**TINGIRA**
AUSTRALIA

# <u>TINGIRA NAMEPLATE</u>
## COMPLETES HER VOYAGE

**The original name plate from the 1912 Royal Australian Navy Training ship HMAS Tingira was recently returned to the RAN. It will be permanently displayed on a wall at the RAN Training School, HMAS Cerberus, Cribb Point, Victoria.**

Representing the RAN Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Steve Tiffen, AM, CSM, RAN, received this prestigious item of naval history from the Secretary of the Tingira Australia Association, Mr. Mark Lee.

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Presenting the historic artefact, Mark Lee stated, 'Returning this original name plate back to the navy was always the aim of the Tingira Association. Back in 2019 we received the nameplate from the NSW Deaf and Blind Association who donated it to the Tingira Association memorabilia collection'.

At the presentation, Rear Admiral Tiffen also received a second item with similar historic value and relevance. This was a copy of a famous print of HMAS Tingira from 1890 in her original status as the English Clipper Ship Sobroan.

Shortly after the 2023 Anzac Day march by the Tingira Boys down Elizabeth Street, Sydney, Mrs Lyn McDougall contacted the Tingira Association saying she was willing to donate her print of Sobroan to the association's Tingira collection. An intriguing element of this donation is the wooden frame. It was made from the timber deck boards of HMAS Tingira when the ship was broken up in the Sydney shipyards at Berrys Bay in 1941.

Rear Admiral Tiffen said 'This is truly an historic occasion to receive these two items that hold such significant history for the Royal Australian Navy. They will be displayed here at our training facility on the walls of HMAS Cerberus for every sailor to see. When sailors commence their naval careers, a name and ship can mean so much in years to come'.

Commanding Officer of the RAN Recruit School, Commander Ali Withers, was delighted to have these two historic items donated. They will become a major feature on the walls of the sailors recreation centre inside the Recruit School establishment.

The Tingira memorabilia collection is now reaching over 50 items and will soon be distributed between several RAN museums, HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia, HMAS CERBERUS Victoria and HMAS KUTTABUL, Garden Island, NSW.

Captain Alastair Cooper, Director of Sea Power Centre Australia, said, 'it is certainly a welcome gesture by the Tingira Australia association to break up their collection and spread items associated with HMAS Tingira and HMAS Leeuwin, back into our navy museum collections'.

'We see many navy associations take on their namesake collections but sadly, when these associations come to a final close in later years, many of those items just find their way to the local skip bin and that history is lost, forever. Some of those items do make it to our navy museum curators. What is usually missing is the story behind the item, where has it come from and what was its voyage in the pages of our naval history? Without the story, it;s very difficult to give the item another life in most situations'.

The boys at Tingira Association have certainly done their homework on their collection items. The navy is very keen to receive these items and place them in their rightful naval museum for future navy members and the general public to see.

**ENDS RELEASE**

*Tingira Australia Association Secretary Mark Lee, presents the original HMAS TINGIRA nameplate to Rear Admiral Steve Tiffen, at a special handover ceremony held at the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus, Victoria.*



*Tingira Australia Association Secretary Mark Lee, presents the print of English Clipper Ship Sobraon framed in Tingira deck board to to Rear Admiral Steve Tiffen and RAN Recruit School Commanding Officer Commander Ali Withers at a special handover ceremony held at the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus, Victoria.*