



VOICEpipeline

SPRING
2023

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association

US SHIPS

THE FUTURE
OF OUR FLEET

RAY JAMES
STONEHAVEN MEDAL

SOBRAON
MASTERPIECE
FOUND



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SPRING
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- All official communication and correspondence for Tingira Australia Association to be sent in writing (email) to the Association Secretary, only via email format is accepted.
- No other correspondence (social media) in any format will be recognised or answered
- Only email format is accepted.
- VOICEpipe is published quarterly by the Committee of the Tingira Australia Association Inc, for members and friends of CS & NSS Sobraon, HMAS Tingira, HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus Junior Recruit Training Schemes
- VOICEpipe is not for sale nor published as a printed publication
- Electronic on PDF, website based, circulation worldwide
- Editor - Mark Lee, Secretary
- Copyright - Tingira Australia Association Inc. 1 January 2011
- The opinions and content produced is that of the authors/ contributors and the Tingira Australia Association does not express that as their view or policy at time of publication.



COVER PHOTO

USS Canberra about to enter Sydney Heads for her commissioning ceremony at Garden Island

Official Image - RAN

VIEWFINDER IN RANGE

MY HISTORICAL IMAGE THIS QUARTER



“ **Social Memories** - Once a month Facebook throws up an image on your device that you have posted within the past decade and says, "what a great memory".

It is one of the great upsides of Facebook social media system. It is so easy to forget these images and moments in our modern age of photography.

Most images don't make it to print, they are not in an album but tucked away into a computer file on you phone, laptop or even up to the cloud for the savvy few who make photo collections.

For me, I try to write my family history into books. Every year I produce a 20" x 30" canvas of 100 Facebook images of my family activities. This canvas that hangs in my hallway entrance gallery and is greatly appreciated by visitors.

The point here is that memory comes to the front of mind. "Those were the days" as most of us would say, a picture is still worth a thousand words.

The image above is of my eldest son, Mitchell. About to embark on board HMAS Melbourne, his first of what became five overseas deployments in a 13 year career that ended last week. A young chef with a sharp set of knives, the navy took him to places the Woolies butcher shop could never compete with. An image on my memory wall this month and decades to come!

Set yourself a task shipmates. Make for yourself a big picture or a large group of them, put it on your wall for 60 days, then change it. Repeat the process. It is a good process for the mind!

Enjoy your past memories, bring them to life, large printing has never been technically so good or economical.

Editor - VOICEpipe
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Tingira Australia Association President, Brad Murphy, presenting the 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal to former RAN Junior Recruit, Tingira Boy, Ray James and his wife Pauline.



TINGIRA PRESIDENT

BRAD MURPHY OAM



“

*With brothers
from our past
memories and
those we have
yet to meet -
but alas
brothers
bound by
such a strong
bond as being
Junior
Recruits - a
proud and
honourable
part of
Australian
Naval history*

PRESIDENT'S DESK - From The Bridge

MEMORIES ARE STRONG ACTIONS ARE APPRECIATED

“ **R**ecently travelling to my 18th Birdsville Races as part of medical support for the Fred Brophy Boxing Tent - a journey with adventures plenty - the only ships to be seen are those “Ships of the Desert” camels!

Our last stay-over before reaching our destination, staying with friends in the remote little Queensland township of Windorah. We were surprised by a gustatory thrill of a belly full of red claw “yabbies” for dinner! Certainly a delicacy not often appreciated by our city dwelling brothers and sisters - as is something generally associated with country living.

I recalled as a young boy tying chunks of meat onto a fishing line and casting into country dams, slowly withdrawing and watching with anticipation as it approached the clear water near the edge. Excited to see if it was successful in drawing attention from an unsuspecting yabby keen for a feed. If successful I would utilise a hand fashioned wire basket to capture the yabby before they became aware of their fate, prepared and plated to be enjoyed with vinegar as a wonderful delicacy.

I reminisced this wonderful childhood adventure with such fondness and gave rise to other wonderful memories of adventures that would follow in life.

Joining the Navy aged 15 years has given rise to a lifetime of wonderful memories, which despite representing a journey certainly the “long way round”, I

would certainly do it all over again given the opportunity. I love revisiting the adventures and friendships that stem from my early Navy days - a richness I know we all share as those embracing the Tingira tradition.

I recently had the honour of attending the commissioning of the USS Canberra at Garden Island in Sydney.

The invitation from Captain Kevin Quarderer who is the US Navy attache to Australia after my recent trip to Canberra for the Coral Sea commemoration.

I was given the opportunity of meeting so many amazing international Naval identities including some from our JR brotherhood, and on the day traversed the dock with our Secretary Mark Lee. (See his minute by minute story of the day on page 15)

Meeting old friends and making new ones - great to share this special occasion with Mark - always keen to use his PHOT skills and grab another piece of history for the collection - Thanks Shipmate!

At the cocktail party the evening prior to the commissioning, I met so many global nautical legends including our current Chief of Navy VADM Mark Hammond, AO RAN, Commander of the Australian Fleet RADM Chris Smith AM CSM RAN, Warrant Officer of the Navy Andrew Bertoncin, OAM.

The occasion saw the US Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and Admiral Michael M Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations travel Down Under to play integral roles in the ceremonial proceedings.



Tingira President Brad Murphy, CAPT Brendan O'Hara, CMDR William Ashley, USN, Ms Alicia Doherty of the Australian American Association Canberra.



SAILOR'S REUNION - Former RAN Junior Sailor's 'meet and greet' at the USS Canberra commissioning ceremony. L-R: Junior Recruit Mark Lee 1973, Adult Recruit Mark Hammond 1986 and Junior Recruit Brad Murphy 1981.

CAPT Marc Crawford, Commander of the Littoral Combat Ship Squadron one also took time to share some of his own adventures. Throughout his maritime career demonstrating the strong connection that exists between shipmates - such a reassurance to know that we share a brotherhood globally of men and women that would "have your back"!

The two Commanders sharing the command of the USS Canberra consisting of two separate operational crews - Blue and Gold crews, each doing 6 month rotations ship-side.

Commanders William Ashley and Bobby Barber were most welcoming, their ship hosted on friendly seas adjacent our own HMAS Canberra with her skipper CAPT Brendan O'Hara also proudly sharing in the celebrations.

An evening revisiting past friendships and creating new ones a feature of this event. Exchanging Challenge Coins amidst the gathering saw my pockets weigh heavy as I swapped our treasures and stories of lifetime adventures.

What is now one of my most memorable memories of Navy, is the half hour I spent sharing stories of the Tingira tradition of the Royal Australian Navy with Admiral Gilday.

His most genuine interest and engagement was inspiring as he also shared his own personal experiences of youthful exuberance in beginning his long and decorated career to eventually lead the global US Naval Forces.

His challenge coin sits proudly on my desk as a reminder of potential opportunities that we can achieve in life with commitment and belief in ourselves. He promised my "Rock Doc" memento gifted him would feature amongst his large collection as a reminder of our shared experience on this wonderful and historic evening.

The commissioning saw a gathering of so many with shared pride at attending such an event. The commissioning of a US Navy ship not just named after a foreign city, but with the actual ceremony being held on foreign shores.

Immersed and adrift, lost amidst the cloak of Naval ceremony was such an honour and not lost on this mature man reflecting on my own time serving at the Sick Bay on Garden Island some 40 years earlier.

The physical environs having developed to a point where it was difficult to recall buildings that represented the era when I served our Country on this land. The intense pride that had me walking 10 foot tall throughout this day, so very proud of my early days as an RAN Medical Sailor. A journey beginning as a young Junior Recruit and starting a career that would eventually see me realise the dream of becoming a doctor - a dream I had since my early Navy days.

Representing Tingira Australia Association as your National President at this occasion, it was also a very proud moment.

The evening of that day of July 22, I had the pleasure to announce and present the 2023 Stonehaven Medal to former Junior Recruit Ray James. What an honour and what a deserving winner Ray James. His career of dedication to the RSL cause that he has shown over his lifespan since his military days is to be well recognised, thank you Ray James

Representative of so many young men who started adventures and friendships that would last a lifetime extending from signing those enlistment papers and taking that oath all those years ago.

I remain committed to what we started back then with those experiences. Education and

values at the core, the heart of the man I have become. The boy of a loving grandmother that was so distressed to see pack a bag and travel to the other side of the Country aged 15 - a man she would no doubt be very proud of today.

As a brotherhood we collectively have so many memories to share and I am so thankful to Tingira Australia Association for given me the ongoing opportunity to do so when we have a chance to gather and celebrate together.

With brothers from our past memories and those we have yet to meet - but alas brothers bound by such a strong bond as being Junior Recruits - a proud and honourable part of Australian Naval history.

I look forward to the next meeting of Tingira Boys, when many of you will meet with the Secretary and other committee members at the 'Tingira Tea party' at the HMAS Cerberus Recruit School on Thursday 14 December. This event will be another great memorable moment in our line of history. We will handover the original TINGIRA ships name plate, back to the RAN. More memories and photographs, worth a lot more thousand words!

Long live Tingira, mates for life!



BRAD MURPHY OAM
President

Tingira Australia Association



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COMPLETED 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.

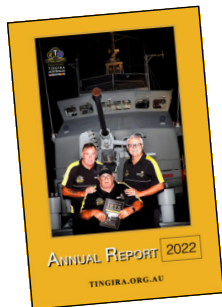
Secretary and Treasurer have completed the project with input from committee and the present membership, released at the 2023 Tingira AGM on website.



COMPLETED STONEHAVEN AWARD 2023

“That Tingira Aust Assoc call for nominations - Tingira Stonehaven Medal 2023 - awarded annually to the 'Tingira Boy' or Boys who go above and beyond the normal call of duty’

National Tingira Committee has made the award of the 2023 Stonehaven Medal to former Junior Recruit Ray James. The medal was presented by National Tingira President Brad Murphy. Media on website.



COMPLETED ANNUAL REPORT 2023

“That Tingira Aust Assoc present Annual Report for membership, presentation at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, first half 2023.

Tingira Secretary has produced, with assistance for final financial reports from Summit Consultants, the 2022 Annual Report presented at April AGM and on website.



COMPLETED VOICEpipe magazine

AUTUMN - WINTER - SPRING

“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”

Editor Mark Lee, and the new editorial sub committee, have delivered the first three of the new clean line and themed format 2023 VOICEpipe magazines to the membership.



IN PRODUCTION ANMM & RAN HERITAGE CTRE ALLIANCE

“That Tingira Aust Assoc make closer contact with Australia National Maritime Museum and RAN Seapower Heritage Centre, Garden Island on the possibility of using the museum facilities for future display of the Tingira collection.

Ongoing discussions with several groups - for future Tingira functions and possible venues to display Tingira collection.



IN PRODUCTION

WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL & RSL ROSE BAY 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 is communicating with Mayor Woollahra Council, committee of Rose Bay RSL sub-Branch, on the future status of the Tingira Information Board and Tingira Memorial Park due to ongoing high maintenance and present upgrade of park facilities.



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TINGIRA

STONEHAVEN MEDAL AWARDS

“The annual Tingira Stonehaven Medal is awarded to the Tingira Boy or Boys, who go above and beyond their normal call of duty

GREG READ sc
Tingira President 2013



SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS
Stonehaven Medal



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

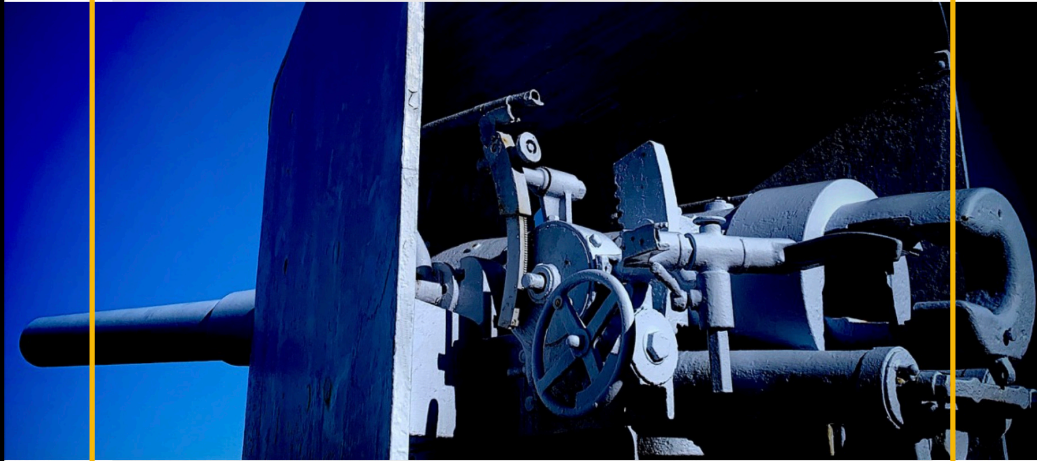
2022
JACK & ANITA STRONG
Rockingham, WA



2023
RAY & PAULINE JAMES
Ingleburn, NSW



TINGIRA



Strategic Plan

2023 - 2025

COPY - Now available for download from website - 'ABOUT' section



TINGIRA
Secretary
VOICEpipe Editor

MARK LEE



“

*A ship with a
healthy heart
beat.*

*The culture
and the proud
past with this
second US
ship to carry
the name
Canberra,
was certainly
on display at
its very best
for all to
witness on
this day*

TODAY'S NEWS - RAN & USN ...



US SHIPS

THE POSSIBLE FUTURE OF OUR FLEET...

Could the recent commissioning of the USS Canberra at Garden Island be the start of a new image for the Royal Australian Navy, a combined fleet of Australian and US warships?





WARM WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA USS CANBERRA ...

By

MARK LEE

Secretary
Tingira Australia Association

*“Another day in my
navy Tingira lifeline.*

*Saturday 22 July,
begins very early,
ends rather late ...*

“

5.30am ... An hour before sunrise, shave and shower done. Dress of the day - the formal conservative two piece pin-stripe blue woollen suit, Tingira tie, shiny black shoes, medals, membership pin, name tag, challenge coin, wallet and that rare ‘entry ticket’ to the commissioning ceremony of USS Canberra for 10am at Garden Island.

6.00am ... Coffee in the thermos travel cup, out the door heading down the M2 freeway from Beecroft to Bennelong Point. In the comfort of my car, Bruce Springsteen is on full blast from six surround speakers. My destination is the Sydney Opera House to catch the 7am ferry to Garden Island from the Man O’War steps.

I was set for a good day. My real interest was to see how the RAN was going to organise this commissioning of USS Canberra that they were hosting on behalf of our US ally. This was certainly new ground for both countries, one of the rare times that a US warship will be commissioned outside the USA.

6.30am ... As the first rays of sunrise appeared over the horizon on Macquarie Street, I went underground, deep, very deep! Twirling my way three floors down under the sandstone rock structure of Bennelong Point to secure a car park and part with another \$25 donation.

Stretching the legs for a quick stroll over the next 900 metres to the Opera House. There is just 10 seconds for a quick sunrise shot along the way.

As I surface to the forecourt I face that lovely image of the Harbour Bridge and the iconic Blues Point Tower in the background. Surprisingly the air is at freezing point, with the most chilling wind blowing into my weathered old face.

What the hell, who forecast this? Where's my 'fresh morning' with bright sunny blue sky, a winter's delight, mild 20-22 degrees, promised the night before on the weather channel? Bloody fake news at its best. This was 'Thredbo snow' not far away. I was shivering before the day had even started. Could it be better at Garden Island?

For the next 15 minutes I sheltered for a windbreak by a cold concrete pylon, making small talk to an old executive shipyard invitee, wearing only a white summer shirt. He was from Queensland! His goosebumps were bulging from wrist to the neckline, and we both agreed it was probably going to get worse rather than better.

7.00am ... Royal Australian Navy staff from HMAS Kuttabul arrive to check our driving licence and boarding pass. We are both escorted onto one of Sydney's more lavish harbour cruise boats for the short 15 minute passage across the bay to the Garden Island ferry wharf.

On board the vessel it is warm, lots of small talk and chatter, with navy ratings and many VIP invitees dressed to the nines, showing happy faces. Everyone seemed energised with an air of excitement and expectation for the event ahead.

I'm desperately looking for my second cup of coffee. Nothing to be seen representing a warm beverage as I suddenly spy an old ferry staffer, reaching down low behind the bar for a cold can of Coke from the bottom of the bar fridge! Even that looks warm in the moment, bugger!

On the starboard bow we get to see the new northern end of Garden Island dock. That is the old 'oil wharf' area that we sailors knew in past years. The complete lower end of Garden Island has had a fresh coat of cement, many new pumps and pipes added with some new oil and gas tanks camouflaged into the rock face. The area looks very spick, like it's going to be part of overseas passenger terminal operations over the coming summer period.

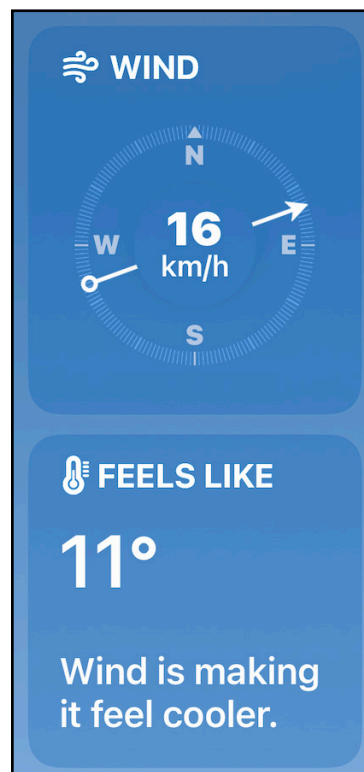
We take first sight of this huge new ship, USS Canberra, an Independence-variant littoral combat ship, berthed in front of the RAN Flagship, HMAS Canberra. The image of these two ships side-by-side is to become a wonderful historic image of Sydney on this day, as it is broadcast around the world on social media networks.

7.15am ... About 200 of us passengers disembark onto the newly refurbished Garden Island ferry wharf. Greeted by a few young US Marines in uniform with the standard white gloves and rifle strapped to their shoulder.

Guests are quickly paraded into an airport style security gate system. Automatically they commence dis-robbing from shoes to belt buckles, pockets inside out, jackets off, the full bit to go through a small make-shift security X-ray machine.

I declare and place my phone and wallet into the plastic bin, kept my suit coat on and greeted the staff with a pleasant smile. Quick chat on the freezing weather as our teeth rattle, "it's bloody freezing" was the all-round topic of conversation from everyone. My medals didn't even set the buzzer off, let alone my shoes and belt buckle!

The security staff were like 'frozen ice blocks'. They too





RAN Chief of Navy Australia, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond and The 32nd Chief of US Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Gilday, welcome former RAN Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths, to the commissioning ceremony of USS Canberra.

were very under-dressed for the weather, most sporting just a light summer shirt and jacket. With no added cover for protection from the chilling arctic wind, it seemed to hit you in the face whatever direction you turned, and getting stronger as the sun rose to the yard arm for 8am.

Through the security check, and off towards the seated area to be suddenly greeted by happy smiling civilian staff, giving out the most colourful and informative event program. They gave me two, just because I asked, happy and amazed I am.

Marching perfectly in a line of four, a group of young US Marines, dressed immaculately in their work camouflage greens, commence twirling and throwing their rifles into the air. Practice I presume, for later display.

Three meters up, a flip and a twirl, catching the rifle butt a centimetre perfect from the deck, and then repeating the drill throwing with the opposite arm. These young faces also whistle 'Dixie' with lovely smiles all synchronised; some sideshow to start the day and warm our hearts in the 'cold' of the moment.

Then in a very government style, a nice complimentary ice COLD blue bottle of water, to keep one from dehydrating, is thrust into my hand by a young lady on the official NSW government representation desk. You are joking I exclaim, coffee is the 'medication of the day'.

But to my amazement not a coffee cart to be seen, someone could have retired on the profits of this opportunity. Imagine if they had offered donuts to go as well. A big missed opportunity Navy!

8.00am... On any military establishment worldwide it's 'Colours' at 8am. Raise the flag.

The sound of the traditional navy Bosuns Pipes whistled across the airwaves of Garden Island as six ships within ear shot of USS Canberra all delivered their pipes and raised naval flags up their quarterdeck flag staff.

"Dress Ship" is the order from the Officer of the Day, an order that can be heard from the ships loud speaker systems of all the ships berthed at this very historic Sydney ship yard. Members of the ships communications departments were in their finest moment, as all ships suddenly hoisted their nautical flags presenting the 'dress ship' mode. All flags are fluttering vigorously in the chilling arctic wind. What a great sight.

'Dress Ship' is one of the most elegant of all navy traditions. I scan the shipyard horizon, a sea of colour and emotion. This is a perfect sign of happiness and celebration for the day ahead.

8.15am ... Another 200 visitors arrive on the second landing at the ferry wharf, two boatloads is certainly a crowd.



The United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy colour-party's parades their colours at the commissioning of USS Canberra, an Independence-variant littoral combat ship, commissioned 22 July 2023, Garden Island, Sydney.



There is a group of VIPs entering from the Cowper Wharf Road end. At some stage soon I am expecting my National Tingira President Dr Brad Murphy to arrive. He will love this cold snap, another Queenslander!

With almost two hours before showtime, some 400 persons are now assembled. Guests have to scramble for a seat in their allocated red, blue and white sections. I feel this event will be better viewed from the rear standing area. I always like to take a few different angle shots and have the ability to actually move around. With the iPhone 14 pro fully charged, I won't stand out like part of the media pack today. That a good thing at this type of event.

8.30am ... I hedge my bets, skip the seat allocation and approach a young US Lieutenant standing opposite the USS Canberra gangway.

He is looking a little lost, so I start a conversation with him. I've done a lot of time on US ships and have a son now living in Texas, so we easily make a connection.

Lieut. J G Eli Voigt has three years service in the US navy to date. On board Canberra for the past 12 months, he is the ship's navigator in the gold crew. Eli loves the lifestyle and is now delighted that he will be based out of Cairns for his remaining two years on the ship. Today he has flown his parents out from the US for the commissioning. They will spend a week touring Sydney having a nice family reunion.

Eli thinks he will stay a military man for many years to come. He has enjoyed his first four days in Sydney making friendships with many Australians so far. This is a nice reflection on the way Australians still embrace military visitors to our country.

Eli informs me how the ship has two crews, a 'Gold and Blue' watch, which also means a double of several positions, including two Commanding Officers, part of the new Navy way. My son Mitchell once worked like this when serving on RAN patrol boats out of Darwin. I think it still happens in certain situations.

9.00am ... Eli and I part company as a smiling Tingira President Brad Murphy approaches me. "Bloody cold Dixie, where did this come from, the Arctic?" he questions. We turn around and both instantly spot a familiar face in the crowd. Former Tingira Australia Association President, Chris Perrin. Navy Junior Recruit of 1974, Chris Perrin, is a present day serving Warrant Officer, assisting with duties at the Navy Heritage Centre on Garden Island. He is happy to take my first real picture of the day with Brad and I posing in front of the US Canberra ship's bell.

Next we stop and chat to a pretty young reporter from Sydney Channel 7 media. "How did you get a winter wooly coat" I asked as she looked warmer than any of us. Where did you get your weather forecast I questioned, not Channel 7, I quipped.

"I only had this cotton summer frock and one of the US crew saw me shivering with a million goosebumps. He raced back on board and then presented me with a ship's cold weather coat, so good, just so good" she said. That's sure to make a positive story line for Channel 7. Well done good ship US, that's real public relations!

Brad wants a seat. We mingled into red section about three rows from the front, as the army of volunteers gathered around us allocating the seating. Then from nowhere a new group of VIPs right in front of us started to form and get some individual instructions of what was about to take place.

It's the top brass. Our Governor General, RAN Chief of Navy, Federal and State politicians. a large contingent of US military and senior public officials. Polished and assembled, they were ready to be introduced and marched on to the stage military style, for a seat and a better view than us at ground level.

One guest, former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, was having the best 'bad hair day', the wind of course! Kevin, who sports a grey beard these days, has long thin white wispy hair. It is flopping around like a spinning mop, he is very frustrated, needs the 'Brylcream' on these type of days!

I still need a coffee, not so lucky. First swig of the cold water bottle, that's chilling, not what I need, move on marshmallow Mark, coffee is a long way off today I say to self!

10.00am ... An Aussie voiceover commences from the public address system. Suddenly the wind drops from 16 knots to zero. Someone up there had a 'stop and start' button for the right weather for 10am. However it was still very cold, chilling at its best, the sun was not a compensation at this stage of the morning!

Rolling drumbeats, trumpets, and trombones... the show begins, it's all bells and whistles from here.

The RAN band swings into action and performs the customary naval music tunes to get everyone into their right positions.

National anthems of the US and Australia brings everyone into voice. That moment of national pride is reached as this colourful naval ceremony is about to commence. My pride of country is at its high point in these situations.

Introductions and speeches are made. 'Acknowledgment of country' is made at least 10 times. Surely once is enough. When is someone going to sort this out? It was simply not appropriate with international guests present and a world audience at hand.

It became a "who's who" with tribute speeches and storylines. All speakers went for about four minutes after their 'welcome to country' introduction. I am sure someone had a stop-watch on them and possibly a kill switch for their microphone. It was well done. Short accurate speeches are a rarity in most of these situations.

The Ship's Sponsor, Senator The Honourable Marise Payne, was presenting the best 'hair style' on a tough windy day for all. Senator Payne told of the long periods of communications to get to this day.

The ship's bell rang out as the ship is commissioned.

Command is assumed by the two Commanding Officers, Commander William Ashley (Blue

Crew) and Commander James Barber 111 (Gold Crew).

Several flags were hoisted on the ship. The ship is manned by her crew, who all ran in single file to the gangway, 75 meters from the stage area to board their new ship. The order is given "USS Canberra and take the first watch".

An eye catching moment in all this was high up behind the ship bridge area, a large cover is released to display the new 'Skippy Kangaroo', the ship's identity emblem.

The US and Australian Admirals shook hands, the crowd clapped, all was well on the upper deck!

10.45am ... I get some pretty ordinary photographs from my seat, to be expected, however one image did come my way that all other media would not get.

The moment that the top visiting US admiral Michael Gilday, is introduced by our Chief of Navy Mike Hammond, to our oldest living RAN Admiral, Guy Griffiths in the front row of guest VIPs. I'm about 20 meters away, get a good angle and image from my seat with zoom lens on full range to get the facial expressions. These images are little gems for a story like this, it's my 'shot of the day' so far!

Amongst the new US crew would be 10 young Australian sailors, and one RAN Officer, who are now part of the permanent crew of this vessel. Interesting.

We are also informed that USS Canberra is one of three ships of this class that will be permanently rotated out of Cains into the South East Pacific waters. That's a new angle for the Australian navy engagement with a permanent US naval ship on our shoreline.

11.00am ... The commissioning ceremony is completed. The customary photographs with the VIPs are taken as the local media make their line to acquire different angles to make their stories.

I sit back and 'people watch' as hundreds of guests make a hasty dash for the big white canopy tent on the grass lawns on the far north seawall of Sydney Harbour. 'Food glorious food'



Ship's Sponsor, Senator The Honourable Marise Payne speaks at the commissioning ceremony of USS Canberra



The Governor General, His Excellency the Honourable General David Hurley receives the Royal salute upon arrival at the commissioning ceremony of USS Canberra.



The United States Navy Ceremonial Guard prepare to perform at the commissioning of USS Canberra.



The 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honourable Carlos Del Toro, speaks at the commissioning ceremony



The crew of USS Canberra 'cheer ship', waving their caps, on completion of the commissioning ceremony

is about to be served to a very hungry and cold audience. Bound to be hotdogs and donuts!

Brad and I navigate towards the Canberra Captain, as this will be a nice image for us to both keep as our memory of the day, and it is. We also get approached by a few other people we know, none other than the RAN Chief of Navy, Mike Hammond. We quickly share some sailor stories combined with a pic by the new skippy US emblem.

Brad is keen to now get himself on board the ship and take the guided tour, especially the medical department.

We part company at this point, Brad heads up the gangway, he is on the ship! I head towards the city to set up for the Tingira Stonehaven Awards ceremony that evening. Brad will present the 2023 Stonehaven Medal at a special surprise ceremony; the winner has no idea what is happening tonight. This is a good day so far.

11.50 am ... I spy that the long lines at the big white tent have diminished and it's possibly my coffee time.

Well "surprise surprise" as former TV US Marine Gommer Pile would say, it's a combined Aussie and US finger food menu; scones with jam and cream, apple pie with cream and ice cold Coca Cola. Coffee, no where in sight. I swoop on a can of Coke, wrap an apple pie in a serviette, look at my watch, 11.57, and it's time to run for a midday ferry ride!

12.00pm ... And run I did to get to the wharf for the cross-harbour journey to the Opera House. I'm last on board as the young lady hauls in the old gangway onto the quarterdeck. She gives me a lovely smile and says "It's good luck to be last on board".

I set my eyes on the first lounge booth inside the dining room that offers me a comfortable resting place for the next 15 minutes of my day. The warm air hits my face for the first time in six hours, that chill in the air has finally gone.

No drinks to be seen but who do I bump into? the RSL NSW State President, Ray James and

his wife Pauline, with a group of other senior RSL dignitaries.

"Nice to see the James family" I said. Lots of good small talk to catch up on. Ray is also a Tingira boy, and was one of the first to join when our association was formed in 2011. Later on this night, we would again meet up, under very different and joyful circumstances!

THE COMMISSIONING WRAP

2.00pm ... Bunked down behind the glass walls of a George Street cafe, finally with coffee and toasted sandwich for my late lunch, I now have time to think and put some perspective on the morning events at Garden Island.

Typing on my iphone with my failing eyesight and little fat fingers, I make many of short bullet point comments to make this story a reality within my 30 day deadline time frame.

The Americans perform ceremony very well, especially the lads on rifles and flag drills, that's my overall perception, and so they should as they get lots of practise. They also have their own special events commissioning committee, that commutes around the globe to commission and decommission their ships. These are the big moments in any ship's life span and a big part of US naval history.

For this event the US committee team had been on the ground inside the RAN Heritage Centre at Garden Island for the past six weeks bringing this event together with their RAN hosts.

It was certainly up there as one of their more prestigious presentations with all the present political situations and pressure between Australia and America relating to present day defence matters.

With that said, the one thing missing on the day at Garden Island was the presence of a submarine. There were many other visiting foreign ships in port that weekend.

They were preparing to sail into the northern waters of Australia exercise 'Talisman Sabre' the following week. More than 30,000 military personnel from 13 nations will directly participate in TS23, with others attending the



Crew members on the gangway of USS Canberra (LCS 30) set the first watch.

exercise as observers. Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand Papua New Guinea, Tonga, the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany all attended as participants

USS Canberra would not be part of that exercise as she was still in her initial 12 month trail period and would work off the Australian coast for the next few weeks.

For many decades we have worked with US ships in international waters and hosted them on many occasions as visitors to our ports. I see nothing will change in this regards in the present day situation. However, the types of ships and style of weapons will change constantly with time.

One thing that will remain a focal point on all future big ships, that they are be manned by professional men and women who volunteer their service to their country.

It was a delight to see so many young and happy faces at that commissioning ceremony. A ship with a healthy heart beat. The culture and the proud past with this second US ship to carry the name Canberra, was certainly on display at its very best for all to witness on the day.

I was not able to journey to the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, the following day. However the crew of USS Canberra did. The Sydney

evening news reports were very glossy and positive, as the ship's company took on a new role and received 'Freedom of the City'. With that it was all drums and trumpets as they were privileged to march the streets of our nation's capital.

The weekend was certainly 'warm welcome' to Australia for the crew members of USS Canberra. Let's hope we see more of this joint relationship style in the near future on the streets of our capital cities. It is a good reminder to our people that our military is not just the annual Anzac Day parade.

Will future US ships become part of our expanding Australian naval fleet in the Pacific? I think it is a good strategy if it does go in that direction. The benefits are to the young sailors who get to see new parts of the world across the Pacific. The defence safety aspect that Australia does have an ally 'physically' in our off-shore waters and prepared to work the front line with our ships, is a very positive move and a signal to other nations.

2.30pm ... Is today's event a good sign of things to come? Let's hope so. Perhaps a warm January next time!

Well done United States Navy and Royal Australian Navy, BZ to all.



Tingira President Brad Murphy and Secretary Mark Lee, had the pleasure to meet one of the two new USS Canberra Commanding Officers. CMDR William Ashlev.



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USS CANBERRA IS COMMISSIONED IN SYDNEY...



United States (US) Navy ship, the USS Canberra, was commissioned in Sydney, becoming the first US vessel to be commissioned in Australia.

Australia is pleased to host representatives from the US Navy active fleet at HMAS Kuttatubul in Sydney for this historic event.

The USS Canberra is an Independence-class littoral combat ship, with proud links to Australian industry, having been designed by Australian shipbuilder Austal Limited in Fremantle, Western Australia.

The commissioning reflects the long-standing friendship and alliance between Australia and the US and our shared commitment to upholding the rules-based order.

A commissioning is an official ceremony when a ship enters active service. It is one of the most significant milestones in the life of a ship and has been a US Navy tradition since 1775.

The first USS Canberra was a Baltimore-class heavy cruiser and the first US Navy ship to be named after a foreign capital. It was named at the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in honour of the Australian ship HMAS Canberra, for its courageous actions during the Battle of Savo Island in August 1942.

During the Battle of Savo Island, HMAS Canberra was hit by shellfire 24 times in less than two minutes and 84 of her crew were killed defending landing operations of the US Marines at Guadalcanal.

Members of the ship's company travelled to Canberra the following day from, when the Australian Capital Territory granted the ships crew Freedom of Entry to the City of Canberra. It is the highest accolade a city can bestow and reinforces the strong ties that bind Australia and the USA.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Richard Marles MP:

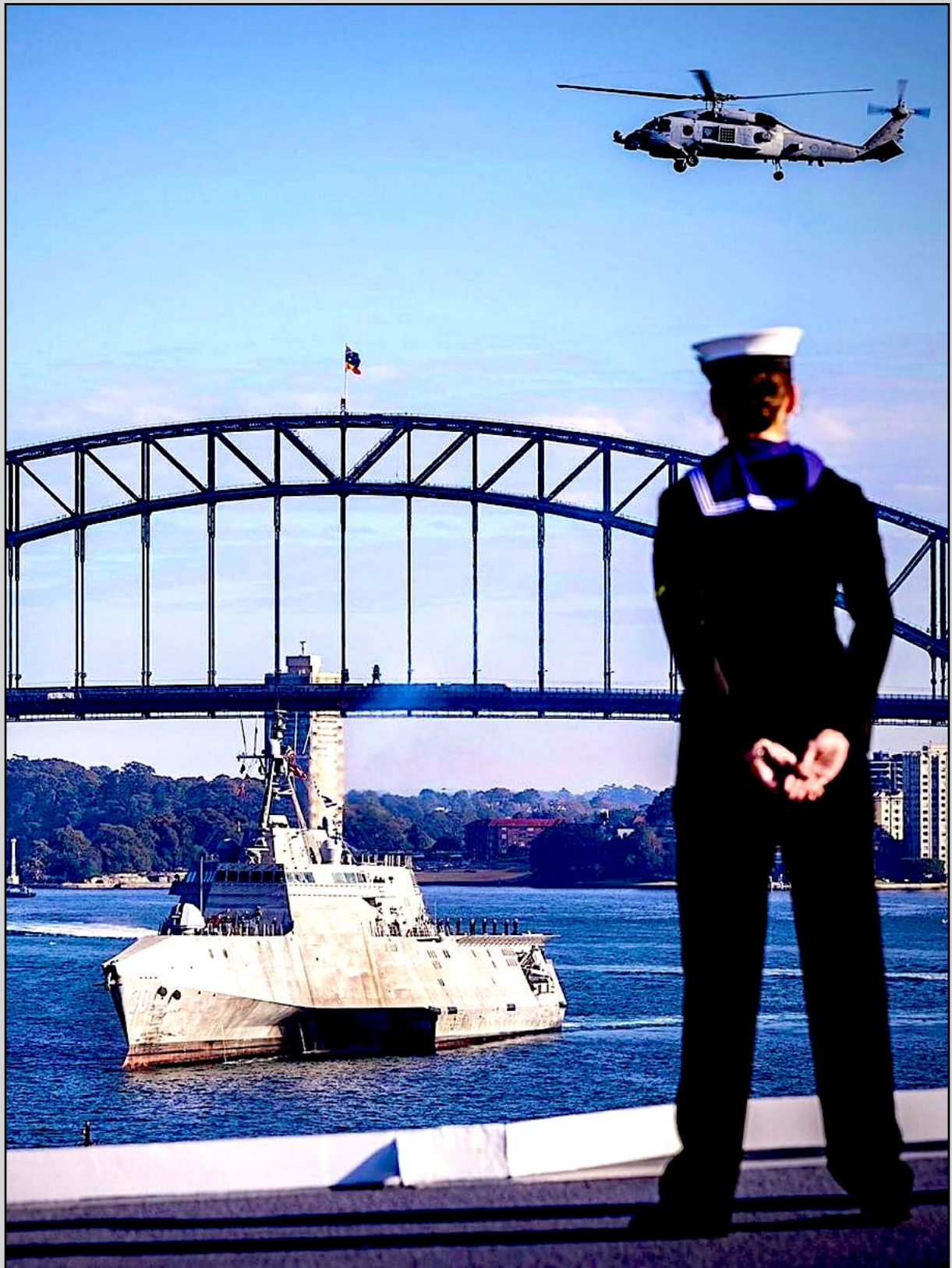
"The commissioning of the USS Canberra is an opportunity to reflect on the shared history, friendship and cooperation between Australia and the United States."

"Australians can be proud that this ship, designed in Western Australia by local industry and named after HMAS Canberra, is being commissioned here for the first time in the history of the United States Navy."

"It is a privilege to witness our two navies come together at Fleet Base East today for this historic occasion."

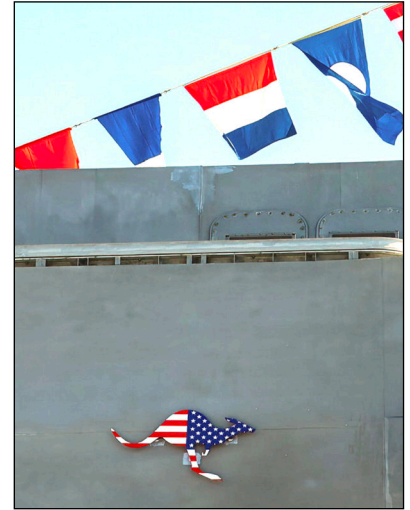
Quotes attributable to Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO, RAN:

"Today marks a proud moment which our Royal Australian Navy is privileged to share alongside our allies and friends in the United States Navy."



SKIPPY

TAKES A NEW LEAP...



At the recent commissioning ceremony for USS Canberra, the Royal Australian Navy presented the ship with a rare gift, a star-spangled Kangaroo insignia.

Crafted by Australian hands with Australian metal at the Fleet Support Unit, HMAS Kuttabul, the unique insignia will be permanently installed on the side of the USS Canberra's superstructure.

The idea for the gift began in early April, and while there were plenty of challenges along the way, the team involved, including Leading Seaman Owen Skjeime, could not be prouder of the result.

"This is something that will be seen for many years to come," Leading Seaman Skjeime said.

"A kangaroo is now on the side of a United States ship. We can say we were part of the team that got that up there."

Leading Seaman Skjeime facilitated the creation of the kangaroos from start to finish.

"It started off with a thought, 'Can we do this?'. Seeing the project through, it got a bit more realistic," he said.

He can list the RAN members who worked on the insignias by name, and while he is the first to offer praise, his own contribution cannot be ignored.

It was Leading Seaman Skjeime who suggested that the offcuts of the insignias be used to create stunning mementos. In the end, 15 little kangaroos were crafted to be used as gifts.

"Once I got the phone call saying that it was all done, I went down to see it. It was a bit of a proud moment to see it finished," Leading Seaman Skjeime said.

We had to take a photo to share the final product, so we got to peel back the bubble wrap and be among the first to see it."

While it is the first time such unique kangaroos will be installed on a US warship, kangaroo insignias have been marking RAN ships for decades. The tradition of marking ships with a kangaroo originated to distinguish RAN warships from the Royal Navy.

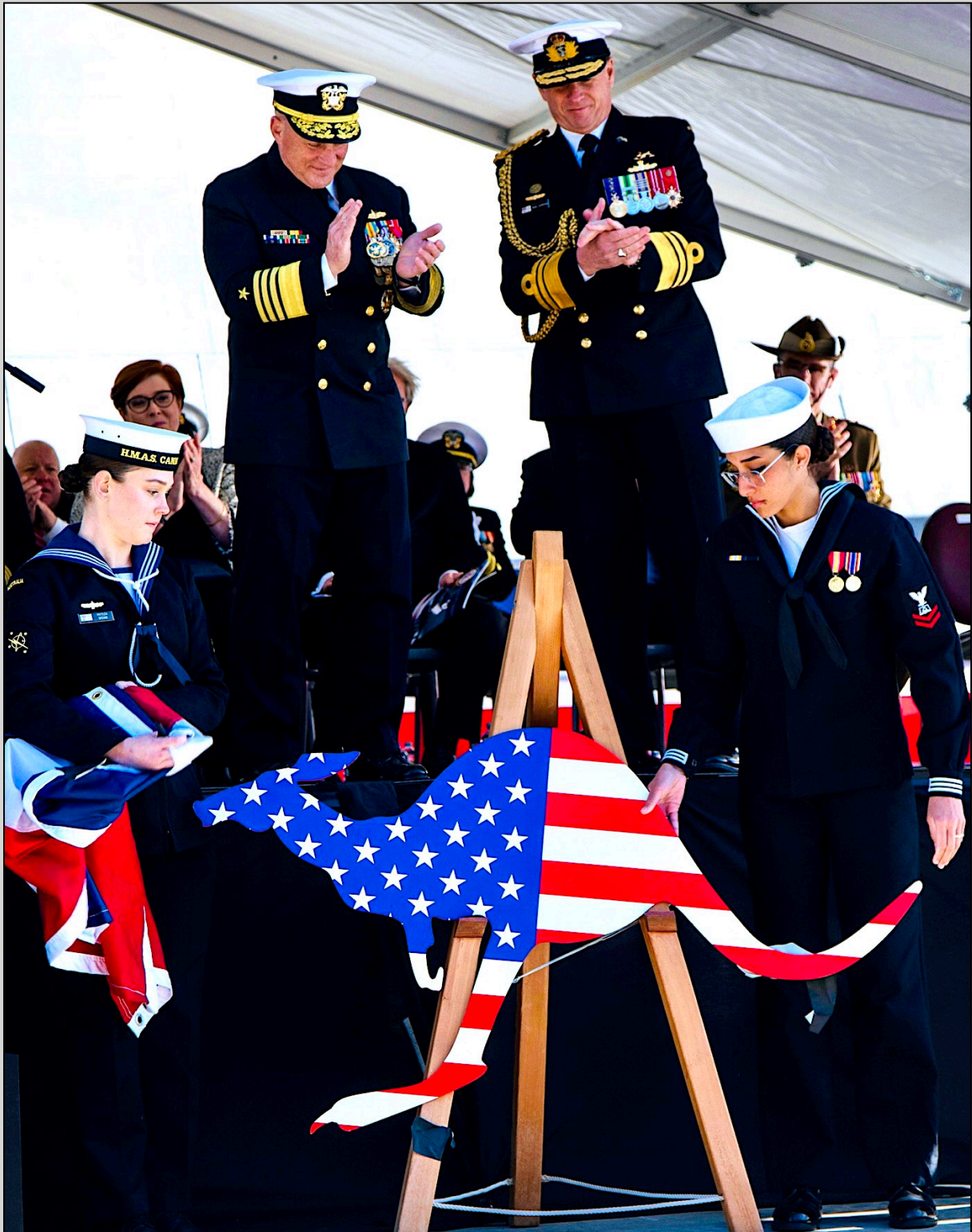
In World War 1, HMAS Parramatta affixed a bronze kangaroo to the top of her jackstaff. Various iterations of the red kangaroo were installed on the funnels of ships in the early 1970s.

Since 1985, all major fleet units of the RAN have been recognised by a solid red kangaroo. Now a new kind of kangaroo will be visible on the seas. It's a one-of-a-kind insignia that will forever connect it with its Australian name and other vessels in the RAN fleet.



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*Chief of Navy Australia, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, gifts an Australian kangaroo to the USS Canberra.
Received on behalf of the crew by The 32nd Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Gilday.*

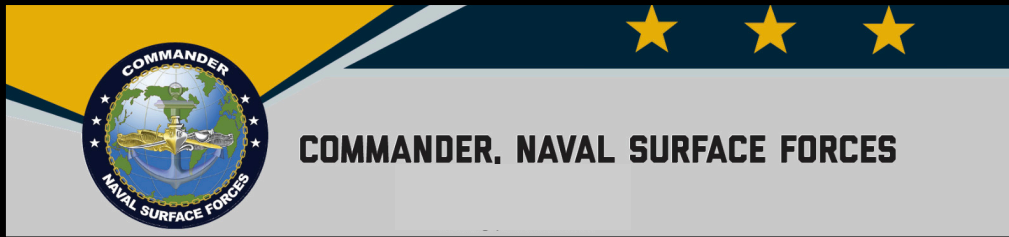
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SAN DIEGO

The future **USS Canberra** (LCS 30) will join the U.S. Navy active fleet on July 22 with the U.S. Navy's first international commissioning ceremony at the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base East in Sydney, Australia.

Canberra is the first U.S. Navy warship to be commissioned in an allied country. It is the second U.S. Navy ship to bear the namesake of Canberra.

"I can think of no better way to signify our enduring partnership with Australia than celebrating the newest U.S. Navy warship named for Australia's capital city, and commissioning her in Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base East surrounded by many of the Australian ships we have worked alongside for years," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. "I look forward to this momentous day for the ship, crew, sponsor, and all our partners in government and industry who worked tirelessly to give the future USS Canberra the celebration it deserves."

Australian Chief of Navy, Vice Adm. Mark Hammond said this historic event encapsulates both the depth of the historical ties, and modern day partnership between the Royal Australian Navy and the U.S. Navy.

"This is a unique demonstration of respect by the U.S. for the Officers and Sailors of the Royal Australian Navy," said Hammond. "It is an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, and on a friendship forged while fighting side-by-side. On August 9, 1942 the RAN heavy cruiser HMAS Canberra was severely damaged off Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands) while protecting the U.S. Marines fighting ashore. In a surprise attack by a powerful Japanese naval force, Canberra was hit 24 times in less than two minutes and 84 of her crew were killed including Captain Frank Gettling"

"I look forward to welcoming the U.S. Navy, and the crew of USS Canberra to Australia and we are honoured to host the U.S. Navy's first international commissioning. It will be a historical event to see the USS Canberra and HMAS Canberra alongside each other in Sydney. As we look to the future, the strength of our partnership remains a cornerstone of a secure, stable, free and open Indo-Pacific Region."

The first USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2) was named at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in honour of the Australian heavy cruiser HMAS Canberra for the ship's courageous actions during the Battle of Savo Island that took place Aug. 7-9, 1942. The new Baltimore-class heavy cruiser was renamed Canberra from Pittsburgh on Oct. 16, 1942, and was commissioned on Oct. 14, 1943.

Canberra will soon begin the transit for the Navy's first international ship commissioning making stops along the transit in Indo-Pacific nations prior to its arrival in Sydney for commissioning.

A visit to the Australian capital city of Canberra is planned the day after commissioning, continuing the U.S. Navy tradition of building a strong relationship with namesake communities.

The ship's sponsor is Australian Senator, the Honourable Marise Payne, the former Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs who attended the ship's keel laying ceremony in Mobile, Ala. in 2020. The ship was christened June 5, 2021, by Alison Petchell, the Australian Government's Defence Assistant Secretary for Industrial Capability Planning in the Nuclear Submarines Taskforce and former Minister Counsellor for Defence Materiel, on behalf of Senator Payne. The ship arrived for the first time at its homeport of San Diego last year.

The first U.S. Navy ship named after a foreign capital, Canberra (CA-70) was sponsored by Lady Alice C. Dixon, the wife of Sir Owen Dixon, then Australian Minister to the United States. Following World War II, Canberra was placed out of commission and in reserve on March 7, 1947. Five years later, the ship was selected to be the U.S. Navy's second guided missile cruiser. The ship was re-commissioned on June 15, 1956, as guided missile heavy cruiser CAG-2.

With its new designation, Canberra transported President Dwight D. Eisenhower and later was the ceremonial flagship for the selection of the Unknown Serviceman of both World War II and Korea interned at Arlington National Cemetery, was the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet Cruiser Force flagship, conducted an around the globe goodwill cruise, provided medical assistance to the crew of the Turkish merchantman Mehmet Ipar, was the Commander Task Group 136.1 flagship that was charged with maintaining a blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and served in Korea and Vietnam. To highlight the ship's role in naval gunfire support following operations in Vietnam, Canberra was re-designated to original classification and identification number CA-70 on May 1, 1968.

Canberra received seven battle stars for her service in World War II. The ship was decommissioned on Feb. 2, 1970, and was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on July 31, 1978.

The present day USS Canberra is the 16th Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy. LCS are designed to be fast, optimally-manned, mission-tailored, surface combatants that operate in both littoral and open-ocean environments. LCS integrate with joint, combined, crewed, and unmanned systems to support forward-presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence missions around the globe.

This future USS Canberra was built by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama.

Admiral Samuel Paparo
Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet

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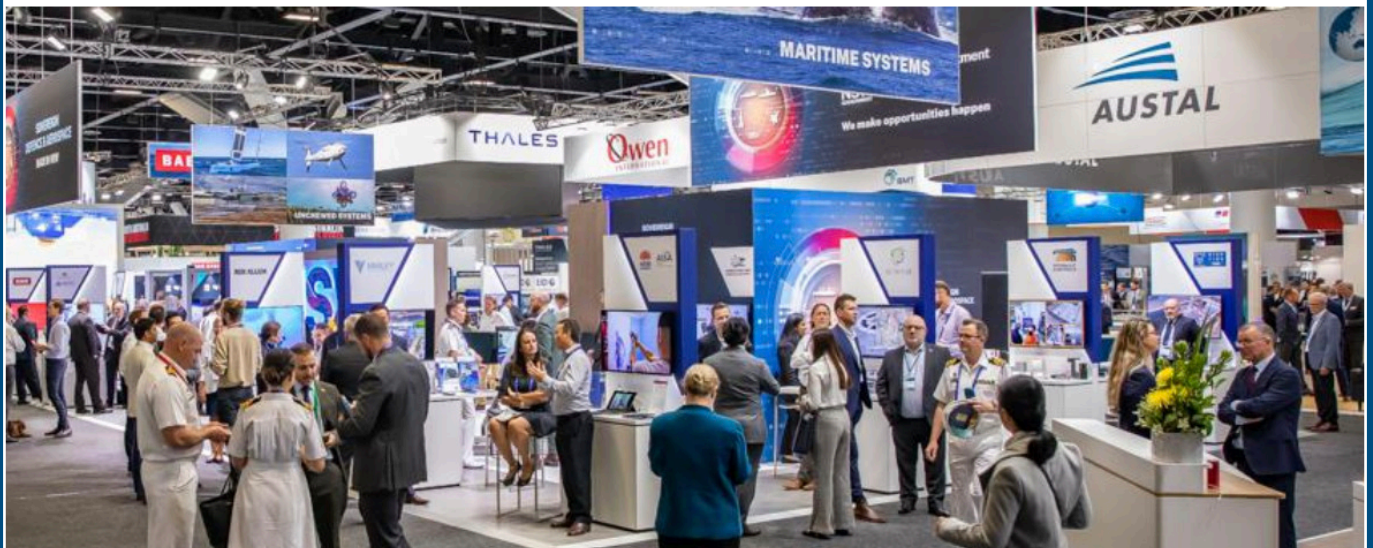


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EXHIBITION NOW SOLD OUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN



The Indo Pacific 2023 exhibition floorplan is now sold out with a record number of organisations set to participate in the November exposition.

Spanning the entire 19,000sqm of ICC Sydney's Level 1 exhibition floor, the Indo Pacific 2023 industry exhibition has increased by 11% from previous record levels seen last year and will showcase:

- 700+ participating organisations from Australia and around the world.
- Displays by global primes, Australian SMEs, state and federal governments and industry associations from the maritime sector.
- Government-led pavilions from every Australian state and territory.
- Five international pavilions representing the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy and Japan.



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STONEHAVEN

TINGIRA BOYS DELIVER SHIPMATE RAY JAMES ULTIMATE STONEHAVEN SURPRISE

Tingira Australia President Brad Murphy, took the microphone and proceeded with his address to RSL NSW Cumberland members at a special President dinner function, delivering the history of the Tingira Stonehaven Medal before announcing the winner.

Tingira Boy, Greg Read, put on his navy beret and wondered onto the stage area in front of Brad and in what seemed like he was about to receive the honour. However, Greg too was in on the surprise delivery and the winner was left in total shock, BZ Tingira Boys!

Tingira President, Brad Murphy OAM, announced former Royal Australian Navy Junior Recruit, Ray James, as the winner of the 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

“Again for the seventh year of the award, we had several very worthy nominations, all high quality with glowing achievements. All met the Tingira requirements to be named the Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner” said Brad Murphy.

“Looking for the member that goes above and beyond his expected call of duty in navy or community duties is the qualification for nomination”.

This year’s presentation was slightly different as it was delivered in very different circumstances to the past award presentations.

Ray was a special guest at an official RSL NSW Cumberland annual Presidents dinner to receive a donation cheque for the RSL NSW Headquarters. Ray wasn't sure what was happening when the program presented a single line of 'Navy Award Presentation'.

When Tingira President Brad Murphy took the microphone and made the introduction, it was looking like anyone of three Tingira Boys in the room might be up for this award. Then the 'surprise'



announcement was made, Ray James is the Stonehaven winner for 2023.

"Nothing like a good surprise for my boy Ray, it's usually the other way around" said a very excited, proud and jubilant wife Pauline James.

Ray was visibly stunned and very honoured to be named the Stonehaven recipient. Surrounded by a few Tingira navy mates in the room, Ray said "this wonderful trophy will take a high place of pride and joy on my office wall on Monday morning, I'm stunned, I just cant believe it".

Over the past decade Ray has been the 'face of the RSL' in NSW. After some turbulent times in the League, the challenging task is to grow the membership and promote the brand to the new generation of veterans coming into the RSL ranks. Success to date in growing numbers and visibly improving the brand is in progress. Ray has certainly been credited to many the new his ideas and contributions within the RSL NSW.

The years between leaving the navy and RSL duties also bring great merit to Ray's career. A successful period in the NSW Police Force, and continuing his contact with past and present navy mates via the Tingira network, has kept Ray in focus with his defence family and our ever changing navy today.

BZ shipmate Ray James, 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner and thank you to Billy Stokes for the groundwork and nomination.

RAY JAMES - NSW
FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBER - 2011
HMAS LEEUWIN JR - 10th INTAKE 1965

Nominated by

Bill Stokes
Life Member
Tingira Australia Association
Canberra, ACT

Ray (Jesse) James, joined HMAS Leeuwin as a Junior Recruit in January 1965, served in the RAN for 20 years rising to the Rank of CPO Marine Technical Population.

I served with Jesse at HMAS Nirimba in 1979, he was an Outstanding Divisional Chief, highly and well respected by the Apprentices, Ship's Staff and the Command.

During this time Jesse coached the App's First XV to an Outstanding Win in the 1979 App's I/S at Nirimba. He also played with Nirimba First and 2nd XV, where he was an excellent Team Member. In his time at Nirimba Jesse by his excellent example of a Senior Sailor, Counselling and Trained many App's s in preparation for their long Service on their RAN Career Path.

On leaving the RAN in 1985, Jesse i joined the NSW Transit Police.

This was eventually incorporated into the NSW Police Service. Jesse took on many roles in the NSW Police where he frequently bought a Squad down to Albatross for TSG Training and it was again a pleasure to catch up with him again and learn of the same outstanding commitment he had to the NSW Police as he had in the RAN.

During his time and many roles in the NSW Police rising to the rank of SGT after over 30 yrs Service in the Campbelltown Command. During this time Jesse was also President of the Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch, a Director of the RSL Club and a NSW RSL State Counsellor (Board member).

During the recent upheaval of the RSL NSW, Jesse stepped up to the mark and took the reins as the NSW RSL as Acting State President.

Facing many Challenges in front of him as the NSW RSL was near bough to its knees by the fault past of Management with serious allegations of corruption. Jesse tackled this NSW RSL with his normal zealous approach to get the RSL back on track to its original proud core function.

Jesse through his demonstrated hardworking efforts well supported by his board of Directors and the membership. Jesse has strived to get the NSW RSL back to a high profile position.

Improving fallen membership and encouraging younger veteran's to take on the role as office bearers. In lifting the profile of the RSL NSW, Jesse has had many meeting with high profile people as in all levels of government in regraded to promoting the RSL ANZAC Day and other commemorative veteran events, which has restrictions over the past two years..

Jesse was recently elected to the permanent role RSL NSW President, he now travels extensively to the many NSW State RSL Sub Branches across the state promoting and acting in an official capacity in presenting various awards and meeting local government representatives for the RSL NSW. To which this in itself has been so well received by RSL Sub Branch Members and a main stay in bringing and improving the executive office levels of the RSL NSW lines of communications to a consistent high level with the RSL Sub Branches.

Not only had Jesse strived to improve the RSL overall performance levels. He has been instrumental in the involving the NSW Schools and students in RSL Commemorative Activities.

This endeavour has demonstrated Jesse excellent commitment to follow on from his RAN and NSW Police Service with the same tenacity and outstanding service to his now elected civilian roles and functions in getting the RSL NSW back to its once high functioning role of veteran's matters.

Jesse has not forgotten his many years of RAN Service where he is also involved in participating in the RAN 'Old Salts Rugby' which has again reinvigorated his past service mate ship and made many new friends, along with age has not stopped him from taking to the Rugby paddock in purple rugby attire for over 70's

I am proud that I have the honour, privilege and opportunity to know and serve with Jesse James.

He has always demonstrated a high order of professionalism for all work he has undertaken, by setting a high bench mark of example for others to aspire to. This is why by Jesse long service to the RAN, NSW Police Service and RSL NSW at all Levels.

I have no hesitation in nominating and believe he is a most worthy recipient for the award of the prestigious 'Tingara Stonehaven Medal' for the 2023 nomination.



Celebrating the 2023 Tingira Stonehaven Medal - L:R Tingira President Brad Murphy, Tingira Stonehaven Medal winner Ray James, former Tingira President Greg Read, and National Tingira Secretary, Mark Lee.



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Kit Muster Vol. II

UNIFORMS, BADGES AND CATEGORIES
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Tingira Boy, former RAN Junior Recruit
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Feature Navy Exhibition ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SOUTH, SYDNEY

1913 the Royal Australian Navy's brand-new fleet sailed through the Heads and into Sydney Harbour. Since then the RAN has served on all the world's oceans in times of peace and war.

During the Second World War, the RAN reached its maximum strength. Approximately 37,000 men and women wore a RAN uniform. The war inflicted a heavy toll on ships and personnel. Thirty-eight cruisers, destroyers, sloops and smaller vessels were sunk and almost 2,200 sailors died on active service.

Since the end of the Second World War, the RAN's fortunes have fluctuated dramatically between lavish acquisitions and slashed defence budgets.

The RAN has sent ships and service personnel to war in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. The service has participated in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations all over the globe, at sea, on remote islands and in tri-service deployments. It has played a vital role in protecting our borders and interrupting the international drug trade.

Today the RAN is a highly technical force of state-of-the-art equipment staffed by skilled and dedicated people serving the white ensign in the best traditions of Francis Drake and Horatio Nelson.

To recognise the generations of Australians who have gone to war on great waters the Anzac Memorial will open a year-long exhibition on the Royal Australian Navy on the anniversary of the Battle of Cape Matapan, 27 March 2023.



TINGIRA
National Committee Member

JEFF WAKE



INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF DEFENCE ESTATE

LEEWIN LIVES ON, PERHAPS...

Two independent leads have been appointed by the Australian federal government to undertake a Defence estate audit on baseline estate and infrastructure.

Former Defence Housing Australia managing director Jan Mason and Infrastructure Victoria Board chair Jim Miller will conduct the enterprise-wide audit and present their recommendations by the end of this year for consideration.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said the government is committed to ensuring the Defence estate is best structured to support the force posture, force generation, and preparedness for challenging strategic circumstances.

“Jan Mason and Jim Miller bring the unique blend of skills and experience needed to this audit to ensure our Defence estate meets our strategic circumstances,” he said.

“The leads were set an ambitious but necessary task and timeline by the Defence Strategic Review, but I am confident they can deliver this important piece of work.

“Now is the time to ensure the Defence estate meets Australia’s future security needs and allows effective, long-term management and sustainment, in line with the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review.”

The audit will consider whether Defence estate meets operational and capability requirements, in particular, investment in Australia’s northern network of bases, ports, and barracks in response to the Defence Strategic Review released earlier this year.

“The Defence estate is the Commonwealth’s largest land holding with a footprint of more than 2.8 million hectares,” said Assistant Minister for Defence Matt Thistlethwaite.



Late in 2022 several of the Leeuwin accomodation blacks were removed from the site, the future is sill unknown.



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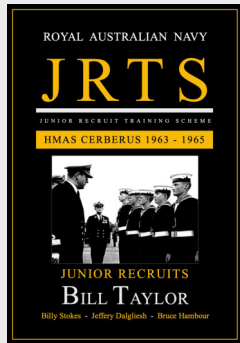
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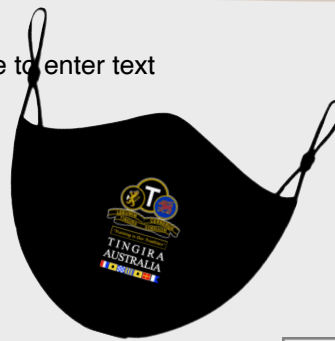
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JUNIOR SAILORS INSIGNIA

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

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TINGIRA
Secretary
VOICEpipe Editor

MARK LEE



“

For the past three years, civilians watching the Anzac day march have made contact with the association upon hearing the name Sobraon or Tingira

YESTERDAY'S HISTORY - SOBRAON ...

SOBRAON MASTERPIECE FOUND

TINGIRA SURPRISE ATTACHED ...

There are many unexpected rewards for the Tingira Australia Association when we hold our 'banner high' on Elizabeth Street during the annual Anzac Day march in Sydney.

Stopping at the top of the hill before the final 750 metre march towards Anzac Memorial, we adjust our banner, our ties and berets. Tingira then receives two minutes of ABC Television airtime with camera focused on our front row and banner, telling viewers our famous Tingira story of the two generations of RAN boy sailors. However, the best result of this TV exposure came a few weeks after the march.

For the past three years, civilians watching the Anzac day march have made contact with the association upon hearing the name Sobraon or Tingira. Several rare and valuable items of memorabilia have been gifted back to the association, adding to our ever-growing Tingira collection.

Recently Lyn McDougall made contact with our Secretary and presented a rare colour image print of the famous English Sailing Ship Sobraon. (In the third phase of her life, Sobraon became HMAS Tingira, first RAN training ship). The original is an oil painting by John Allcot titled 'A Glimpse of the Past'.

A large black and white print is displayed in many port hotels and bars around the world. The Orient hotel in Sydney, has a classic version hanging in the main front bar.

Today we have in our possession the only copy of a colour version of the artwork that has been unearthed. The story of how it has been kept in such good condition and how Lyn McDougall came to the possession is also very heartwarming.

The real value of this masterpiece is unearthed when the frame is overturned. Two old last century typewritten inscriptions revealing the new story of the image and 'Tingira' frame that delivers the true treasure of the coloured Sobraon print.



Lyn McDougall with the rare colour artwork of Clipper ship Sobraon at the Quay, framed inside the wood taken from HMASTingira in 1941.

THE SHIP "SOBRAON" AT WEST CIRCULAR QUAY

February, 1871

The arrival and departure of this famous ship (commanded by popular Captain A. E. Elmslie), was an event of great importance in those days. She carried an average of 90 First Class and 40 Second Class passengers.

After 25 years active service without a serious accident she was afterwards in turn a reformatory ship, and later a training ship for the navy.

An attempt was made to preserve her, but she was eventually broken up in Sydney in 1941.

Many famous people came out in her, including Lord and Lady Belmore and their suite, Lord Belmore to become Governor of New South Wales.

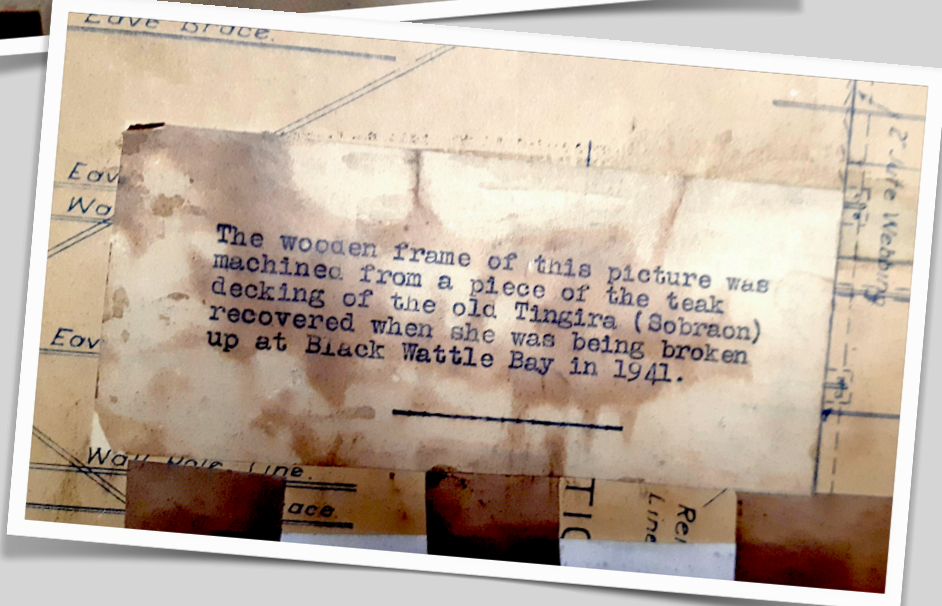
Included in the picture is the Manly Ferry Steamer "Emu" approaching her berth at the quay. Most of the buildings featured in the painting have disappeared and with them, many memories and stories of the early days of Sydney.

Circular Quay was a boisterous place at night at that time, the hotels being open until 11 p.m. The Clipper ships, with their tall masts and their bowsprit extending over the quay, were visited by crowds of people on Sundays.

It was a popular way of spending the day, looking at these beautiful ships.

As the poet Masefield put it :

"They mark our passage as a race
of men.
Earth will not see such ships
as these again."



The hidden story behind the Sobraon artwork and Tingira picture frame

Our coloured print will become part of the Tingira collection which is presently searching for a new home, standby sailor!

Communication received at the Tingira desk ...

Dear Secretary,

I have in my possession a framed print of a painting of the 'Sobraon' after the recent passing of my father Malcolm.

According to the print itself, it was taken from an oil painting by John Allcot. It is titled 'A Glimpse of the Past'. A note taped to the back of it states "The Ship – Sobraon – at West Circular Quay February 1871" - the note goes on to describe a brief outline of the ship's history.

There is a second typed note, also on the back of the painting stating that the frame is "machined from a piece of the teak decking of the old Tingira (Sobraon) recovered when she was being broken up at Blackwattle Bay in 1941"

The print was part of a varied collection belonging to my late father who passed away five years ago, and I have been unsure of what to do with it since!

I have no family to pass it on to, and while watching this year's Anzac parade in Sydney, noticed a unit marching as the 'Tingira Association' – an idea was born....

Lynne McDougall

Brief McDougall History ...

Andrew and Elizabeth McDougall arrived in Australia with five children, (aged 10, 8, 5, 3 yrs and a baby of about 12 mths), on the sailing ship 'Barwell' in 1798 as free settlers. Elizabeth went on to have a sixth child born in Australia in 1800.

Their eldest son, Thomas (1788) did not marry; their second son, John Kerr (1790), married and went on to have 8 children. His eldest child, Andrew Louis (1819), married and had 9 children. His eldest child, Allaster (1851), married and had 10 children. His eighth child, Rupert (1892) married and had 3 children, Allaster, Mary and Jim. His ninth child, Roy (1896) married and had one child, Malcolm McDougall.

Andrew and Elizabeth settled in what was then Toongabbie on 150 acres, a grant, given by Governor Hunter in November 1799. They called the property 'Buckholm' and their house 'Roxburgh', both after their home county of Roxburghshire and Buckholm Hills in Scotland. The current suburb of Baulkham Hills takes its name from here.

The image below is of the third house built on the property, the first two having fallen into disrepair and/or burnt down. This house was built in 1860 by Andrew Louis McDougall, grandson of the first Andrew McDougall.

Roxburgh was sold in 1875 after a severe economic slump in 1868 and drought in 1874/5. Sometime during the 1960s it was divided into three flats, and was sold again in 1965, the house demolished, and the area subdivided.

The area is now Roxburgh Park, a large recreational park including a memorial rose garden and swimming pool.

The original oil painting of Roxburgh was by John Allcot in 1968, "from magazine reproductions and photographs". He also painted the famous Sobraon at Circular Quay original oil painting.



MY FATHER MALCOLM MCDUGAL ...

Malcolm was born in Sydney on 20 March 1934.

He was an only child, and worked for NSW Railways as a Fitter and Turner. He appears to have been somewhat eccentric, and a collector of train and ship memorabilia.

Malcolm died on 30 June 2005, having lived all his life in the family home of his parents in Carlton, Sydney.

Malcolm's bedroom was at the front of the house. The walls were covered in photos,

magazine pictures, prints and paintings of various trains and ships.

The Sobraon print was part of this collection.

When Malcolm died, Allaster and his brother Jim were Executors.

A few days before he died, Malcolm was able to tell them from his hospital bed where valuable items were located, and as he had no family, he was happy for them to keep whatever they wanted, and donate anything worthwhile to the Salvation Army.

From childhood, Allaster had always been keen on ships and all things 'marine'. He could not bear to leave the Sobraon print (or the print of 'The Dart').



THE DART

A three masted, square rigged vessel of 85ft in length and 189 tons weight. Built 1807, she carried eight guns for defence and crewed by 18 seamen under command of Richard Smith as Master.

The Dart belonged to a London shipping firm, Hullett and Co in which Mr. John MacArthur, the founder of Australian wool industry, had an interest.





Tingira Secretary Mark Lee presents the original HMAS Tingira nameplate to the RAN Commander, Ali Withers, Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus Recruit School. The nameplate is to be refurbished and presented officially in December as a permanent display item in the Recruit School Recreation Centre.

INVITATION

To all former RAN Junior Recruits and members of Tingira Australia Association with partner

TINGIRA TEA PARTY

*The official handover of the original HMAS Tingira nameplate
to the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School*



1600 hours Thursday 14th December 2023



'THE JORDAN CLUB'

RAN Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus, Crib Point, Victoria

DRESS - Business suit - Medals or ribbons
Tingira Members - Tie and lapel badge

RSVP - Tingira SEC by COB - Friday 1st December 2023
Email only ... TSEC@TINGIRA.ORG.AU
Name, service number, car registration

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED

GEEELONG NAVY CLUB

WELCOMES TINGIRA BOYS ...



Tingira Australia Association members, and ex-RAN servicemen, interstate, who might be thinking of visiting Victoria, it's worth a trip to Geelong, especially if heading for the Great Ocean Road, or parts east and west, on your next grey nomad's trip.

For those looking to take the Bass Strait Ferry voyage with car or van over to Tasmania, or for our Tasmanian ex – RAN shipmates, coming this way, the new large purpose-built, Geelong Ferry terminal provides excellent parking room and services, it is now situated in Geelong port area, close to the city, something you may be

interested in and worth checking out are the historic ties, that Geelong has with the Royal Australian Navy.

Entering Geelong City, on the highway from Melbourne, take a turn left at the Vietnam Memorial Flag and memorial, and note on your right, the HMAS Sydney “Vung Tau Ferry” portrait sitting proudly on the opposite side.

Further down this side road, towards the bay is the historic heritage Osborne House, the original Australian Navy Midshipmen college. A large blue stone building where young midshipmen trained in seamanship, from WW1 and later become prominent senior officers of the RAN, leading up and through the WW2 period.





The historic heritage Osborne House, the original Australian Navy Midshipmen college.

(For those interested in this period of Naval history). View Captain Andrew Mackinnon CSC RAN Rtd presentation, on You Tube, he provides good detail and overview.

The Osborne House College facilities and building after WW1 had a number of roles and was also used as a service and training centre for J Class submarines, provided to Australia from the RN Admiralty.

At end of WW2 the Geelong port area was also a mooring for surplus RAN corvettes, and support vessels.

GEELONG NAVY CLUB HISTORY

The Geelong Naval Association, Club premises up to and during the early 60's, was located on the scenic water precinct opposite Cunningham Pier, at the old Edwardian Sailors Rest. The club hosted a number of RAN ship visits, and overseas Navy vessel personnel. Support provided to the Naval Cadets, and a place to cater to RAN personnel arriving for commemorative purposes.

RAN Ships undergoing trials from WND after commissioning, or those that finished refit in Williamstown dockyard, were keen on visiting Geelong City. The old Cunningham pier used as a berth was later surveyed, and found unsuited for modern larger Naval vessel visits, this is now used as a restaurant and social hub.

Current RAN vessels visiting Geelong these days, utilise the main berthing facilities provided by the Port of Geelong Authority that can cater too from example HMAS Geelong, right up to some of our latest RAN Fleet warships.

THE NAVY CLUB run by Naval Association of Australia, Geelong Sub section, is now located in a convenient premises owned by the club. Providing for member functions, social events, with modern bar, outdoor covered BBQ area, plus it's one of the few places left, where you can play on a large heritage billiard table, surrounded by outstanding RAN memorabilia, all this is just 10 minutes from the Geelong CBD, and located at 90- 92 Skene Street, Newtown. (Opposite the heritage Gold Diggers Inn).

CONTACT. www.navygeelong@gmail.com



THE NAVY CLUB

90 - 92 Skene Street, Newtown

Opposite the heritage Gold Diggers Inn, 10 mins CBD Geelong

03 5229 4148



The Navy Club premises hold social evenings, and popular AFL Friday's and Saturday afternoon BBQ, Sports channels etc. watch Cricket test in season, Saturday night, and midweek, local artist music events.

If you're looking for a friendly chat, a quiet beverage, with a Navy vibe, under the collection of photos, from your RAN service period... as well as original name plaques, mementos, from past RAN vessels, some dating from WW2, up to present day then here is the opportunity.

A welcome to all Ex RAN or serving ranks, and for the JRs and TINGIRA members living in, or relocating to the growing Geelong and Bellarine area, it's a great club to be a member of, catching up with friends and old Ship mates, we can also provide some guidance on DVA resources in this Region.

Facebook page – which lists functions and services available. <http://www.facebook.com/NAVYGEELONG>

As a location, Geelong City is well catered for transport wise, with a good bus service, and regional rail network, plus air travel via Avalon

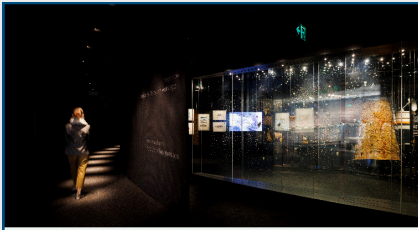
which is close by. Add the Catamaran Ferry services that run up to Melbourne Dockland and back. You can take advantage of the easy access to the roads that take you to the large car ferry to Sorrento from the Queenscliff terminal, if your heading Cerberus, or Gippsland way.

Looking at Geelong as a possible venue for a Navy /JR reunion, you will be surprised by what's on offer, as a vibrant Restaurant scene for all tastes, Cocktail bars, Pubs and clubs, plus excellent Breweries with function rooms that can to the larger social functions at (Little Creatures and Furphy)

Geelong Football stadium close by if coming for AFL, or the other sport events, good Golf, and Sailing facilities. Large hotels, motels, B&B accommodation, caravan facilities and relevant parks situated along the nearby Bellarine area, for the very popular Bellarine Vineyards. Geelong is a good road hub that links well to the great Ocean Road, should you be heading past Bells Beach, and Lorne, right along the coast to South Australia.



PRESENT EXHIBITIONS - 2023



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Shaped by the Sea



OPEN NOW

Wharfies' Mural



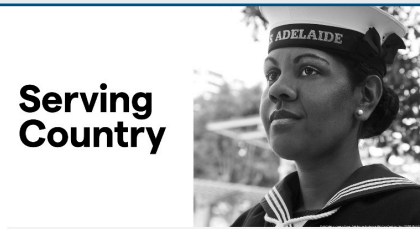
OPEN NOW

Brickwrecks



OPEN NOW

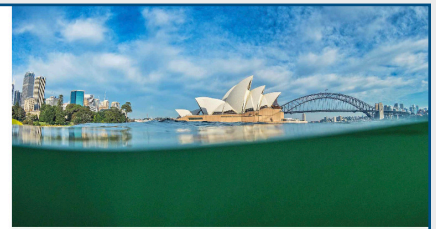
Wildlife Photographer of the Year



**Serving
Country**

OPEN NOW

Serving Country



OPEN NOW

Sydney Harbour Gallery



OPEN NOW

Au Karem Ira Lamar Lu – Ghost Nets of the Ocean



FREE OUTDOOR

Diver



OPEN NOW

HMB Endeavour Cannon



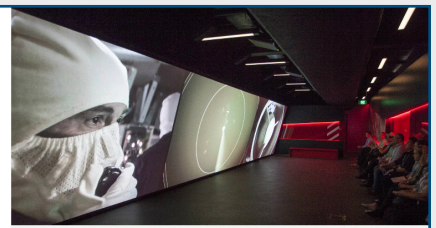
OPEN NOW

Māna and Bāru



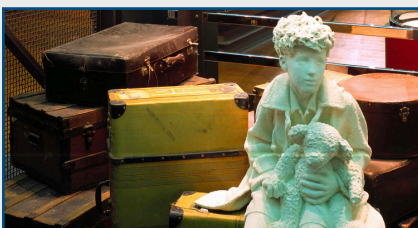
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Navy



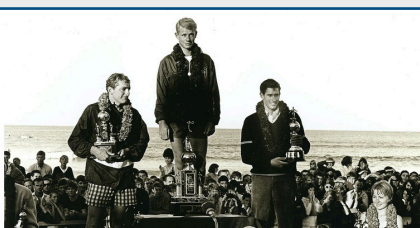
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Action Stations



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Passengers



ONGOING

Out of Hawaii: Surfing goes global



OPEN NOW

Seahawk Helicopter

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

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Every year, Tripadvisor awards travellers' favourite destinations, hotels, restaurants, and things to do around the world, based on reviews and ratings collected over the previous 12 months.

Travellers' Choice, formerly Certificate of Excellence, are determined based on the

quality and quantity of traveller reviews and ratings posted on Tripadvisor.

The award is given to the top 10% of attractions worldwide.

Museum Director and CEO, Ms Daryl Karp said, 'We thank all our visitors who have reviewed us and acknowledge the extraordinary staff and volunteers who ensure visits to the museum are always memorable.'

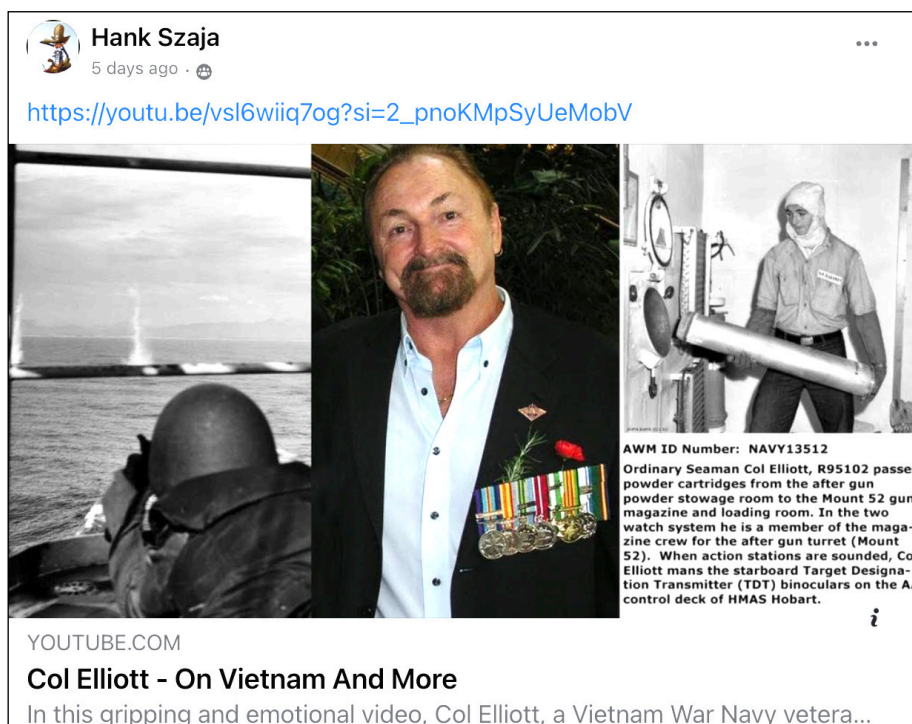
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HMAS Leeuwin 49th Intake Reunion

Reunions

Reaching out to members not on Facebook
RHOADES Division 49-year anniversary
13–15 October 2023 Canberra
Meet and Greet at Olims Bar and Bistro,
18:30 Friday 13 October, corner of
Ainslie & Limestone Ave, Braddon ACT
2618
Contacts & further Information:
Bruce 'Biscuit' Arnott:
iba107@hotmail.com 0448 883 701
Andrew 'Possum' Freame:
andrew.freame@bigpond.com 0408 114 205
Garry 'Tiger' Lyons: glyons@gmail.com
0402 000 748
Sunday drinks and goodbyes 11:00 15
October – Olims Bar - open to past and
present members of the Royal
Australian Navy living-in/visiting
Canberra.
"ANTEA NAVIS SODALIS CONSOCIUS"
"Past Shipmates Reunited"

Reunion details

Date: 13 Oct 2023

Location: Canberra

Contact details

Name: Andrew Freame

Phone: 0408 114 205

Email: andrew.freame@bigpond.com



HMAS Leeuwin 35th Intake Stevenson Division

Reunions

10–14 November 2023. 52nd
Anniversary Reunion.

Reunion details

Date: 10 Nov 2023

Location: Fremantle

Contact details

Name: Blue Skimmings (Skimmo)

Phone: 0488 977 312

Email: bluevicki1@hotmail.com

Website:

*If you have a reunion planned for the near future
please forward details to Tingira Secretary for inclusion in the next
VOICEpipe issue*



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