported that “about 200 civilians witnessed the service, including many women” The service was carried out by the Brisbane’s Catholic Chaplain, Father Adrian Martin, assisted by a Father Clancy.

Both reports stated George Brown was buried at Rookwood the same day, “there were few to witness his burial” is all that was reported. George Brown, guilty or not, is not forgotten by the Naval Graves Project. Neither George Ritchie nor George Brown received a headstone. This was due to Policy at the time which stated that those not killed in the line of duty would not receive a headstone at Government expense, but one could be provided by the ship’s own funds. This was no new policy, Navy was following an old policy, handed down from the Royal Navy.

I draw your attention to several headstones here that have “erected by” inscribed upon them, these headstones were provided by private funds, either the family and or by a collection among the ship’s company of the sailor’s ship. Such headstones are present within all three Naval sections in Rookwood.

In later years this policy has been difficult to understand as it was inconsistently applied. Within this section, there rest men who have lost their lives in off duty Motor Vehicle Accidents who have had naval burials and headstones provided.

One such sailor is 17 year old SMNQMG Bradley Thomas Wine, of HMAS Brisbane (II) who was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Suva, Fiji, July 1985.

Yet in the official RAN cemetery in Rookwood, there rest others unmarked who were lost to us in MVA’s.

I ask you to stop for a moment to think of how small a world it is ... two sailors both 17 years old from ships called the Brisbane, lay just meters and 61 years apart. I would ask you not to be critical of the navy, it like us, all need to operate within certain rules. The admirals did not have the discretion to order a headstone outside of regulations then or now, they simply couldn’t fund a headstone.

Being a civilian organisation allows the NGP a freedom of expression and action denied the Navy, we were able to say that, in George’s case this is wrong and ask, not demand, ask for it to be corrected.

For George, today we celebrate his life by the provision of a headstone, George Ritchie had the honour of a Naval Funeral in 1924. In 2022 he

enjoys the honour of a naval headstone and what matters is the Navy is here today, that the Navy does not forget those who have served in its ranks.

Thanks also to Amanda Hill & Corey Wiegold of the Office of Australian War Graves for their support and compassion for George Ritchie’s story and facilitating the installation of the headstone.

Peter O’Meara of Catholic Cemeteries for his support for our research and activities in Catholic Cemeteries Sydney wide and special thanks to Jo Davenport for her interest and support of our research and the services held here especially today. Thank you, Bruce Legge from Heritage Memorials. Mr Alex McRae, of Grove Hire who have provided support by provision of seating and tables today.

Captain Victor Pilicic of HMAS Kuttabul for his interest and support for all the Naval sections within Rookwood.

Commander Kingsley Scarce, Commanding Officer of the current HMAS Brisbane for showing us all the pride he and his ship’s company have in the wonderful legacy passed down from ship to ship carrying the proud name Brisbane.

Chaplain Rev Andrew Watters, my friend and fellow historian for his support and championing George to the Navy.

Chaplain Fr Adrian Cooke, for the dedication and blessing. Ross and Margaret Beecham, for their unflagging support of the Naval Graves Project. Karim Anwar, for his support and practical aid in all aspects of the NGP.

Apologies from Tingira Australia Association President Brad Murphy, and Secretary Mark Lee, who cannot be with us today have given the associations support to the project. My thanks and gratitude to every member of the Naval Graves Project and lastly but in no way least of all, everyone of you who have attended today.

The modern day Tingira motto “Long Live Tingira - Mates For Life” is alive and well here amongst us at Rookwood today.

Rest in Peace Ordinary Seaman George Ritchie, you are no longer forgotten.

**Lest We Forget** **MF**

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# POSTIE JRs

That's one extra long postie run lads



## ON MY BIKE

*Former JR Michael Davey - Waving his 'Wally flag' on the Nullarbor, just east of the Balladonia Roadhouse on his round Australia adventure.*

*Travelling 14,500 km around Australia  
on a 'postie' Honda,  
former RAN Junior Recruit Michael Davey  
and his team tell of their journey ...*

**T**hree former RAN Junior Recruits rode around Australia in order to raise funds for suicide prevention in the defence and veterans community.

From the HMAS Leeuwin intake, Marks 46th Michael Davey, was joined by Joseph Kolossa and David Mace, both Stevenson 47th intake Divisions. The trio all met at HMAS Albatross, Nowra, as 16 year olds the following year in 1975 when they trained as navy aircraft weapons/electrical ratings.

With the aim to tour Australia on their little 'Australia Post' step through Hondas, the team left Nowra on June 21.

Heading north on Highway 1 to Brisbane on their beloved 'postie bikes', these boys were living their dream of many years. Michael made it to Mackay in Queensland when he noticed his wet clutch was slipping. After waiting three days for a part to arrive, he rode on to Townsville.

"It was a shame that part didn't arrive after being stuck in one place," Michael said. 'But then my bike blew up in Townsville,' he added. "The upside was going to the Royal Commission in Townsville and meeting the commissioners and sharing my concerns for defence and veteran's suicide."

The team had numerous radio and TV interviews around the country. "We want to raise awareness

and funds for those in need, and depression and anxiety,' Michael often said. "We want to inspire and encourage people who find themselves in a dark place to start a conversation with a friend, and in the process seek professional help."

The journey followed Highway 1 in a counter-clockwise direction and spanned almost 15,000 kilometres to complete a full lap of Australia.



*The classic little Honda bike  
on a RFDS airstrip on the Eyer Highway*

"We served our country on warships over many years between us and now we want to help people who serve or who have served, and are suffering trauma from their service," Michael said.

"We're trying to inspire defence personnel and veterans to start a conversation, to chat with someone, that's the single most important thing you

can do. You're not weak if you're suffering depression and it's not weak to seek professional help, that's a sign of strength."

Michael's son is a medical officer in the Navy. "My boy said it was good we're supporting the 'Soldier On' charity because a young veteran came back from Afghanistan suffering from PTSD and took his own life, then his best friend committed suicide in sympathy and that breaks my heart," Michael said with a watery eye.

The Soldier On group advocates for defence personnel and veterans and was a natural choice for the trio.





### ON THE RED DUST - NT BORDER

*Rhonda Hawkins, David Mace, Joseph Kolossa, Barbara Davey and Michael Davey.*

They will also be standing behind Soldier On's motto of HELP - Health and Wellbeing, Employment Support, Learning and Education and Participation, which results in social connection.

The trio are dressed as 'Where's Wally' for the ride. "We've been a bunch of Wally's riding around," Michael laughed. "It's something we're doing because people suffering mental illness are hard to find, they're trying to blend in and hide their symptoms, so that's the metaphor.

The journey around Australia hasn't always been smooth sailing. We crossed multiple causeways that had crocodiles in it along with becoming severely dehydrated in Darwin. There have been multiple mechanical issues along the way.

We do big kilometres every day, up to 600, but generally aim for around 500, so that has created problems as postie bikes aren't designed to sit on 80 kilometres per hour all day long."

Michael has ridden a pushbike around Australia for children suffering cancer, but this ride was personal as he almost took his own life, having suffered PTSD. "I've wanted to make a simple

statement as I rode around Australia; don't make a mistake that you can't come back from. If you suffer mental trauma, you still have your whole life ahead of you. Just go and get professional help. That's the key to healing."

Michael also reflected on how much he's been touched by the giving of Australians on his journey. "We've been amazed at the generosity around the country, and we've had pretty much free accommodation all the way which has been brilliant."

Michael arrived back in Nowra on August 5.

The 14,500 km lap of the country only took 46 days, a bit over six weeks and has raised \$40,000 for Soldier On. "I am yet to ride through Tasmania and the ACT, so I'm really stoked with how much we have raised in such a short time," Michael said. "I'm hoping we can eventually reach our target of \$100,000. But realistically, I will have to go again next year to realise this dream."

To learn more about the journey or to donate, visit [apostieride4ptsd.com.au](http://apostieride4ptsd.com.au), and follow the ride through Tasmania and the ACT on their public Facebook group [apostieride4ptsd](https://www.facebook.com/apostieride4ptsd). MD





## TIME OUT RIDERS

Michael Davey, Barbara Davey, David Mace and Joseph Kolossa.

**W**e made it home last Friday after 6 weeks and four days on Highway 1 on my postie raising funds for Soldier On.

Travelled 14,500 kms. After losing \$4,000 when my first bike blew up and forking out \$7,500 for a new one, our journey has been an expensive one, especially when one considers the lost income both Barbie and I endured.

But you know what? If just one defence/veteran person decides not to commit suicide because they have been inspired by what we have done, then its money well spent.

I will go through Tasmania in early October and on the way back will ride through the ACT, calling in to see the Prime Minister. I've carried a letter with me all the way around our country (great idea Owen Nicholls) that clearly details the changes that I feel need to be made to prevent further suicides in Defence and in the Veteran's community. A journalist with SBS heard about this and wants to cover the event.

We have raised \$35,000 in just a bit over six weeks. You can still donate if you like to our cause [www.apostieride4ptsd.com.au](http://www.apostieride4ptsd.com.au) now that we have completed a lap of the mainland on Highway one.

Some interesting facts about the ride:

- 2,300 kms on my first postie bike. 12,200 kms on Wally, my new bike.
- We crossed five causeways up north that had crocs in them, though we didn't see any.

- I rode close to 5,000 kms with a fuel filter issue that was quite problematic. Even after taking off the fuel tank, draining and flushing it with clean petrol. I also tried metho and injector cleaner, but to no avail.

- 46 nights away with free accommodation on 44 of those.

I was dehydrated up north and almost froze down south - riding at 80 km/hr is like being in wind with a chill factor of minus 10 degrees. Brrrr!

My original postie took me 150 kms on a full tank. Wally took me 200. I changed the oil every 2,000 kms (no oil filter on a postie bike) and had two services on Wally so as not to void the warranty. Although, the Honda dealer in Geraldton didn't tighten the rear axle properly. I'm fortunate I noticed it in Albany. Loose it was.

I had an extraordinary number of spare parts for my first bike, but never used them. Guess I will just have to sell them now.

Our support crew were outstanding. Barbie showed remarkable levels of patience and endurance. It was a wonderful effort on her part. David Mace's postie bike showed great performance and remarkable reliability.

Joey blew up his bike just 20 kilometres into the ride.

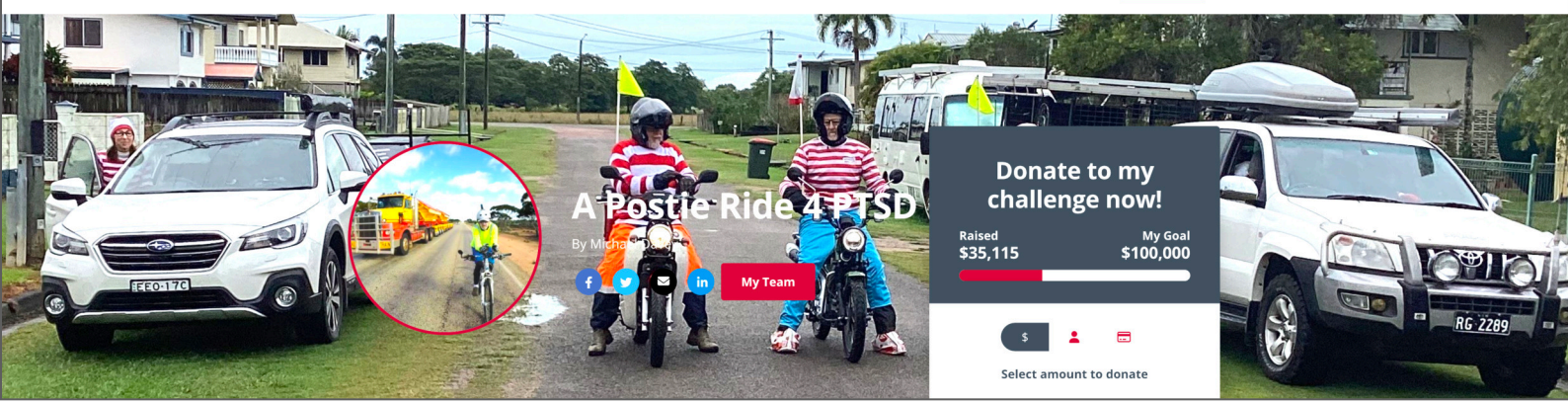
Beyond Blue or Lifeline are available if anything above raises concerns.

**SOLDIER  
ON**

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## WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH SPUR

*We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to support our horses and help run Spur's program of horse handling, horse riding, and trekking programs to support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.*

*Whether you're a veteran or non-veteran and you love horses, with an ability to give your time each week regularly, the Spur team would love to talk to you.*

Spur Ranch, co-located with RSL LifeCare John Goodlet Manor in Picton, south of Sydney, is where the Spur Equine Program is run by Max Streeter, Spur Program Manager – RSL LifeCare Veteran Services.

Spur, designed by veterans for veterans, promotes mental and physical wellbeing for wounded, injured and ill veterans and their families through horse handling and riding courses.

This year, Spur is set to have 100 veterans and veteran partners participate in equine programs, which will soon include the ability to stay on-site at Spur's purpose-built cabins.

Max says, "Spur's programs would not be possible without my crew of guides and instructors who are all volunteers".

Each volunteer gives a regular weekly commitment of time to look after Spur's eleven horses and to help deliver its program of horse handling, horse riding, and horse trekking programs to veterans and veteran families.

**"We make sure that everyone who comes to volunteer here knows they are appreciated."**

Asked what makes Spur's volunteers unique, Max says, "the fact that they are here, giving their time to the program speaks very highly of their character... They are here healing, and helping others do the same."

And, the why volunteer? Max says, "volunteering gives many veterans something in their lives that is more important and bigger than them".







# SPUR

Enabled by our passionate volunteer crew

**A**t Spur Ranch, Max keenly points out that showing appreciation for volunteers is highly important. Max says, “we make sure that everyone who comes to volunteer here knows they are appreciated”.

**“Horses are my happiness,” Pennie Looker.**

Spur Volunteer, Pennie Looker, is a veteran with 19 years’ service with the Australian Army. Pennie reached the rank of Sergeant, in the psychology corps, where she was a Psychology Examiner and was deployed three times in her career.

*Before becoming a Spur volunteer, and now volunteer coordinator, Pennie took part as a participant on Spur’s two-day horse-handling course. She then moved on to complete the horse-riding course and trek through the Snowy Mountains. For Pennie, getting involved with Spur’s courses was a game-changer. She was looking for alternative ways to deal with her own experiences and trauma. Pennie says “I did not want to keep talking about my trauma and stressors, I needed something that lifted me. The horses are what help me.”*

*Initially, Pennie was afraid to ride horses, due to her injuries. She was also highly anxious on the horses in her early days at the ranch. The crew at Spur taught Pennie how to relax around these wonderful creatures and she learned with time to be grounded in the moment.*

*As a core part of the Spur crew, Pennie utilises the knowledge she has learned through her military career and as a participant in the Spur Program to pass her horse handling and horse riding skills on to other course participants.*

*Pennie says “it’s the most rewarding thing to pass on the experience of horsemanship. Through horse riding and horse handling, you learn how to deal with anxiety, depression, and stressors.*

*When you are with horses you have to be in the moment and calm so the horses are calm. They mirror what we put out, so it is important to learn to let go and be in the moment with the horse. When I notice a veteran is highly anxious, I use it as an opportunity to help them learn to breathe the moment in and let it go using the horse as a grounding object.”*

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# TINGIRA

## STONEHAVEN MEDAL

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*"The annual Tingira Stonehaven Medal is awarded annually to the Tingira Boy/Boys, who go above and beyond the normal call of duty"*

**GREG READ sc**  
Tingira President 2013



**2017**  
**KEN & LORRAINE DOBBIE**  
Devonport, TAS

**2018**  
**PHILLIP LANCASTER**  
Piara Waters, WA

**DAVID CASSIDY**  
Banora Point, NSW

**MICK SHARP**, QLD



**2019**  
**DARYL & SHANE WALTON**  
Forrestfield, WA

**2020**  
**BRAD & JACKIE MURPHY**  
Windemere, QLD



**2021**  
**JOHN & MEREDITH PERRYMAN**  
Fadden, ACT

**2022**  
**JACK & ANITA STRONG**  
Rockingham, WA







## NOAH EDWARDS

Recruit School - Tingira Top Shot

Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus, Captain Ainsley Morthorpe, CSM, RAN (right), and Petty Officer Peter Edwards of the Recruit School Weapons, Seamanship & Ceremonial Instructors section (left) present Recruit Maritime Logistic Supply Chain Noah Edwards with the Tingira Top Shot of the Intake Award at the General Entry 401 Rogers Division graduation at the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus, Victoria, recently.

The Royal Australian Navy Recruit School saw its latest recruits graduate during a parade at HMAS Cerberus on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, south-east of Melbourne.

The 74 Rogers Division recruits started general entry course 401 in May 2022 and 69 graduated nine weeks later.

The RAN Recruit School mission is to induct the next generation of sailors into the Royal Australian Navy, enabling them to think independently and act collectively in the conduct of their core duties within Navy, and as part of a Joint force.

Recruits are expected to adopt and display in their behaviour and their attitude the Navy values of Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence.



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# Kit Muster Vol. II

UNIFORMS, BADGES AND CATEGORIES  
OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN NAVY  
1954 - 1984



Tingira Boy, former RAN Junior Recruit  
Duncan 'John' Perryman recently  
published his second volume of 'Kit Muster'  
Available now via [navyuniforms.com.au](http://navyuniforms.com.au) website



# AMBER LAWRENCE

Sets New Personal Best on ARIA Albums Chart



Amber Lawrence is a five times Golden Guitar winning Australian singer-songwriter who captures the nation's attention and heart with her uplifting songs of self-belief, love, family and ordinary Australians.

Multi-Golden Guitar winner Amber has been an Associate member of the Tingira Australian Association since the early days of the associations inception in 2011. Amber has performed at many Tingira events and was to be our feature artist at the 2020 JR Reunion in Perth, until the covid pandemic caused the cancellation. Her time will come again, today she hoists her own flag very high. Amber is the shining light of the Australian country music industry, with the recent release of her new album (living for the highlights) well established at the top of the charts in late August 2022.

This is her story ...

Living for the Highlights is Amber's seventh studio album, showcasing

contemporary country at its finest. It is a realistic take on life after three years of highs and lows and follows the release of her much-loved 2019 long player, Spark.

Living for the Highlights features Amber's new single and album title track, recorded with Australian country music favourites, Darlinghurst. Discussing the collaboration, Darlinghurst said, "From the moment we heard the song, the melody was cemented. It was incredible to see all the parts come together and an honour that Amber wanted us to be a part of her TITLE Track! It's an upbeat, fist pumping, exciting and fun song.

Amber's insightful and truthful songwriting has seen her craft a detailed, rich story of what it means to deal with the worst life can hand you. On Bring it Back she directly addresses the challenges of the music industry in recent times, and on the devastating You Were Mine she documents the greatest tragedy and heartbreak of her life.

Amber Lawrence is a five-time Golden Guitar winner, scoring her most recent statue for her poignant and stunning collaboration with fellow country artists Dianna Corcoran, Aleyce Simmonds, Kirsty Lee Akers on their rendition of John Williamson's True Blue (also performed on the forecourt of the Sydney Opera House for Australia Day Live 2022). She was nominated for Female Artist of the Year at the 2022 Golden Guitars, and recently filled in for Beccy Cole as the host of ABC Radio's Saturday Night Country in addition to her iHeart Country radio program.

Amber is prolific – seven studio albums, three acclaimed children's album, an award-winning collaboration album with Travis Collins, a live album and a live DVD.

Amber is now on tour across the country coming to a town near you, check her website for details.

[www.amberlawrence.com.au](http://www.amberlawrence.com.au)





TINGIRA  
Secretary  
VOICEpipe Editor

MARK LEE



“

*The Sobraon  
was one of the  
last of the  
famous clippers  
built for the  
Australian  
trade.*

*No expense was  
spared In her  
construction,  
for it was  
intended that  
she should be a  
perfect example  
of the  
shipwright's art*

## YESTERDAYS HISTORY

# SAVING TINGIRA

## The Argus

Melbourne, Victoria

Tuesday 16 November 1937

Article retrieved by **Ross Gillette**  
Sydney Maritime Historian - 2022

### SAVING HISTORIC SHIP AS NATIONAL RELIC

#### The HMAS Tingira Naval Training Ship

BY - A SYDNEY  
CORRESPONDENT

“ One thousand and fifty pounds I'm offered. Any advance on ten-fifty? Going, going, -" An expectant pause. "Gone!"

On a bleak day in Sydney recently the auctioneer's hammer struck the rail on the after-deck of the old HMAS Tingira, and the famous ship was sold. Sold for £1,050 to a "breaker," she seemed about to meet the doom of the unwanted sailing-ship.

Once the proud clipper ship Sobraon, then the New South

Wales Government's Nautical School Ship Sobraon, and later HMAS Tingira, under the Federal Government, she had led a varied and distinguished career.

Now it appeared that she would end ingloriously victim of the breaker's hammers and acetylene torches. Her metal might be shipped to Japan and used in the manufacture of bombs and shells, and her fine timbers find their last resting-place in pieces of "quaint" suburban furniture. Portion of the former sailing ship Garthsnaid was used to furnish a suburban home in Melbourne, but the old Tingira seemed to deserve a better fate.

For once commerce has lost in the struggle, and the vessel is, indeed, to be saved. Mr. Sydney Friere and Mrs. Louisa Anklh, former part owners of the Tingira, have bought her back from the Balmain demolition contractor, who was the highest bidder at the mortgagee's auction sale, and intend to save her for the nation.



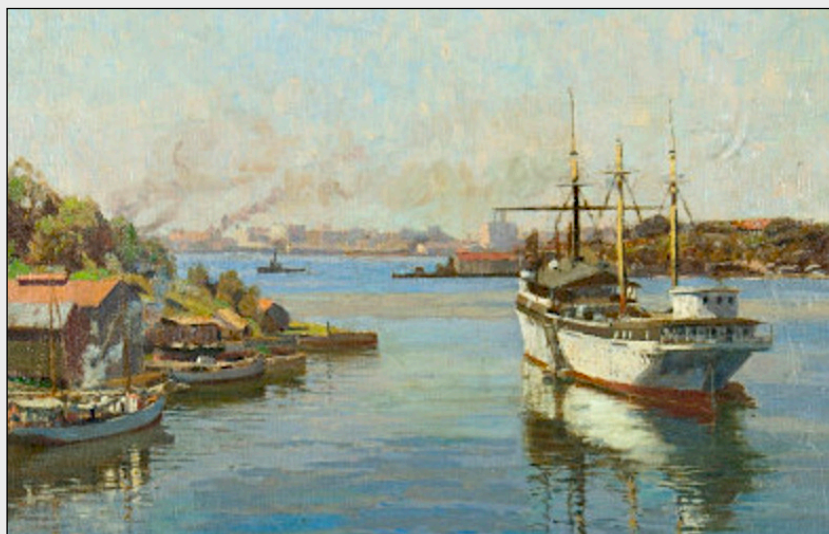


### TINGIRA - BEFORE & AFTER

*This painted image above is one of many famous angles depicted of HMAS Tingira. in her glory days with a third life as a navy training ship, paintings of the day often portrayed her crew of 'boy sailors' rowing ashore at Rose Bay, on Sydney Harbour in the 1920s*

*The image below is as famous, however for the opposite period of her life, the final years were painted and sketched by many young and old artists that attended 'art classes' on the banks of Lavender Bay on Sydneys north side, where the old hulk Tingira rusted and rotted away.*

*Only recently, satellite images have discovered the rusting ribs of Tingira buried in the sands of 'Balls Head' in Wollstonecraft, the next bay around from Lavender Bay.*





### **SOBRAON AT THE QUAY**

*This image is one of the most recognised images of English Clipper Ship Sobraon, at Circular Quay, Sydney, opposite the Orient Hotel. The image become an artists painting, and then a commercial printers coloured print. It's circulation today as a print is international, at many fine dockside hotels and seaside restaurants.*

They intend to seek the help of the public, and they have been granted permission by the Chief Secretary's Department of New South Wales to make a public appeal for subscriptions to save the ship.

The department has instructed that a committee of reputable citizens be organised to assist with the administration of the funds so raised. The appeal has not yet been made, and the fate of the ship may still be uncertain, but it seems likely that she has escaped her doom.

It has not yet been agreed in what form the ship should be preserved, but several suggestions have been made in Sydney.

One proposal is to fit the vessel up as a floating home for men who passed through the ship in her school and training ship days, and who are now pensioners. A second suggestion, to preserve the vessel as a floating maritime exhibition, might win more approval. If this should be so, it is to be hoped that she is more fortunate than was the *Shandon* in Melbourne. The *Shandon* was rejuvenated during the Centenary celebrations in Melbourne by the Shiplovers' Society, and was used to house a maritime exhibition. But her new glories were short lived. Soon her fresh paint was obliterated by coats of tar, and now she is once again a coal hulk in the Yarra.

## THE PERFECT SHIP

The *Sobraon* was one of the last of the famous clippers built for the Australian trade. No expense was spared in her construction, for it was intended that she should be a perfect example of the shipwright's art. She was widely known as "the perfect ship" and as "the most beautiful ship ever built."

The *Sobraon* was built in 1866 at the renowned yards of Hall and Company, of Aberdeen. With a length of 300ft., breadth of 40ft., and depth of 28ft., she was of 2,130 tons, with a carrying capacity of 3,500 tons. A composite ship, she had an exceptionally strongly built frame-work of iron, with planking of Indian teak, copper fastened. Her lower masts were of wrought iron, and her topmasts and lower yards were of steel. It had been intended that she should be a screw steamer, but when she was building her owners met financial troubles, and she was sold on the

stocks to Messrs. Devitt and Moore, owners of many famous clippers. They pinned their faith to canvas, and so it was that the so-called "perfect" sailing ship was built.

## THE VOYAGE HOME

The *Sobraon* made her first voyage to Sydney in 1867 commanded by Captain Kyle. The outward passage was without incident, but on the homeward run Captain Kyle became insane. The compass seems to have been faulty, for the ship sailed up the Bristol Channel instead of the English Channel. The chief officer (Mr. J. A. Elmslie) assumed command, and for many years he was one of the most popular masters in the trade.

On the first passage out under Captain Elmslie the *Sobraon* carried, as passengers Lord Belmore and his family, and the day after their arrival at Sydney Lord Belmore was sworn in as Governor of New South Wales. Later the *Sobraon* had the added honour of carrying her distinguished passenger home again.

The *Sobraon* made seven voyages to Sydney, and then began a regular service to Melbourne. Her best run was to Cape Otway in 60 days, light winds preventing what had promised to be an excellent passage of 61 days from pilot to pilot.

In 1891 the *Sobraon* was bought by the New South Wales Government, and became the Nautical School Ship *Sobraon*. Controlled by the Department of Public Instruction, she was retained for 20 years, during which 5,000 boys were trained for sea service.

In August, 1912, the *Sobraon* was taken over by the Federal Government, and, commissioned as HMAS *Tingira*, was fitted out as a training ship. She had a complement of 300 hands, and during her 15 years in the Royal Australian Navy 3,000 boys were trained. As a very high standard of character was necessary before a boy was accepted for training in the *Tingira*, she produced many valuable units in the Navy. To her trainees the ship was always known affectionately as "the old Tin Dish."

In 1927 her service as a training ship ended, and the *Tingira* was sold for £1,327 to Mr. W. M. Ford, a shipbuilder, of North Sydney. In 1935 she was bought from the executors of Mr. Ford's estate by



Mr. Sydney Friere, a retired British Army officer. In recent proceedings in the Equity Court he said that the purchase price, £2,600, was based on the fact that the Commonwealth Government had spent £25,000 on the equipment of the vessel. He said that in 1936 Mrs. Louisa Ankin had entered into partnership with him to preserve the historic ship, and that £4,000 had been spent for that purpose. He claimed that the intrinsic value of the materials of the ship exceeded £12,000.

Mr. A. J. Aberlne, who held a bill of sale on the vessel, tendered a report by a marine surveyor, who said that the vessel was valueless, except possibly for breaking up.

The court proceedings were an attempt by her owners to prevent the sale of the ship by the mortgagee's order, and an injunction was obtained for that purpose. If the new plans are successful, the vessel should remain afloat for many years. From luxury clipper to floating reformatory, then as the RAN's first training vessel, the Tingira/Sobraon had a busy 61-year lifespan before going to the ship breakers' yard and into oblivion.

\*

## EDITORS NOTE

### OR DID SHE?

*A shipwright bought Tingira in 1929 and towed her to Berrys Bay near the inner Sydney suburb of Waverton. She appears to have been run ashore in the early 1940s when a salvage crew began dismantling her. The sight from afar of her gaunt metal ribs was a sad reminder of Tingira's glory days. But did the vessel ever leave Berrys Bay?*

### 2019

*Early research by the Australian National Maritime Museum's marine archaeology section suggests much of the forlorn shell of Tingira may today still lie buried beneath the water's edge of the (now reclaimed) Waverton Park.*

### Letter to the editor ...

#### THE OLD SOBRAON

Sir-in E. L. Curtis's naval reminiscences, published on Saturday, the Tingira is described as a relic of a once beautiful sailing ship that was known as the Sobraon, engaged in the timber trade between London and Australia

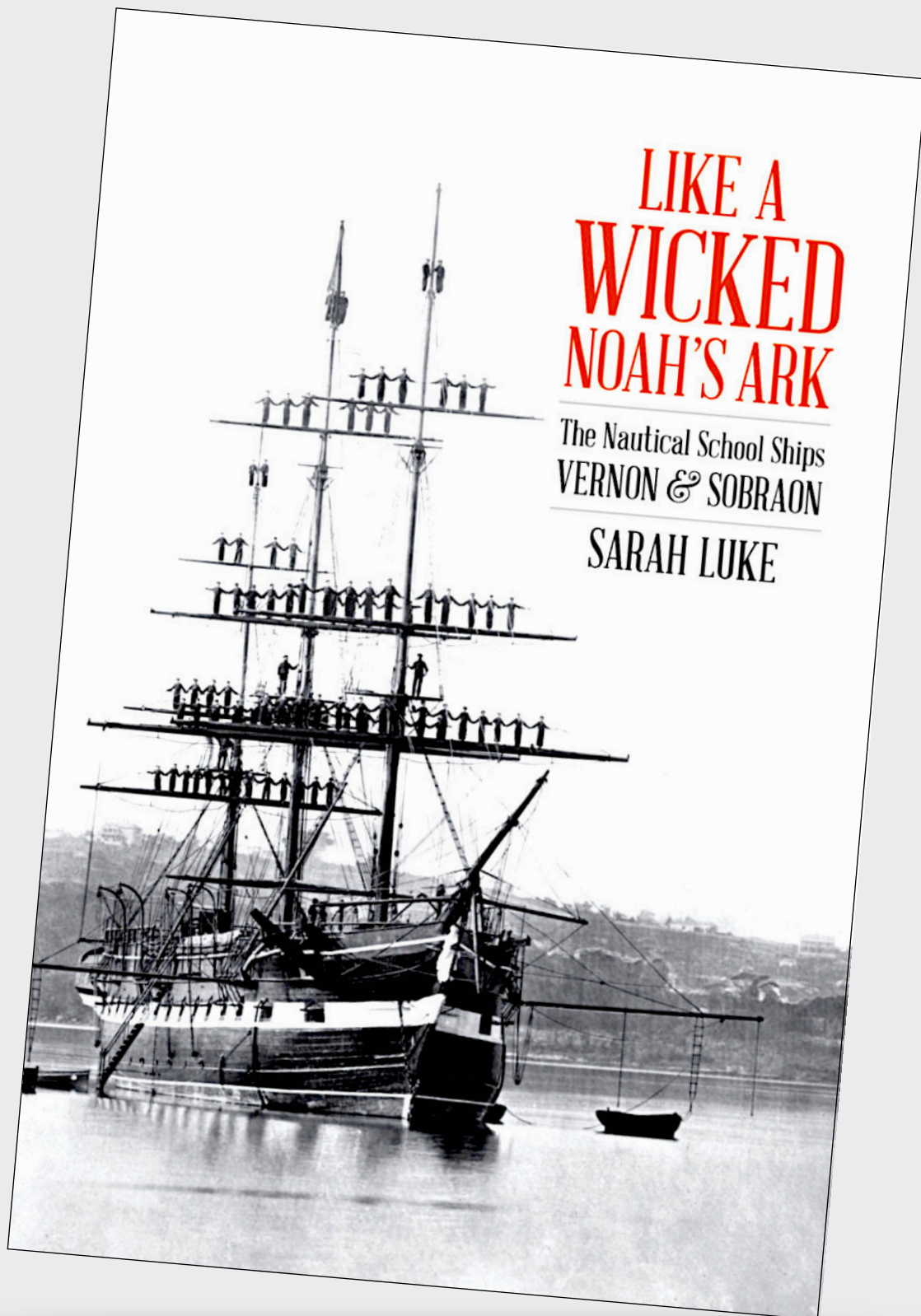
This is incorrect.

The Sobraon was a famous passenger ship built in 1866 especially for the Australian trade. She was the largest composite ship ever built, and was of solid teak, with iron frames and beams, with a length of 175ft. and a beam of 40ft She had an unusually large saloon, 200ft. long, with spacious cabins for about 100 first-class passengers

In England the old clipper Cutty Sark has been renovated, fully rigged as she was In her youth, and used for drill and nautical exercises for the cadets of H.M.S. Worcester Could not the Sobraon be made useful here for the same purpose?

Yours, G. FROST





#### OUR LATEST TINGIRA COLLECTION PURCHASE

*Tingira Australia Association recently had the opportunity to purchase this book, and have now added the copy to the 'Tingira Collection' as part of our Sobraon Tingira history line, that we are gathering at great momentum over the past few years.*



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM - DARLING HARBOUR, SYDNEY



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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.

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- **Finding Long-Lost Vessels** - Fascinating stories of determination and courage. Amazing tales of searches for ships tragically lost and almost forgotten.
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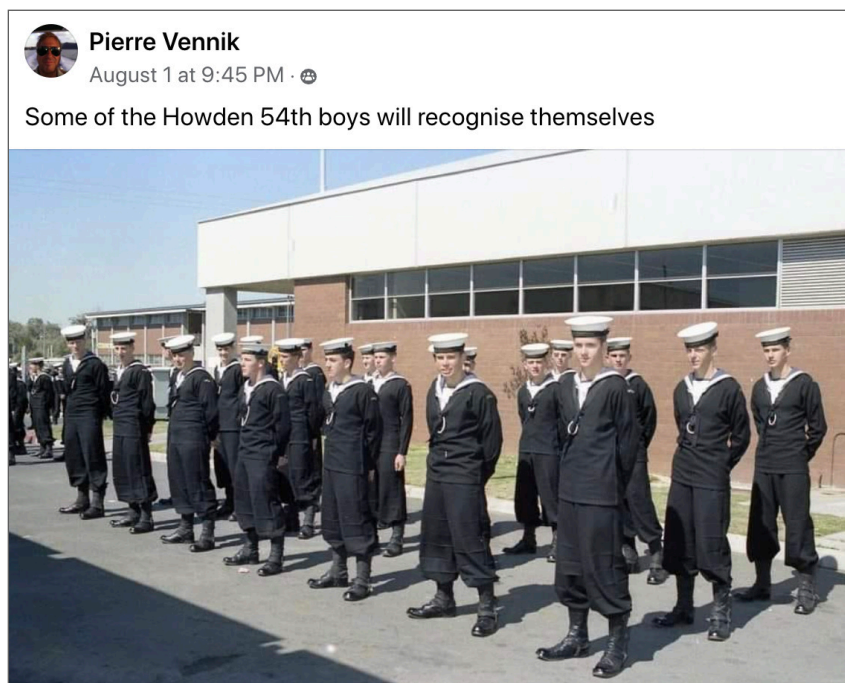


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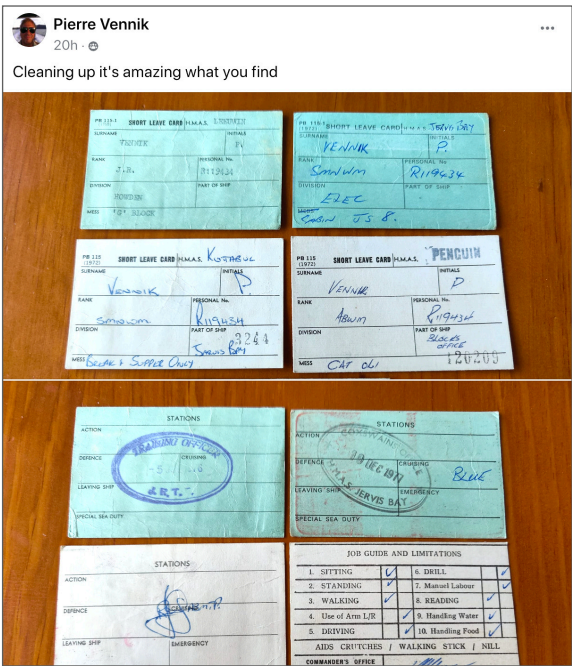
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# Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

[Home](#) [Veteran Card](#) [How to apply](#) [How to support veterans](#) [Help](#) [Contact](#)

## Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath. These provide the opportunity for Australians to identify veterans when they are not in uniform or wearing their medals, and offer respect to them and their family.

Employers, businesses, local community groups and the broader Australian public are able to commit their support for the Covenant. The Covenant provides the framework that enables veterans and their families to better connect with their community.



### Veteran Card

Use your Veteran Card to gain access to treatment for service-related conditions or injuries that DVA has approved, and access to DVA-funded mental health treatment, if required.

Support or benefits from participating businesses and organisations.



### Lapel Pin

The Lapel Pin allows the wider community to acknowledge your service regardless of whether you served in the Navy, Army or Air Force.



### Oath

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people recognising the valuable contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families make and have made for our country.

***Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on [1800 011 046](#) or the [Open Arms website](#).***

***Safe Zone Support provides anonymous counselling on [1800 142 072](#).***

***Defence All-Hours Support Line provides support for ADF personnel on [1800 628 036](#) or the [Defence Health Portal](#).***

***Defence Member and Family Helpline provides support for Defence families on [1800 624 608](#)***



**The Hon Matt Keogh MP**  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

## First meeting of Veterans Wellbeing Taskforce under Albanese Government

**Following the release of the Royal Commission's Interim Report into Defence and Veterans Suicide, the Veterans Wellbeing Taskforce has been convened by new Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh.**

In this first meeting under the Albanese Labor Government, State and Territory Ministers have had the opportunity to discuss their key priorities in supporting defence personnel, veterans and families.

The Taskforce also reviewed the Royal Commission's Interim Report observations on how State and Territory Governments can make changes that would assist in improving the lives of defence personnel, veterans and families, with a view to reducing the tragedy that is the existing rate of suicide.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, said the taskforce agreed that their key objective is delivering a better future for veterans and families.

"We are committed to delivering practical support measures that will improve the welfare and wellbeing of all veterans and families, now and into the future, building on services currently available," Minister Keogh said.

The Commonwealth, along with State and Territory Ministers, are particularly focused on veterans' employment outcomes, mental health support, veterans' homelessness, and needs for additional services.

All Governments are committed to the opportunity of the Government's commitment to new Veterans' and Families' Hubs, tailored to meet the needs of veteran communities where they are located.

"Veterans and families should have access to the supports they need, where and when they need it," Minister Keogh said.

State and Territory Ministers also discussed the importance of supporting veterans' employment as part of addressing issues being considered at the National Jobs and Skills Summit.

The Veterans Wellbeing Taskforce is committed to working together to take positive action to improve the outlook for veterans and families, ensuring they receive the services and supports they not only need, but deserve.

***Authorised by The Hon Matt Keogh MP***



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### 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*



## POSITION VACANT

### CRIB POINT - Tingira Local Area Coordinator

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please consider, are you the new social leader of the VIC membership*

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

## POSITION VACANT

### TASMANIA - Tingira Local Area Coordinator

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Anzac Day, Tingira Day and Christmas Drinks,  
please consider, are you the new social leader of the TAS membership*

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

## POSITION VACANT

### DARWIN - Tingira Local Area Coordinator

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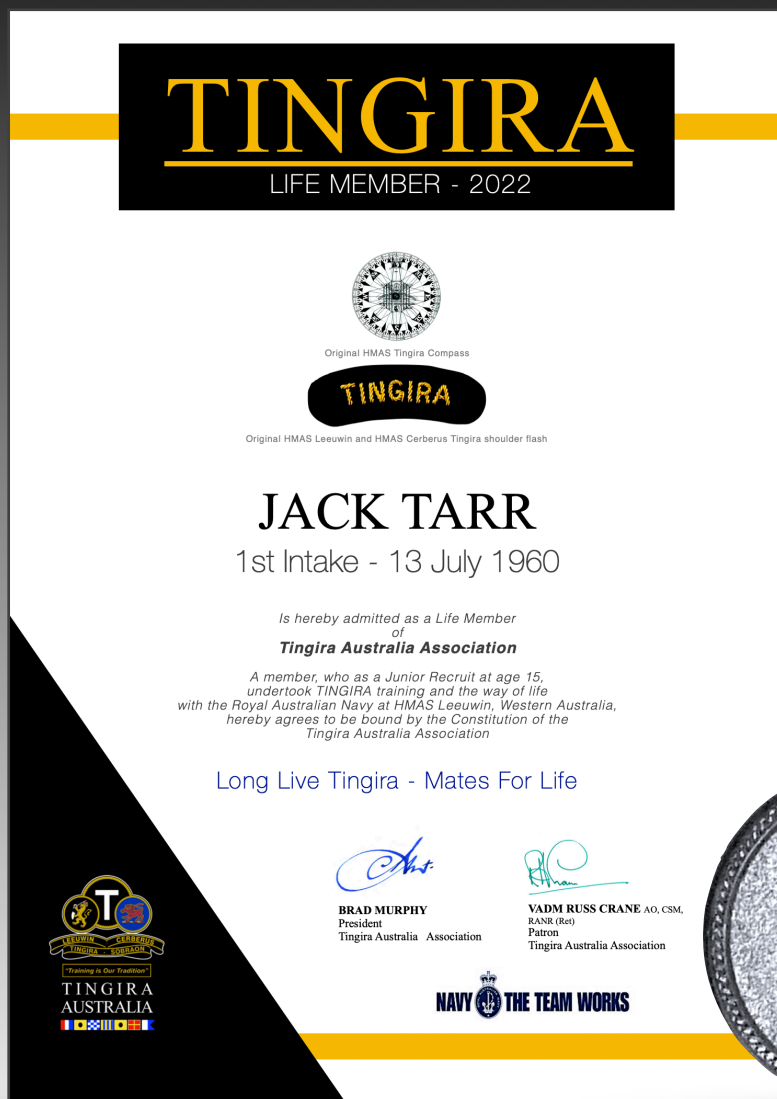
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