



TAA MR 1 - 23
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OUR FLAGS OF TRADITION

Tingira Memorial - Tingira Memorial - Tradition continues, in her tenth year with 'dress ship' of nautical flags embracing Australia Day at Rose Bay, Sydney, Tingira Secretary Mark Lee was on the ropes at sunrise to raise the flags.

1,000 swimmers took to the warm waters of Sydney Harbour for the annual 'splash and dash swim' event at 7 am, has been a while since Tingira had such an audience at an early hour of the day!

Tingira Park was recently renovated with green grass, an irrigation system, and a new cement footpath, (Thank you Mayor and Woollahra Council), part of Rose Bay upgrades)

The RAN naval fleet, alongside at Garden Island, were also 'dress ship' at 0800 sharp, and several ships of the fleet looked very smart alongside: one ship's company was all dressed in ceremonial 6's uniform, ready for some VIP early visit and then ship-to-shore action for the day with the local City of Sydney festivities!

DEFINITION - DRESS SHIP ...

The nautical term of dressing ship, to dress ship, or dressing overall can be confusing. This ritual is often reserved for military vessels. It can also apply to recreational vessels such as yachts. Even cruise ships may dress ship. It's a process of decorating a ship for a celebration. You would dress a ship for an anniversary, for instance. The process involves using International Maritime Signal Flags. You have to string them along dressing lines from stemhead to masthead. If there is more than one mast, then each will be included.

A ship at sea would never be seen dressed in Maritime signal flags. Instead, vessels only dress when anchoring or near harbor. Masthead flags can be used if the ship is underway. If your ship is not underway, it can be overall dress. This is the version that includes streaming the dressing line from stem head to masthead. They can also be strung from a masthead to masthead if more than one is present. From there they terminate at the taffrail. The flags will go from waterline to waterline, bow to stern. The flag officer should know how to place the lines on the vessel.

The ship should be dressed in the morning at 0800 hours. Flags should remain up until the evening. This applies for when the ship is at anchor only. This will also change if it is the maiden voyage of the vessel, or the final voyage. Different protocol will dictate how those events are to be handled in relation to dressing ship. Ensign: The Ensign is the national flag for the ship on which it flies. This will be the largest flag on a ship. In port it will be flown at the stern of the ship. There are also Naval ensigns and civil ensigns. Large versions of Naval ensigns may also be called battle ensigns. For American vessels, the US flag is the standard ensign on ships.

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