



# VOICEpipe

SUMMER  
2025

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association



TINGIRA + NAVY = JR REUNION



# VIEWFINDER IN RANGE

## HISTORICAL IMAGE THIS QUARTER

### VOICEpipe

SUMMER  
2025 - 26

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**COVER** - Raising the flags on the Leeuwin masthead, the White Ensign by WO Danny Burgess and the Tingira flag by Tingira Patron, VADM Russ Crane (Ret).

Photograph: Peter Dore



**TINGIRA - The 'Leeuwin Team' - Onward and upwards, always!**

L-R: East Fremantle Mayor, Tony Natale, Leeuwin Barracks General Manager, Tonya Major, and Tingira Patron, Vice Admiral Russ Crane AO RAN (Ret).

Photograph by Margaret Lee

### REFLECTIONS 57 days after the Tingira JR reunion ...

Of all the images captured during the recent JR Reunion, the photograph shown above stands out as the most pleasing—and arguably the one with the greatest potential impact Tingira members going forward.

Over the seven-year journey of organising the RAN Tingira JR Reunion, I had the privilege of meeting many influential Navy personnel, government and industry representatives. However, as we reflect on the reunion, two individuals stand out as particularly significant for the future of the Tingira. The newly elected Mayor of East Fremantle, Tony Natale, and the newly appointed General Manager of Leeuwin Barracks, Tonya Major have us in their hearts.

#### A Historic Beginning ...

The JR reunion commenced with a truly historic moment. At the first event, a small private gathering of local dignitaries—along with a few enthusiastic JRs—were privileged to witness the 0800 hours 'Colours' Ceremony. Tingira Patron **Russ Crane** gave the order for "Leeuwin Barracks, Dress Ship."

A team of six young communication sailors from HMAS STIRLING assisted the task of raising the 26 nautical flags, a sign of a 'happy occasion' in true navy tradition.

According to HMAS STIRLING base Warrant Officer, **Danny Burgess**, the last time this may have occurred at the Leeuwin masthead on the JR Memorial was the Queen's Birthday, June 1986.

#### Coffee, Conversation, and Changing the World ...

Following the ceremony, the small group enjoyed a brief period of informal conversation with a 'team photograph' before deciding to cross the road to the local coffee house—where, as often happens on such occasions, we set about "changing the world."

Mayor Tony was quick to raise an issue that had been troubling him and many fellow councillors. He expressed disappointment that numerous local residents had been locked out of Leeuwin Barracks on Anzac Day 2025 and unable to attend the Dawn Service due to not being registered.

"I had only just taken the helm as Acting General Manager," responded Tonya.

Tonya went on to explain that access restrictions were driven by Federal Defence security policies—an ongoing and complex challenge for memorial services held within all Australian Defence establishments.

"Here at Leeuwin," she said, "we are in such a public position, with around 1,000 cars passing daily and the Junior Recruit Memorial is in clear view."

"We face the same issue with Tingira members attending next week's Remembrance Day service."

### A Simple Idea with Big Implications ...

As Mayor Tony voiced his support for Tonya's position, Tingira Patron, Russ Crane, quietly listening while sipping his coffee, offered a deceptively simple solution: "Move the fence, it's that simple here at Leeuwin."

He went on to explain that decades earlier, around 60 square metres of turf had been removed from the gate entrance to create a visitor car park.

"Why is this any different?" he asked the group.

"If the boundary fence was moved along to the gutter line of the Drill Hall roadway, the Leeuwin Junior Recruit Memorial would immediately sit on the public side of the fence—creating an open space accessible 24/7, not just on Anzac Day.

"I'm sure the Mayor can accommodate a few hundred square meters of turf with a dedicated navy Memorial onto his district map."

The idea resonated instantly with the group.

### A Path Forward ...

All present agreed that the proposal was both practical and achievable. Business cards were exchanged, and the group committed to starting a formal 'paper trail' to Canberra authorities, advocating for relocation of the fence and permanent 'public access' to the Navy Leeuwin JR Memorial at East Fremantle.

"I've only been in the Mayor's role for a week," said Tony,

"It feels like we may have achieved something very meaningful this morning for navy and the general public here at Leeuwin Barracks, just talking is where it starts!"

"I've learned a great deal about the Navy & Leeuwin history—from the Colours Ceremony to the displays inside the old Drill Hall for the reunion. Well done, Tingira, we didn't change the world today, however we might have changed your old fence line, you and the general public deserve that at the very least!"



Editor VOICEpipe

## EDITOR'S FINAL FOOTNOTE

*Many readers may realise that this is my final issue of VOICEpipe as Editor.*

*After many years on the Apple keyboards, it's both a sad and a happy moment—but I would not have it any other way. With a new group of faces now in the wheelhouse of the National Tingira Committee, I hope the banner title of VOICEpipe will live another life, perhaps in a future association newsletter format.*

*I must thank, most sincerely, the many contributors who over the years have made VOICEpipe what it is today.*

*First and foremost, the most important team behind the VOICEpipe keystrokes—the proofreaders. The late Ruth Harman; Lyn Hull; Ron Inglis; James & Anne Batkin; and John Perryman: a group of true "shipmates" who proudly looked over my shoulder and helped ensure the final pages always flowed with good spelling and grammar on most issues!*

*To the storyline contributors—many of them ex-JRs—who have shared their stories and experiences:*

*without your words and images, the pages would indeed be blank. Billy Taylor just stole my heart with his publication JRTS.*

*I must also acknowledge the History Research Section of the Mitchell Library, Sydney; CAPT David Michael and his team at the Navy History Group on Garden Island; and John Perryman, both before and after his time at Navy Seapower in Canberra. All have played their part in bringing our publication to fruition every ninety-odd days for the past 15 years, with many contributions of words and nautical images.*

*As for the Association itself, it was always about new friendships. No politics, no advocacy—plenty of other ESOs wear those caps. We were, and are, about shipmates and their families.*

*I acknowledge and thank our Patron, Russ Crane; the four Presidents—Chris Perrin, Greg Read, Lance Kerr and Brad Murphy; and the committees from 2010 to 2025, with whom I have worked tirelessly and most professionally.*

*Along with the many sponsors, supporters and partners of JRs who have also enjoyed this "Tingira voyage" with me. And finally, to my wife Margaret and our three sons, who have all tolerated every moment of Tingira—thank you all. ML*



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# LIFE MEMBERSHIP

## TINGIRA

LIFE MEMBER - 2026



Original HMAS Tingira Compass

TINGIRA

Original HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus Tingira shoulder flash

SUBS NOW DUE  
JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 2026  
GENERAL MEMBERS

### JACK TARR 1<sup>st</sup> Intake 1960

*Is hereby admitted as a Life Member  
of  
Tingira Australia Association*

*A member, who as a Junior Recruit at age 15,  
undertook TINGIRA training and the way of life  
with the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS LEEUWIN, East Fremantle, WA  
hereby agrees to be bound by the Constitution of the  
Tingira Australia Association*

Long Live Tingira - Mates For Life



TINGIRA  
AUSTRALIA

CHRIS PERRIN  
President  
Tingira Australia Association

VADM RUSS CRANE AO, RAN (Ret)  
Patron  
Tingira Australia Association



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# VOICEpipe

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2025

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association

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**Chris Perrin**  
PRESIDENT



*"It will be my mission to set a course that ensures TAA remains relevant and continues to be an important organisation for the support of former JRs well into the future."*

## PRESIDENT'S DESK

# FULL AHEAD

## MATES FOR LIFE

## TINGIRA LIVES ON

“ IN 2010, I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Junior Recruit Training Scheme (JRTS), held in Perth, Western Australia.

The event was arranged by Alan Rogers, Ian Dunne, and the late Trevor Cangemi, all from the very early intakes of former RAN Junior Recruits (JRs). It was a fantastic occasion that brought together many old shipmates from a wide range of divisions and intakes.

To my knowledge, it was the first truly multi-intake JR event ever held.

My own intake, the 46th Marks/Morrow, had already held several reunions, with numbers increasing each year as we managed to locate more of our old JR shipmates. However, that 50th Anniversary celebration, held in our old stomping grounds of Fremantle and Perth, saw the largest gathering of ex-46ers to that date.

In fact, it was this event that directly inspired the creation of what would become the Tingira Australia Association (TAA). From that anniversary gathering, Tingira has grown into an association that actively encourages former JRs to organise reunions, march together on Anzac Day, and reconnect with old shipmates.

I was deeply moved by the goodwill and genuine mateship that came from our shared service in the Navy and our formative years as JRs at HMAS LEEWIN. As a result, I assisted in the creation of what we now know as the Tingira Australia Association and was fortunate, at that time in 2010, to help steer TAA into existence as its inaugural President.



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



**CHAIRMAN**  
Lance Ker



# TINGIRA

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE

2024 - 2027



**PRESIDENT**  
Chris Perrin



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
David Rafferty



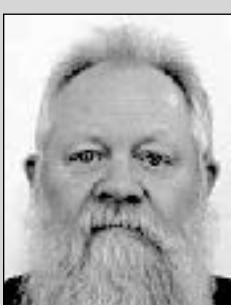
**SECRETARY**  
Brett Mace



**TREASURER**  
Greg Read SC



**COMMITTEE**  
Darryn Rose



**COMMITTEE**  
Mark Worrall



**COMMITTEE**  
Gavin Jarvis



**COMMITTEE**  
Darryl Walton



**Optus Stadium Scoreboard** - Displaying the Tingira and JR Reunion logos up in lights on the big screen, as guests entered the 'Bankwest Club Terrace and the River View Room for the 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire celebration dinner.

Photograph ... Margaret Lee

Many years have passed (13), and I now find myself once again in a position to serve. I have humbly accepted my colleagues' endorsement as President of this fine association, and I am honoured to do so leading the committee.

From January 2026, the National Tingira Committee will include several new faces and we will work hard to keep TAA as a vibrant and relevant organisation for its members.

We are not getting any younger, and as we know all too well, we are beginning to lose shipmates—either due to the effects of service or simply advancing age.

It will be my mission to set a course that ensures TAA remains relevant and continues to be an important organisation for the support of former JRs well into the future. At the same time, we must remain pragmatic and keep a clear eye on the long-term sustainability of the association.

It will be my honour to serve the members of TAA once again, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Anzac Day marches or at other events where our paths may cross.

Recently, we held the 65th Anniversary JR Reunion, once again in Fremantle/Perth, to celebrate all things Tingira and to remember those no longer with us.

It was a tremendous event, organised by our long-standing Secretary, Mark "Dixie" Lee. Along with his wife Margaret and members of the National Tingira Committee, they did a sterling job managing the many events and the administration that allowed us to reconnect with former JRs.

The financial, product and service donations from our sponsors for that reunion really came to the forefront to make this event occur; we thank them sincerely and look forward to continuing our future association with all Tingira supporters.

One thing that continually strikes me at Tingira events is discovering that people you later served with at sea were also former JRs—just from different intakes. I was genuinely surprised to learn that several shipmates I served alongside shared that same foundation.

For example, CPO Coxswain Bill Prince, whom I served with in HMAS SUCCESS during the First Gulf War, was from the 42nd Marks/Morrow intake—joining 12 months before me. Then there was LSETP "Macca" McLachlan, who I completed Phase 3 training with at HMAS NIRIMBA. He was from the 50th Marks/Morrow intake—joining 12 months after me. Who would have thought it? We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company throughout the anniversary events. As the heading above this article says: Mates for Life.

We are also extremely fortunate to have VADM Russ Crane continue as our Patron, providing sage advice and counsel to the TAA Committee when required. I would like to formally thank Russ for his ongoing devotion to Tingira.

As we head into a new chapter for the association, I welcome back former TAA President Greg Read onto the committee as Treasurer, our new Secretary Brett Mace, and a new Western Australian representative, Darryl Walton—a past Stonehaven Medal recipient.

With Lance Ker as Chairman, we retain invaluable experience around the table, along with David Rafferty stepping up as Vice President, Darryn Rose, Mark Worrall, and Gavin Jarvis remain actively engaged, bringing fresh ideas and energy as we chart our path forward.

**"Mates for Life — Long Live Tingira."**  
Thank you for that, Brad Murphy.

Yours aye



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of Australia

[navyhistory.org](http://navyhistory.org)

# TINGIRA STRATEGIC PLAN - Status End Q4 - 2025



## COMPLETE 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.***

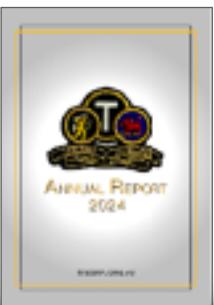
Secretary and Treasurer have completed the project with input from committee and the present membership, released at the 2025 Tingira AGM, on Tingira website, documents updated version with new 2024 - 27 committee. New 2026 committee to review document and status, change where appropriate.



## COMPLETE 2025 - STONEHAVEN MEDAL

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc call for nominations - Tingira Stonehaven Medal 2024 - awarded annually to the 'Tingira Boy' or Boys who go above and beyond the normal call of duty***

The National Tingira Committee announced and presented the 2025 Stonehaven Medal at the Tingira Junior Recruit Reunion to former Junior Recruit John Thurger. Stonehaven Medal is sponsored and supported by RSL NSW Cumberland sub-Branch. Nominations open for 2026 award.



## COMPLETE 2024 - ANNUAL REPORT

***"That Tingira Aust Assoc present Annual Report for membership, presentation at the 2025 Annual General Meeting***

Tingira executive has produced, with assistance from final financial reports from Summit Consultants, the 2024 Annual Report and was presented at the 2025 AGM and displayed to the Tingira membership via the website—hard copy was be distributed to all 2025 merchandise orders after April AGM.



## COMPLETE VOICEpipe MAGAZINE - SUMMER 2025

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

VOICEpipe magazine Editor Mark Lee, presented the 'Summer issue' copy for 1/1/26, his last issue as editor at the editors desk.

## COMPLETE RAN HISTORY SEA POWER 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."***

Several items of the Tingira collection have been donated to the RAN for rightful safe keeping. Future items to be displayed at HMAS WATSON, HMAS CERBERUS and HMAS STIRLING after the recent closure of the RAN Heritage Centre Museum, Garden Island, Sydney. Sea Power was a major sponsorship and supporter across the recent JR Reunion, Perth.

## COMPLETE WOOLLAHRA 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"***

Mayor Woollahra Council, committee of Rose Bay RSL sub-Branch, have seen the Tingira Memorial Park take constant change during 2023-25. The new planting of 'spring' gardens and the park lawns came into their own over last summer, with the new irrigation system keeping them grass green all year round. BZ Council Team at Rose Bay. New Tingira flag raised by RSL Rose Bay sub-Branch on Anzac Day 2025.

## COMPLETE TINGIRA JR REUNION 2025



***"That the incoming 2024 Tingira National Committee, conduct the running of the '2025 JR Reunion' in Perth, as a celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAN Junior Recruit Training Scheme"***

Tingira Committee completed the task and delivered a memorable JR Reunion with eight events in six days with over 150 JRs and partners attending. Major highlight was the raising of the Navy White Ensign and the Tingira flag on the Leeuwin Barracks masthead at the JR Memorial, former JRs marching at the Remembrance Day ceremony and complete with the 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Jubilee dinner, Optus Stadium, Perth.



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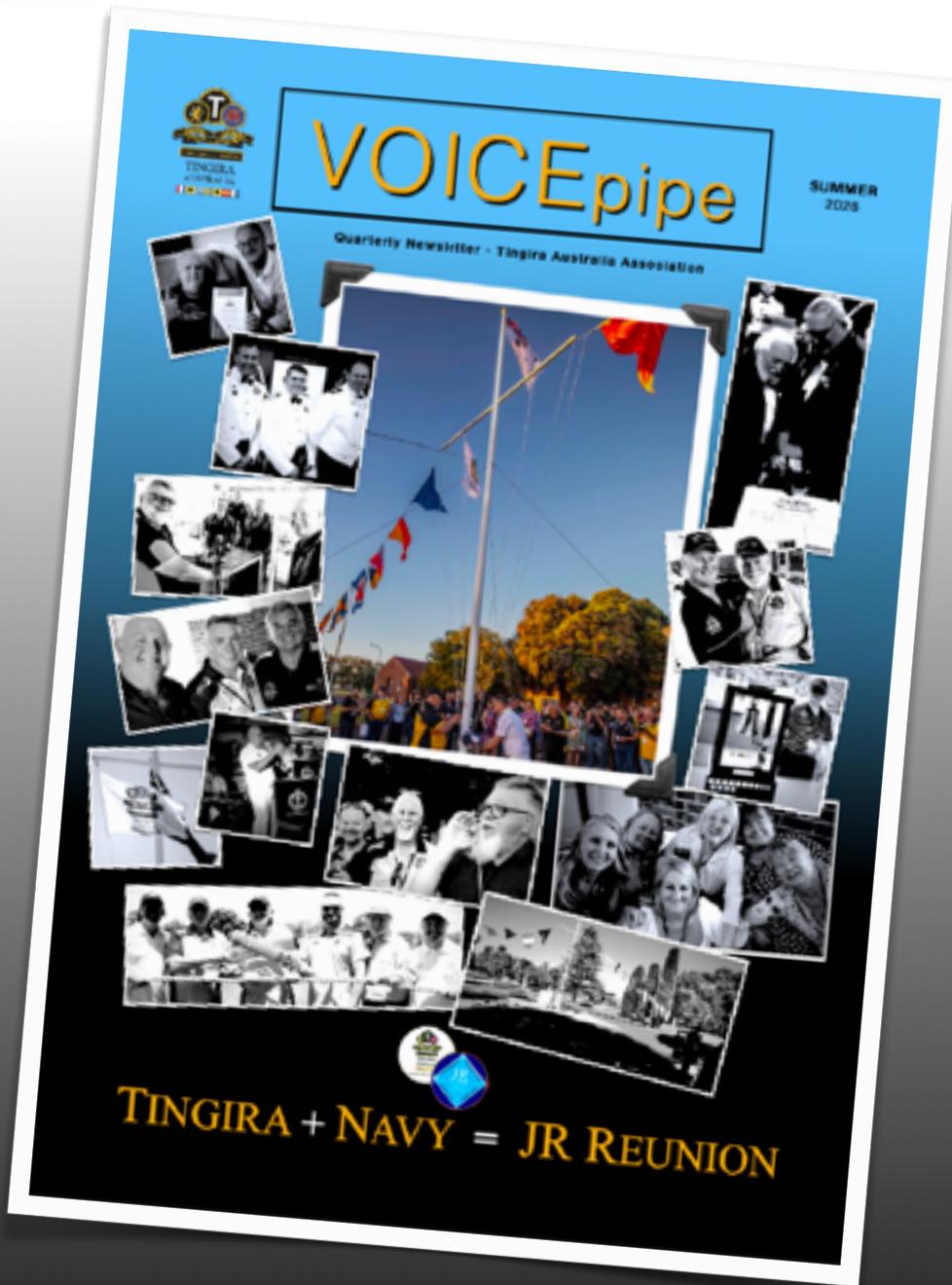
## Our purpose

Recognition for ADF Personnel that were in Darwin and those sent for Operation Help.

Those that were serving in bases around Australia which were providing logistic support for the Operation. This may include Police, Red Cross that were sent to Darwin



YESTERDAY'S HISTORY - JR Reunion 2025



HIGHLIGHT REVIEWS  
TINGIRA - JR REUNION

OFFICIAL



CO STIR/OUT/2025/43  
STIRLING/BS73289133

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

Mr Mark Lee  
Secretary  
Tingira Australia Association

*Dear Mark,*  
65<sup>TH</sup> SAPPHIRE JUBILEE DINNER - 12 NOVEMBER 2025

Thank you so much for the invitation to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Jubilee Dinner at Optus Stadium on 12 November 2025.

It was humbling and a real privilege for Warrant Officer Danny Burgess and I to be there on the night with such wonderful veterans and their families. Thank you also for the opportunity to speak to the gathering which was a real honour for me. The dinner, entertainment, venue, and company were truly first class and it was a simply wonderful evening.

On a personal note, please accept my sincere congratulations on your efforts in organising the event, as well as your award of honorary lifetime membership of the association bestowed upon you during the evening.

On behalf of my Ship's Company, I wish all the Tingira boys the very best and look forward to maintaining this important connection as we all carry this proud legacy forward.

Fair winds and following seas - Bravo Zulu.

*Very sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Burleigh'.

Ken Burleigh  
Captain, RAN  
Commanding Officer

HMAS Stirling  
Stirling Command  
Box 32/15 Baudin Rd  
HMAS Stirling - Point Peron Rd  
GARDEN ISLAND WA 6168

17 November 2025

OFFICIAL



## REVIEW - Junior Recruit Reunion 2025

“

**Well, our 65th Anniversary of the opening of the Junior Recruit Training Establishments at HMA Ships LEEWIN and CERBERUS has come and gone — and what an event it was.**

*I was privileged to attend most of the organised functions, as well as squeeze in a catch-up with my own 32nd Collins and Walton Division intake. I'm pleased to say the boys were all in fine form — eager to reminisce, share a few stories (with the truth stretched just a little here and there!), and enjoy the occasional beer or two. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with great mates.*

*In my view, this Anniversary was one of the finest events we've held in our 15-year Association history. The feedback I have received — and continue to receive — from members, special guests, state and local politicians, and senior Navy officers has been outstanding. We were delighted to host the Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling and his Command Warrant Officer, as well as the current Warrant Officer of the Navy, WO Andrew Bertoncin OAM. WO-N did an exceptional job stepping in at very short notice for the Chief of Navy, who was unfortunately required in Canberra.*

*A standout moment for me — one that will stay with me — was witnessing approximately 100 Tingira Australia Association members step off from the parade ground outside the Drill Hall in three immaculate ranks, marching proudly onto the parade area behind our JR Memorial ahead of the Remembrance Day ceremony. The drill, bearing and sheer pride displayed by our JR shipmates brought a slight tear to this old Admiral's eye.*

*I have no doubt that, given the opportunity, every one of them would have re-enlisted and gone straight back to sea. BZ Tingira JRs — you continue to deliver in spades and make us all immensely proud.*

*From the Friday morning Colours Ceremony, to the sporting events (a resounding whitewash in favour of the Tingira teams!), the Meet and Greet raise the flags, WA Maritime Museum, Swan River Cruise luncheon, Leeuwin Remembrance Day Service, Stadium Sports Tour, and the Anniversary Dinner at Optus Stadium — everything was executed with meticulous planning and precision.*

*As Patron, and on behalf of the entire Tingira Australia Association membership, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our generous reunion sponsors. RAN, WA State Government, Westpac, ASAP Press, RSL LifeCare, Cumberland RSL sub branch, Sea Power Centre Australia, Town of Fremantle, Chiefs Son Distillery, Bundaberg Rum, Navy Uniforms, the Tingira Executive, our National Tingira Committee members and to every person who contributed in any way to bringing this remarkable event to life.*

*Special thanks must go to our, now former Secretary, Mark Lee, and his lovely wife Margaret. They both laboured away at this event for many years, and its remarkable success is, in no small way, due to their dedication, enthusiasm and sheer determination to make it happen!*

*It required many hands to bring this event together, and the efforts of all have reaffirmed the strength of our Association and the enduring spirit of the Navy Junior Recruit. "*



**Russ Crane** AO, CSM  
Patron  
Tingira Australia Association



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**ON THE ROPE** - Housed in the Tingira Honour roll box, the Tingira bell rang eight bells for the Leeuwin barracks 'Colours Ceremony, with a ver proud former Junior Recruit, WOCD Larry Digney, on the bell rope to perform the duty.

Photographs ... Margaret Lee



## DAY ONE - 8 am Friday 7 November

# COLOURS CEREMONY

## DRESS SHIP - LEEUWIN BARRACKS

**THE TINGIRA Junior Recruits Reunion 2025, commenced with a truly historic moment at the former RAN training base of HMAS LEEUWIN, East Fremantle.**

The opening reunion event, a gathering of local government dignitaries—with a handful of enthusiastic former JRs—were privileged to witness the 0800 hours Navy Colours Ceremony, complemented with 'Dress Ship'.

**0759** - "One Minute to Colours, sir" was the call from inaugural Tingira President, Chris Perrin.

**0800** - "Eight o'Clock, sir" calls Perrin.

"Make It So - Leeuwin Barracks, Dress Ship" replied Tingira Patron, Vice Admiral Russ Crane, AO, CSM, RAN (ret).

The Tingira bell rang eight bells, with former Junior Recruit WOCD Larry Digney on the bell rope and with his shipmate Roy (Wacka) Payne on the flag halyard, hoisting the Australian National Flag.

A team of six young communication sailors from HMAS STIRLING assisted with the task of raising the 26 nautical flags, signalling a 'happy occasion' in true naval tradition.

HMAS STIRLING Base Warrant Officer, Danny Burgess, made the observation, "the last time this ceremony may have occurred at the Leeuwin masthead on this JR Memorial was probably for the Queen's Birthday in June 1986—the same year HMAS LEEUWIN was decommissioned and transferred to the Australian Army" he said.

This marked an extraordinary and highly symbolic ceremony to commence the Tingira 2025 JR Reunion.

Leeuwin Barracks 'Dress Ship', 39 years later and for the following five days with the masthead flying all flags 24/7 with spotlights, this was a great sight for the passing local traffic, probably wondering what's going on here! **ML**



**TINGIRA - TUG OF WAR, CRICKET AND LAWN BOWLS** - A warm welcome to East Fremantle from the Mayor for the JR Reunion first day gathering. Cool beverage, sausage rolls and coffee scrolls were the big winners!

Photographs ... Margaret Lee



**DAY ONE - Midday, Friday 7 November**

# GOOD SPORT MAYOR

## TONY PULLS HIS WEIGHT - NAVY STYLE

**Newly elected Mayor of East Fremantle Tony Natale gave a 'Welcome to Fremantle' presentation presenting a brief history of the famous oval which has just received a complete \$35m upgrade.**

Sun shining, blue skies, green grass, keen competitors—what could possibly go wrong?

Let's just say the local WA Police may have taken things a little too seriously on the sports invitation. They arrived with their so-called 'TEST' cricket team, then promptly decided that the 'schoolyard grass oval' was too dangerous to play on. Not a ball was bowled, our Captain Phil Lancaster was divested.

"Yes not a test standard pitch but for a 'hit a giggle' Friday afternoon we were up for this" said Phil. And the first beers were flowing well before the sun passed the yardarm, damn shame!

The Tingira Sports Challenge was still very much on. Fast-forward an hour and the call came from Tingira Captain, Chris Perrin: "Tug of War in one hour, chaps!"

Small problem—Tingira was one man short. Health issues had struck the group, leaving us light on numbers for a 1 pm tug.

**Volunteer required.** - Enter East Fremantle Mayor Tony Natale, fresh from delivering the Welcome to Fremantle Community Sports Complex speech. Without hesitation, he became the newest associate Tingira member and joined the crew on the rope.

**1 pm – Pull No. 1** - Red flag tied, rope set, and the pull was on. Heavyweights at their best. After 30 seconds, the WA cops had the Navy boys on their knees. Advantage police—back to the bar, where special sausage rolls and rissoles were the reward.

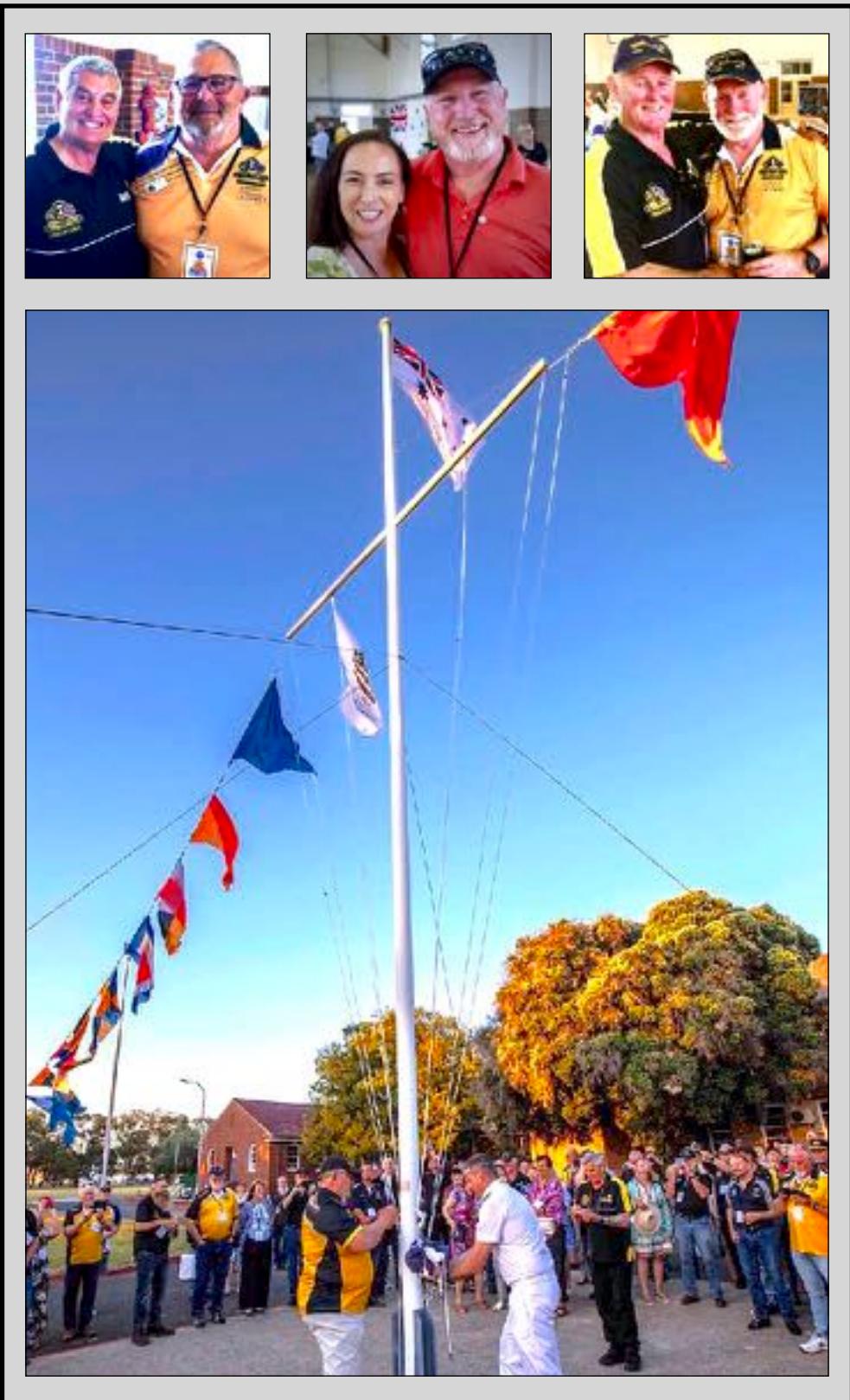
**2 pm – Pull No. 2** - "Where are the cops?" asked Skipper Perrin. Suddenly, a white flag appeared from the WA Police dinner table. Their numbers had depleted—Tingira wins by forfeit!

**3 pm – Lawn Bowls** - Tingira dominates, winning 5 ends to 1.

Sports complete, and a great day was had by all, Tingira Patron Russ Crane declared a "Navy whitewash all round."

Special thanks to the Fremantle Community Club bar and kitchen staff, and to the sports ground crew for their excellent match preparations (*grass was pitch perfect for schoolboy bash!*). Your efforts were greatly appreciated by everyone, especially Mayor Tony, East Fremantle Oval Sports complex was a real show piece for your council and community!

**ML**



**CALL THE HANDS** - Tingira Patron, Russ Crane and Navy Warrant Officer, Danny Burgess, raise the flags; Navy White Ensign and the Tingira Flag, up the Leeuwin Barracks yardarm masthead. Tingira members and supporters sang the Australian National Anthem and give the customary Navy three cheers led by Tingira Chairman Lance Ker, followed by a session of 'blowing the pipe' by a few senior Tingira Boys.

Photographs ... Mark Lee



**DAY TWO - 4 pm Saturday 8 November**

## RAISE THE FLAGS ON THE LEEUWIN MASTHEAD

**"I will bet good money that Alan Rodgers, member of the first Junior Recruit intake, will be the first through the door at the Reunion Meet & Greet," joked former Tingira President Chris Perrin.**

True to form, Alan was indeed there at 2 pm—two hours early—accompanied by his lovely wife, Eline. Rolling up their sleeves, they were among the first of many early volunteers who pitched in to help set up for the afternoon session. “Just like old times,” quipped a jolly Alan.

A good-management request was fulfilled by East Fremantle Mayor Tony Natale, who waved his “magic chamber wand” and arranged free car parking directly across from the front Leeuwin gate—much appreciated by all.

Leeuwin Barracks Base Manager Tonya Major, was making some great liaisons between navy and community during these events and she too was first to assist with any request, her team was just so good.

Meanwhile, HMAS STIRLING Navy staff from CPO Chef Pincher Martins' team arrived with a truck loaded with cold refreshments, along with tea, coffee, and plenty of cakes to keep everyone going throughout the afternoon.

Navy Bandmaster CPO Volker Schoeler enlisted talented young Petty Officer Nadene Starkie to sing soft jazz classics, supported by fellow band members on trombone and trumpet. Their music drifted beautifully, stirring echoes beneath the roof of the historic Leeuwin drill hall.

“The drill hall—we remember the muscle-bosun PTIs, the wall bars, and the bloody boxing nights so very well. You can still smell the liniment oil,” laughed Ian Dunn, another member of the 1960 first intake. “Those were the days when boys became men real quick,” he added.

Tingira Display Team member Greg Humphris and his partner Janis Hamilton presented what many agreed was the finest exhibition of Junior Recruit and Navy memorabilia ever assembled in Western Australia.

Standout features included the large Navy White Ensign; an ensemble of Leeuwin graduation booklets; an assortment of Navy uniforms; and the original HMAS LEEUWIN crest from the front gate. A 'BZ' to the display team, with special thanks for assistance from Sea Power Australia team members in Canberra and HMAS STIRLING.

The afternoon highlight came when Tingira Patron Russ Crane launched

Volumes 3 and 4 of 'A Lifelong Voyage'—the continuing life story of CSS Sobraon, HMAS TINGIRA, HMAS CERBERUS, and HMAS LEEUWIN, compiled from 15 years of VOICEpipe magazine publications.

“We never really understood why our recreation space was called the Sobraon Club,” Russ explained, “but now we know everything about Sobraon and Tingira long before the Leeuwin days—thanks to the dedicated teams on several past committees who have compiled these volumes over the past decade.”

The event concluded with members gathered around the Leeuwin masthead as HMAS STIRLING Base Warrant Officer Danny Burgess hoisted the Navy White Ensign. Patron Russ Crane then raised the Tingira flag on the Leeuwin Barracks yardarm at the Junior Recruit Memorial—history in the making, and an image worthy of the front cover.

It was a deeply moving moment, made all the more special as it had been a very long time since the “Navy White Ensign” had been up this masthead.

Tingira and Leeuwin boys were once again standing very proud on their old quarterdeck, Leeuwin. **ML**







**ITALIAN TABLE SET** - Tingira members and partners embarked on a lunchtime tour of the WA Maritime Museums museums latest exhibition 'The Italian's' and it was appropriate for a table photograph with one of the two groups on tour!

Photographs ... Mark Lee



**DAY THREE - 11.45 am Sunday 9 November**

## MARITIME MUSEUM FREMANTLE ITALIAN MEMORIES

**MUSEUMS - Whether we love them or hate them—they are buildings in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited.**

Each is different, with collections that hold great interest for many of today's cultures across the globe. The Western Australian Maritime Museum is no exception. It possesses all the traits of one of the world's finest nautical and maritime collections in the modern era.

50 Tingira members assembled at the museum dockside in Fremantle on this lovely Sunday morning. Divided into two large groups, each guided by very dedicated volunteer tour guide. The major focus of the tour was the new exhibition, 'The Italians'.

This brilliantly documented presentation showcased a remarkable collection of memorabilia from the many Italian migrants who arrived in Australia through the gates of the Port of Fremantle after the Second World War.

For the many thousands of them, migration represented rehabilitation and a new beginning after fleeing their war-torn homeland in Europe. For most, it was also their first time setting foot on an ocean-going passenger liner for the long voyage to Australia.

The photographs, stories and items on display were fascinating. Each telling an individual story of survival and resilience, and of making a journey through time with the few possessions they were permitted to bring into the country.

The Italians have certainly stood the test of time in Australia since those early days in the late 40s early 50s. Their culture has been warmly embraced and has profoundly influenced the Australian way of life—through red wine, coffee, pasta, and much more.

An up-close view of the Alan Bond Australia II yacht, telling the story of the America's Cup victory and the subsequent defence of the cup off the coast of Perth, was also a fascinating display.

Added to this were insights into the role the Port of Fremantle played in hosting US ships and troops during the Second World War, including the logistics supply base HMAS LEEUWIN, along with the compelling history of the Broome region's pearl luggers and fishing industry.

Altogether, this was time well spent—especially for first-time visitors unaware of the remarkable history located right here on our shores, dockside in Fremantle. **ML**



**Riverside landscapes** - Tingira member Peter Dore was everywhere with his camera during the JR Reunion with some quality images taken on the luncheon cruise. None more approbate than an image of the Sail Training Ship Leeuwin, that has recently returned to her Fremantle berth after an extensive repair from that tragic accident late last year while docked in this same area.

Photographs ... Peter Dore



**DAY FOUR - 11.45 am Monday 10 November**

## SWAN RIVER CRUISE

BLUE SKIES & CALM WATERS = PERFECT DAY

**TINGIRA TROOPS** - gathered dockside at Victoria Quay, Fremantle, to board the luxury tour vessel MV James Stirling, the premier craft of the Captain Cook fleet on the Swan River, for a leisurely luncheon cruise.

With calm waters and blue skies, conditions were perfect for this three-hour river experience. It was an ideal opportunity for Tingira members and their partners to relax, unwind, and make new friendships on board.

Happy faces were the image of the day, with many members enjoying the laid-back atmosphere and proudly sporting their new Tingira polo shirts.

A scrumptious buffet featuring a selection of meats and seafood, complemented by an assortment of dessert pastries, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Taking in the ever-changing sights along the riverbanks—including the Perth city skyline and surrounding suburbs—provided an easy and enjoyable pastime throughout the afternoon. Total relaxation was the order of the day aboard this very comfortable vessel, as beers and bubbles flowed freely.

Added highlights included close-up views of construction works on the new Fremantle–Canning Bridge and passing near the

recently repaired Sail Training Ship Leeuwin, both of great interest to many on board.

MV James Stirling's Captain was especially honoured to have a 'Navy admiral' on the bridge when Tingira Patron Russ Crane took to the microphone to announce the 'Bundaberg Rum' raffle winners and to thank everyone for their attendance on this wonderful afternoon river cruise.

Special thanks go to the anonymous Tingira members who generously donated **\$1,000** to the bar tab for all to enjoy. **ML**





I just cried ...

We were all so proud of our boys.

You just had to be there for that special moment.

Corinne Hollings



**DAY FIVE - 10.30 am Tuesday 11 November**

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

### JR MEMORIAL - LEEUWIN BARRACKS

**For the past seven years, the National Tingira Committee had worked toward a single dream – to see the Tingira Boys once again march onto the historic HMAS LEEUWIN quarterdeck at the Junior Recruit Memorial during the 2025 JR Reunion.**

On 11 November 2025, that dream became a powerful and unforgettable reality.

The Leeuwin quarterdeck provided a fitting and dignified setting for the Remembrance Day Service.

Tingira Patron Vice Admiral Russ Crane AO greeted his former shipmates, Western Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs Paul Papalia CSC MLA, and Warrant Officer of the Navy, WO Andrew Bertoncin OAM. All were seated in the front row alongside Tingira associate members and invited local special guests.

At the clear command of the Master of Ceremonies, Tingira Secretary Mark Lee –

“March on the Tingira Boys” — the event was underway.

To the solemn beat of a single drum played by Navy musician Petty Officer Brenton Starkie, the Tingira Boys stepped off from the Leeuwin parade ground in perfect formation, led by inaugural Tingira President Chris Perrin.

It was a ritual many had last performed more than half a century earlier, as 15-year-old Royal Australian Navy Junior Recruits during their 12 months of training at the former HMAS Leeuwin Training Establishment.

On this day, 100 former RAN Junior Recruits — most dressed in dark suits with bright yellow and black Tingira ties, some wearing Leeuwin berets — marched three deep toward the quarterdeck.

In the background of the famous Leeuwin drill hall, 45 young Australian Army members joined the service as part of their morning parade session.



**Junior Recruit Memorial - Quarterdeck Leeuwin Barracks** — Tingira Australia Association Patron Russ Crane, presents the 'Welcome to Leeuwin' address at the Remembrance Day commemoration Service.

Photographs ... Peter Dore



The rhythmic sound of thumping shoe leather echoed across the grounds, accompanied by the soft rattle of distinguished service medals on chests weathered by time and service.

There was not a dry eye in the crowd. For so many, this was a moment long dreamed of and deeply felt.

The official commemoration ceremony then commenced.

Vice Admiral Russ Crane formally welcomed guests to the quarterdeck, followed by the Chief of Navy's representative, WO-N Andrew Bertoncin, who read a special reflective message from the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO.

As the address concluded, a ceremonial RAAF flyover, providing a moving addition to the service.

Chairman Lance Ker read the dedication, the Tingira Naval Prayer.

Minister Paul Papalia laid the first wreath, followed by Vice Admiral Russ Crane, who laid the historic original HMAS TINGIRA life-buoy wreath, beautifully adorned with 100 red poppies. WO Danny Burgess laid a wreath for HMAS STIRLING. Several Tingira members and the Army contingent also laid wreaths at the Junior Recruit Memorial.

Minister Papalia then recited the Naval Ode.

A flawless rendition of the Last Post was played on brass bugle by Chief Musician Volker Schneider, as the lowering and then hoisting the Australian National Flag concluded at 11am.

The Master of Ceremonies called for the traditional Two Minutes' silence — a time of quiet reflection observed with deep respect by all in attendance.

The Australian National Anthem was sung by Navy Petty Officer Nadene Starkie, followed by brief closing remarks from MC Tingira Secretary Mark Lee, who thanked all contributors for their participation in this historic day in Navy and Leeuwin history.

At the final command — “March off the parade” — the Tingira Boys stepped away to the beat of the single side drum, marching back toward the parade ground.

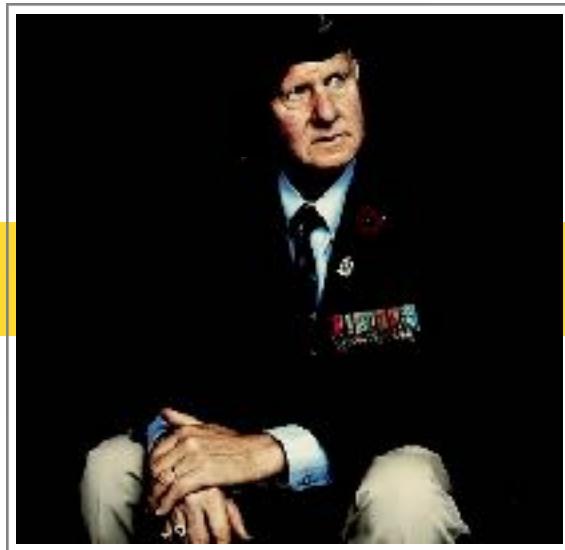
As they did, the sound of their shoe leather was suddenly drowned out as the crowd rose to its feet with rapturous applause.

The atmosphere around the JR Memorial Leeuwin quarterdeck was filled with true Navy emotion — a heartfelt salute to service, a grand memory renewed, and a dream long worked toward finally fulfilled.

**BZ Team Tingira. [ML](#)**

*Photographs ... Peter Dore & Margaret Lee*





**DAY FIVE - 12.30 pm Tuesday 11 November**

# STONEHAVEN MEDAL

SAILOR - SOLDIER - STALWART SENIOR

## JOHN 'Jack' THURGAR

**The Tingira Stonehaven Medal for 2025 is awarded to Major John 'Jack' Thurgar (Ret.), in recognition of a lifetime of service, leadership, and contribution that has extended well beyond the expectations of military and community life.**

Before becoming a distinguished officer of the Australian Army and a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, John Thurgar's journey began at just fifteen years of age as a Tingira Boy, when he stepped across the gangway at HMAS LEEUWIN to join the Royal Australian Navy Junior Recruit Training Scheme (JRTS).

Raised on the rural outskirts of Scone in north-west New South Wales, John was one of four children in a family deeply connected to service.

His father, a Second World War veteran, was active within the local RSL community, while his mother played a prominent role in both the RSL Auxiliary and the Country Women's Association. Growing up in a strong military and civic environment.

It was no surprise that John sought a life of challenge and adventure, especially having a chance introduction chat to a retired Navy Officer in Scone one day.

Rear Admiral Doyle CBE who was born at 'Invermein' Scone in 1888 was that Officer. He served in WW1, WW2 and died in 1984



**STONEHAVEN MEDAL PRESENTATION** - (L) Western Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs Paul Papalia CSC MLA, and Tingira Patron Vice Admiral Russ Crane AO (Ret) present 2025 Stonehaven Medal to Major Jack Thurger (ret) at the recent Junior Recruit Reunion, Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle, WA.

# JOHN 'Jack' THURGA - Stonehaven Medal 2025

and certainly had a big influence on young John Thurgar that day to join the military.

When the Navy's Junior Recruit Scheme was announced in the late 1950s, the recruiting teams and Public Relations advertising was out and about across the country. John quickly secured a place in the navy ranks when he reached the age 15 qualification to join the JRTS at HMAS LEEWIN.

Recruiting numbers exceeded all expectations for this new navy 'boy sailor scheme'. As a member of the fourth intake in 1965, he was among the first intakes to occupy the newly established accommodation at Leeuwin in East Fremantle, Western Australia.

Like many country boys of his era, John adapted quickly to military life—fit, capable, and academically strong, with skills in running, swimming, shooting, and horsemanship. His standout talent, however, was rugby union.

A powerful second-rower, John was selected from the outset for Leeuwin's rugby team and soon became a formidable presence in inter-service competitions. His performances against Army teams—often facing larger, older, and battle-hardened opponents—marked him as a player of note for the future.

He would go on to represent service teams for many years, including a memorable match against the British Lions during their Australian tour whilst he was a young lad at Leeuwin.

It was through rugby that John's life took its first major turn. Conversations with Army players during post-match recoveries—many

of them older soldiers preparing for service with elite units bound for Vietnam—sparked his growing interest in the Army.

Soon after John discharged from the navy and then joined the navy, sounds like an AFL player draft in modern times!

What followed was a career that read like a classic "boys' own" adventure: demanding, courageous, and defined by leadership under pressure.

John Thurgar's military career, and his subsequent post-service contributions, reflect an extraordinary commitment to others.

Across decades, he has earned numerous awards, held significant appointments, led major projects, and made lasting contributions to veterans' organisations and the wider community. His influence has been felt not only through rank and responsibility, but through mentorship, advocacy, and quiet personal service.

Now retired on a small rural property near Byron Bay, New South Wales, Major Thurgar's legacy continues through the many lives he has touched.

The award of the 2025 Tingira Stonehaven Medal recognises a life lived in service—one marked by courage, integrity, and a consistent commitment to contributing well above and beyond expectations.

Bravo Zulu - that young Sailor, Soldier and Stalwart senior citizen! **ML**



**1966 - RAN Junior Recruit John Thurgar, swimming trophy Mrs Marks & CDRE Marks.**



*Hedonna Thurgar addressing the assembled at a Service of Remembrance, Government House, Canberra.*



*John Thurgar with former Governor General Peter Cosgrove.*



## PROFILE

### **Major John Duncan THURGAR SC MBE OAM RFD (Retired)**

**John's life is a remarkable testament to service, dedication, and community involvement. Here's a detailed analysis of his journey, broken down into key components:**

#### **Early Life and Military Career**

##### **Birth and Education:**

Born in Scone, NSW, in 1950, John's early education set the foundation for his future endeavours.

##### **Naval Service:**

Joining the Royal Australian Navy at age 15, John began his military career as a Junior Recruit at HMAS LEEUWIN. His swift transition to the Army after just a year highlights his commitment to serving his country.

##### **Army Service (1967-2015):**

His long tenure in the Army, spanning nearly five decades, showcases a deep commitment to his nation. His roles in the Special Air Service Regiment and 2nd Commando Company indicate a career marked by elite training and significant responsibilities.

#### **Awards and Recognitions**

##### **Medal of the Order of Australia:**

Awarded in 1995, this honor reflects John's exemplary service and contributions to the military.

#### **Reserve Force Decoration:**

The four bars signify his long service, emphasising his dedication and the breadth of his experience.

##### **Investigative Contributions**

#### **Unrecovered War Casualties:**

As a foundation member, John played a crucial role in identifying MIA servicemen. This work not only honours those who served but also provides closure to their families.

##### **Academic Achievements**

#### **Degree in Public Administration:**

His education from the University of Canberra underscores his commitment to personal and professional growth, equipping him with skills beneficial in both military and civilian sectors.

#### **Australian Federal Police (AFP)**

##### **Diverse Roles:**

John's service in the AFP across various branches, including counter-terrorism and VIP protection, showcases his versatility and dedication to public safety.

#### **International Service:**

His tours with the UN in Cyprus, particularly the valorous act that earned him the Star of Courage, highlight his bravery and commitment during critical humanitarian missions.

##### **Community Involvement**

#### **Volunteering:**

John's extensive volunteer work, especially with the Ryder—Cheshire Foundation and the Cheshire Home in PNG, illustrates his compassion and dedication to improving the lives of others.

*continued ...*



**1970** - Trooper John Thurgar, 1 SAS Squadron



1966 - Navy v Army Inter-Service Rugby team

#### **Awards from the Queen:**

The MBE for services to the disabled and the community indicates the significant impact of his volunteer work.

#### **Leadership Roles**

#### **Australian Bravery Association:**

As founding President, John's initiative to support bravery award recipients showcases his leadership and commitment to those who have served.

#### **Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade:**

His involvement in this important event reflects a dedication to recognising and honouring veterans, fostering community support, and ensuring their sacrifices are remembered.

#### **Memberships and Associations**

#### **Life Memberships:**

His life memberships in various organisations, including the RSL, SAS Association, and Commando Association, further emphasise his long-standing commitment to the veteran community.

#### **Personal Life**

Current Residence: Living in Byron Bay, NSW, John continues to be a part of the community, likely influencing and inspiring those around him with his experiences.

#### **Conclusion**

John's narrative is one of unwavering service, both in military and civilian capacities.

His contributions are multifaceted, spanning military service, law enforcement, community service, and leadership in veteran affairs.

His life exemplifies the values of bravery, community, and dedication to serving others, making him a notable figure deserving of recognition and respect for the 2025 Tingira Stonehaven Medal.

**Proud supporter of Tingira Australia**



# TINGIRA

## STONEHAVEN MEDAL RECIPIENTS



*"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 Vice President 2013*



**2025**  
**JOHN THURGAR**  
Byron Bay, NSW



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



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

**DAVID CASSIDY**  
Banora Point, NSW



**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



**2024**  
**MARK & MARGARET LEE**  
Cootamundra, NSW



**DAY FIVE - 3.30 pm Tuesday 11 November**

## WAKE UP JEFF

**" DIXIE TINGIRA - KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR "**

**It was the much-anticipated "WELCOME KNOCK" at the front door that Jenny Wake was delighted to answer on Tuesday, 11 November 2025.**

For more than a decade, her husband, Jeff Wake OAM, RFD, has been a highly active and dedicated member of the Tingira Australia Association in Western Australia.

Over the past six months, however, Jeff has been largely housebound, confined to his recliner due to severe muscular health issues affecting his legs. This unfortunate setback meant he was unable to attend recent Junior Recruit Reunion events—despite them taking place virtually on his doorstep across the suburbs from Applecross on the Swan River.

Tingira Secretary Mark Lee and his wife Margaret arrived at Jeff's home, delivering a surprise that would leave him both humbled and emotional.

In a very private moment of great honour, Jeff was presented with Honorary Gold Life Membership of the Tingira Australia Association, in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication over many years.

"Mate, this is so over the top—wow, I did not see this coming, so good," said a visibly excited and deeply appreciative Jeff from his lounge room, with his wife Jenny proudly looking on.

Known affectionately among his peers as the "Combat Scribe," Jeff served as a Navy Leading Seaman Writer before commissioning and retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Commander (Administration).

Jeff's professional skills became the eyes and ears of Tingira's administration and marketing efforts during his decade-long tenure as Vice President, where his contributions were both tireless and invaluable.

While Jeff has now stepped down from his executive role on the Tingira National Committee, his commitment to service remains undiminished.

He is optimistic about regaining his strength and very much looks forward to being back on his feet with the "Tingira Boys" to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Leeuwin Barracks this year.

"BZ that scribe," commented Tingira Patron Russ Crane when informed that the award had been delivered. **ML**



**TAKE A SEAT** - Tingira tour members were all interested in the centre area of Optus Oval as the ground staff curators were preparing the centre square pitch for the first cricket test against England in seven days time.

Photographs by ... Peter Dore



**DAY FIVE - 4.30 pm Tuesday 11 November**

## OPTUS STADIUM IN AROUND AND BENTH THE GRASS

**After a long Remembrance Day morning event at Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle, it was set to be a long and tiring day when 40 Tingira members gathered at one of Australia's premier sporting venues, Optus Stadium. A two-hour guided tour combined with a three-kilometre walk in, around, and beneath the stadium.**

"It was well worth the effort — this was very impressive," said Peter Dore, who is expecting a similar structure to be built in his local area as part of Queensland's new Olympic infrastructure in the near future.

"Sixty thousand seats is a lot of bums on seats to fill," said local Rockingham member Darryl Walton. "I guess that's the pull the AFL has for 25 weeks of the year with the Fremantle Dockers and the West Coast Eagles."

And they're not all your typical hard plastic seats. Tingira members had the privilege of trying out the "comfort seats" — a section of 200 recliner seats reserved for a special top-deck membership class.

The change rooms were impeccable: three identical rooms, one for each of the two AFL clubs and one for the visiting team. All were equal in size, design, and equipment — quite amazing.

The real soul of the stadium, however, lies beneath the grassed centre oval.

We wound our way down a spiral of stairs and elevators to arrive at a massive docking station, where 100,000 bottles of Coca-Cola and mountains of barrelled beverages were being prepared for the following week's Ashes Test cricket match. It was a spectacular sight.

Soccer, rugby, rugby league, and rock concerts are among the big-ticket events regularly hosted at the stadium. Special event theatre and opera performances have also filled these seats over the past decade.

The tour concluded with a look at the five-star function venues built into the stadium's outer shell, many boasting impressive panoramic views of Perth's city skyline.

The Riverview Room was in full setup mode, ready for the Tingira JR Reunion Dinner the following day.

Overall, it was a worthy tour that truly highlighted how Optus Stadium operates as a city within its walls, with hundreds of workers preparing and delivering world-class entertainment to the Australian public at this outstanding venue. **ML**



**DAY SIX - 6 pm Wednesday 12 November**

# 65th SAPPHIRE JUBILEE REUNION DINNER

Optus Stadium, Perth, Western Australia



**REUNION DINNER - A memorable and prestigious occasion. The evening opened with the Tingira Bell, Navy White Ensign, and Tingira Flag paraded alongside the celebratory birthday cake, expertly produced by the HMAS STIRLING Navy Chef Team.**

The Naval Ode was delivered by the Chief of Navy's representative, Warrant Officer of the Navy, WO Andrew Bertoncin OAM, adding a moment of reflection and tradition to the opening ceremony.

More than 200 black-tie-attired guests enjoyed exceptional service and catering provided by the Optus Stadium Event Management Team, creating an outstanding dining experience.

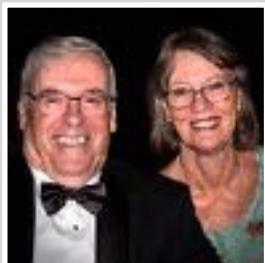
Tingira Patron Vice Admiral Russ Cane presented several prestigious awards, with the most historical delivery of the Tingira Lifebuoy, Bell and the Leeuwin

Crest to Captain Alistair Cooper, Managing Director RAN Sea Power, to become their new custodian.

Commanding Officer HMAS STIRLING, Captain Ken Burleigh, delivered a moving address and an insightful modern-day audio visual presentation on 2025 Royal Australian Navy operations.

Special thanks were extended to WO Danny Burgess, Optus Stadium Event Manager Nadia Owen, and Tingira Secretary Mark Lee, for their outstanding organisation of the RAN Junior Recruit Reunion events.

Entertainment for the evening provided by the 17-piece WA Navy Band, including a brass section, led by bandmaster CPO Volker Schoeler. Guests danced and sang well into the late night hours, many departing proudly carrying their 'Bundaberg Rum' sponsor trophies! **ML**





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M. 0438 - 007 770 E. [president@cumberlandrslsb.com.au](mailto:president@cumberlandrslsb.com.au)

**Cumberland Secretary - GREG READ SC**

M. 0404 - 446 739

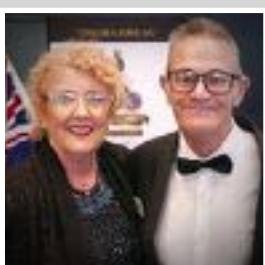
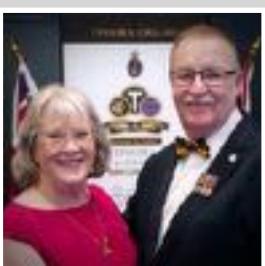
Facebook - **Cumberland RSL sub-Branch**

*"If you have served one day or more in the Australian Defence Force  
you are an Australian Service Veteran*

*All ADF veterans can join any RSL sub-Branch,  
anywhere in Australia, at any age, anytime.*

**"Tingira Boys, Members, JRs and Friends of Tingira  
you are welcome to join the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch today"**

ADF Service member + RSL Membership application = [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au)







## 2025 Tingira Awards Celebrate Outstanding Service

The Tingira Awards were proudly presented by Tingira Patron Russ Crane, recognising exceptional service and long-standing dedication to the association.

The prestigious Honorary Gold Life Membership was awarded to Secretary Mark Lee in recognition of his 15 years of dedicated service and his significant contributions to the association's publications.

Gold Life Memberships were also conferred on the Western Australian coordinators, Vice President Jeff Wake and Paul Kalajzich, each acknowledged for 10

years of committed service to the committee, outstanding membership recruitment, and leadership in Western Australian event management.

In addition, Associate Foundation member Margaret Lee received an Appreciation of Service Award, recognising her unwavering support and dedication to the committee and the association over the past 15 years.

Oldest member in the room, Ian Dunn 1st intake had the glory to cut the celebration cake, thanks navy chef team.

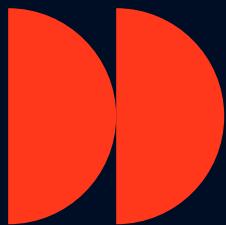
Captain Alistair Cooper receives the Tingira memorabilia, Bell, Buoy and Leeuwin Crest.





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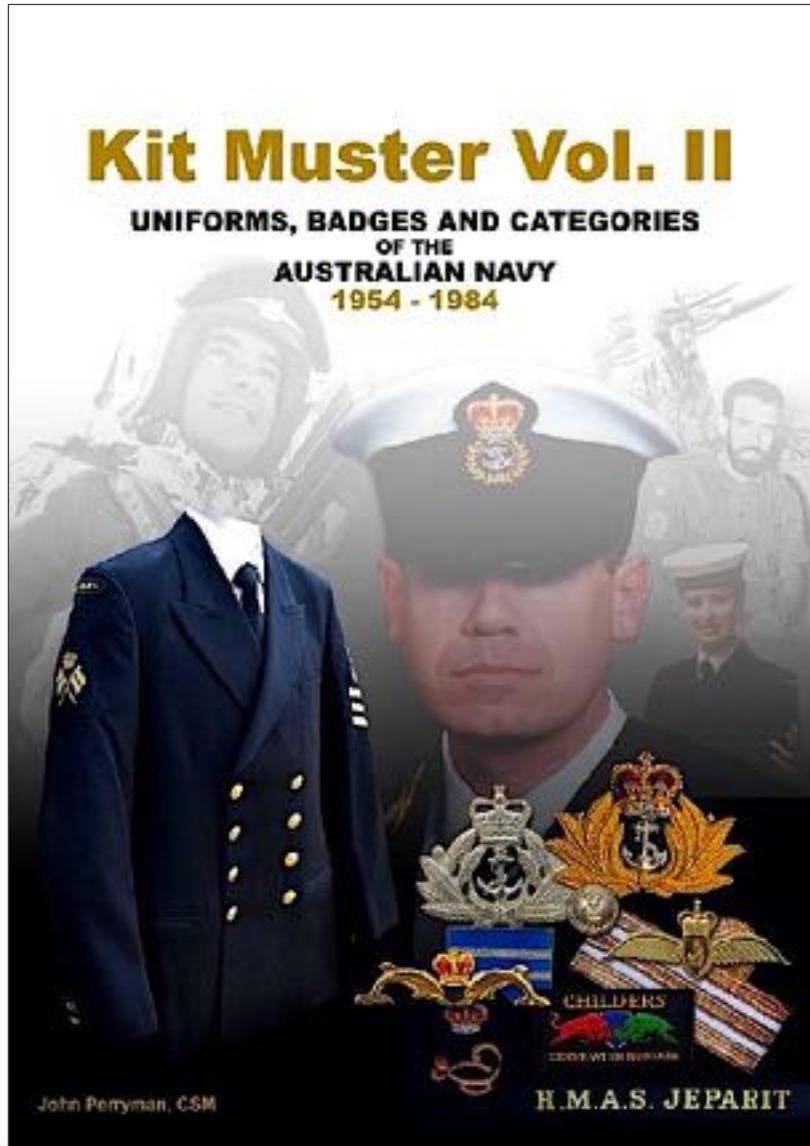
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Tingira Boy, former RAN Junior Recruit  
Duncan 'John' Perryman recently  
published his second volume of 'Kit Muster'  
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# BRETT MACE



## SECRETARY READY TO JUMP HOOPS



### Professional Bio - BRETT MACE

In professional management in both the commercial and not-for-

He Royal Australian Navy commencing in 1977 as a 15-year-old  
91 as a Physical Training Instructor, Brett formed a number of  
specialising in event management, administration, program  
highlights during this time included Manager of Australian  
teams from 1995 to 1998, the development of a sports program for  
street kids in Sydney's Kings Cross (Oasis Jump-Start), the formation of STEAM Sports - a multi-sport  
also a founding partner and director in X-Tr Australia, a multi sports events company which held the  
licence and developed Canberra & Yeppoon Half Ironman events.

## I Too... Have A DREAM

### NEW SECRETARY TAKES THE CONN

“ I rang Tingira Secretary Mark Lee and offered my nomination to become his replacement as Secretary of the Association. I could see the instant smile on his face and hear the excitement in his voice.

At the JR Reunion dinner, my partner Karyn gave me a gentle dig in the ribs when it was announced that Dixie Lee would be standing down as Tingira Secretary.

“Brett, that role is right up your alley,” she said.

I didn’t have to think for long. The timing was perfect — it felt more like confirmation than suggestion — and that’s how I found myself here.

I rang Dixie a couple of days later after further consideration, who was in transit from Perth back to his farm at Cootamundra.

“Nomination for Secretary? That’s fine, Brett. Just send me a confirmation email and a copy of your résumé to make it official. We also need to find a few more volunteers to fill the three remaining casual committee vacancies — this could be good for everyone,” he said.

The enthusiasm showed by members at the JR Reunion Dinner and other functions proved Dixie correct in that the Tingira Association was one worth continuing and building on for the future.

I’m looking forward to working alongside President Chris Perrin, Vice President David Rafferty, and Treasurer Greg Read. When you weigh up our combined experience, there is an impressive depth of administrative and marketing knowledge within the group. Add to that Darryn Rose, Gavin Jarvis, Mark Worrall, and Darryl Walton, and we have a strong crew ready to swing into action sooner rather than later.

I asked Dixie, “What is the main role and activity of the association?”

He summed it up simply: communication through the website and the quarterly VOICEpipe newsletter and magazine; preparation of the Annual Report, presented at the AGM (usually held on Anzac Day); coordination of Anzac Day Tingira groups in regional centres and capital cities via state coordinators; observance of Tingira’s birthday on 13 July; the Stonehaven Medal Award; the annual Christmas drinks; and ongoing management of the website.

“Then there’s the reunion program every five years — the next one in 2030 — and you should allow a two-year planning window for that,” he added.

“And above all, friendships — old and new — that’s the aim and theme of the association. That’s all.”

“Mate,” I said, “how did you start all this?”

“A Bruce Springsteen song — Working on a Dream,” Dixie replied. It’s been a 15-year journey, kept me alive, with over 800 new friendships out there, Brett.”

I only have to look through the following pages of 52 VOICEpipe and the 14 Annual Report covers to see just how active and extensive Tingira’s work has been in a relatively short period since that first day 1-1-11

Add to that Dixie’s extraordinary achievement of writing a four-volume history of Sobraon and Tingira from 1863 to 2025, and the scale of his contribution becomes very clear.

As we finished the call, Dixie left me with this encouragement:

“Brett, you might need to jump through a few hoops in the early days, but I’m only a phone call away, and you’ve got a new crew to support you. Sailor, you have the conn — fair sailing and smooth seas.”

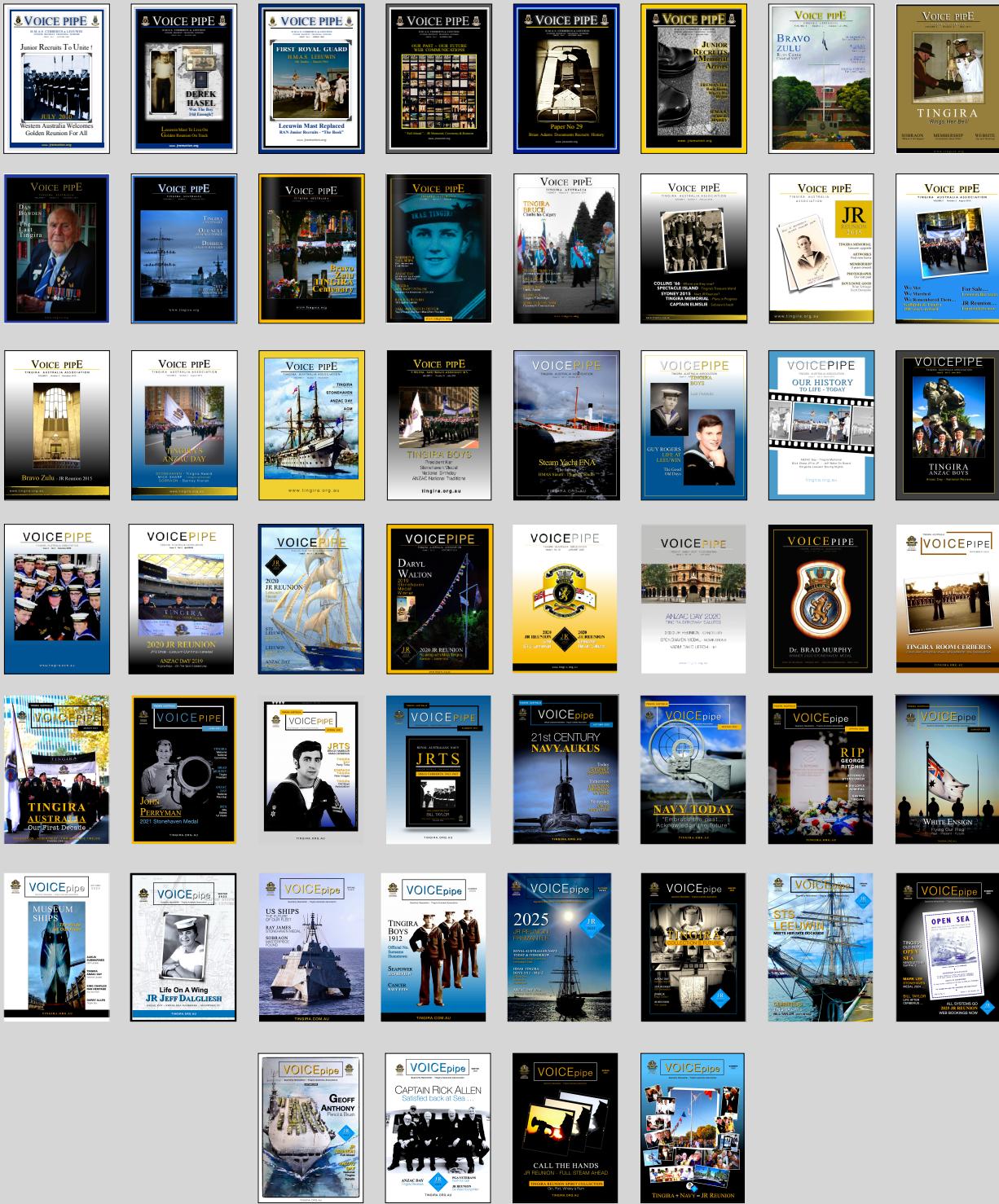
I guess from here, I too have a dream.

“Tingira lives on”, that should work for a start! **BM**



# VOICEpipe

Quarterly Newsletter - Tingira Australia Association 2010 - 2025





" **MEMBERS** - Following a significant change in the Tingira National Committee, particularly within the Executive, the new group will take some time in the early part of the year to discuss and consider the future direction of the Tingira Australia Association.

" I would also like to reiterate that a great deal of positive work and effort has been undertaken over the years to bring the Association to its current position.

" It is now in a strong place, providing an excellent foundation for the new team to build upon as they guide the Association into its next stage.

Secretary  
Tingira Australia Association



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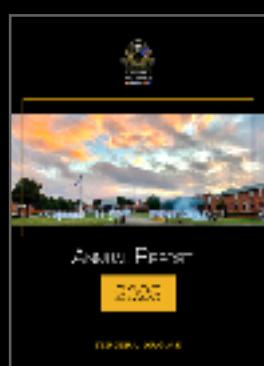
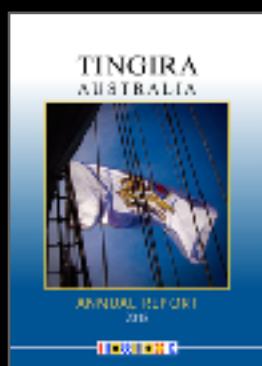
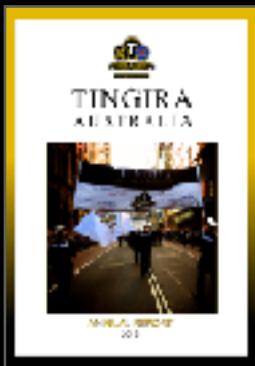
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Annual Reports - 2012 to 2025

# PROFILE - Tingira Secretary

**BRETT MACE has over 30 years' experience in senior leadership and professional management across both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors, with a distinguished career spanning sport, high-performance systems, governance reform, and organisational transformation.**

Brett commenced his professional career with the Royal Australian Navy, joining in 1977 as a 15-year-old Junior Recruit and serving until 1991, finishing as a Physical Training Instructor. Following his naval service, Brett founded and led several sports management companies, specialising in event management, administration, program development and coaching.

Key achievements during this period included serving as Manager of Australian Triathlon World Championship Teams (1995–1998), developing the *Oasis Jump-Start* sports program for street-connected youth in Sydney's Kings Cross, founding STEAM Sports, creating the NSW Triathlon Club Championships, and co-founding X-Tri Australia, which held the licence for and delivered the Canberra and Yeppoon Half Ironman events.

In 2001, Brett relocated to Chennai, India, where he was appointed Head Coach and Development Manager for the Indian Triathlon Federation and led the establishment of the Indian Triathlon Academy. His role also included serving as Race Director for the 2003 Asian Triathlon Championships. From 2005, Brett worked with the sport's world governing body, the International Triathlon Union (ITU), supporting the development of high-performance programs across Asia and the Pacific.

In 2006, Brett was appointed High Performance Manager for Equestrian Australia, a role he held until February 2013. He was responsible for the strategic planning, governance, funding allocation and operational delivery of Australia's equestrian high-performance system, including the successful integration of the Para-Equestrian

Program into the mainstream high-performance framework. During this tenure, Brett led two Olympic and one Paralympic campaigns, delivering a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and a gold medal at the 2012 London Paralympics. He also served as Assistant Chef de Mission (2006) and Chef de Mission (2010) at the World Equestrian Championships, where Australian teams secured gold, silver and bronze medals.

From May 2013 to August 2023, Brett served as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS). On appointment, the organisation was fragmented, financially unviable, and operating within a dysfunctional state-based structure. Brett led a comprehensive governance, administrative and operational transformation, transitioning AIBS into a centralised, financially sustainable national organisation.

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017 and significant building failures in Australia, Brett led the profession's response to a critical loss of public and government confidence. Under his leadership, AIBS developed and secured approval for the AIBS Professional Standards Scheme, which was legislated under the Professional Standards Act across all Australian states and territories, commencing on 1 July 2021.

Brett was appointed inaugural Chair of Equine Pathways Australia in February 2019, serving until April 2022. The organisation is a national charitable not-for-profit providing people with disabilities access to equine pursuits, both vocationally and competitively, enriching lives and supporting inclusive pathways in sport.

Most recently, Brett founded SportsPal, a not-for-profit organisation partnering with welfare agencies to support children and young people from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds to participate in sport and experience its positive social, physical and developmental benefits. SportsPal is currently in its early stages of development. **BM**



## COME AND EXPERIENCE OUR NEW EXHIBITION SHOWCASING 90 TREASURES THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE ANZAC MEMORIAL FROM ITS OPENING IN 1934.

**F**or 90 years veterans and their families have donated objects to which they ascribe great value to the Anzac Memorial. Some of those objects are of unquestionable aesthetic and financial value. Some appear quite mundane, their significance requiring explanation and interpretation. All are treasures.

This exhibition comprises a selection of treasures of the Anzac Memorial collection. The choices were made by the curatorial and collection management staff. The selection is subjective and by no means definitive. New treasures are being donated all the time.

In 1934 Great War veteran, lawyer and author S Elliot Napier wrote of the Anzac Memorial that “as the men of 1914-1918... are gathered to the valley of the shadows” the rooms of the Memorial “will be transformed into reliquaries wherein may be placed such tributes and mementoes to the men of 1914-1918 as may be deemed appropriate. Thus will the Memorial gather to itself its full spiritual message for delivery to future generations of Australians.”

We hope that our choices have lived up to the ideals of those of Napier's generation and through their display provide examples of the courage, endurance and sacrifice of those whose lives have been touched by war from colonial times to the present day.

Entry is free and open daily, 9am-5pm.



# DISTINGUISHED FORMER CHIEF OF NAVY APPOINTED ATSB COMMISSION



**THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT SAFETY BUREAU (ATSB) welcomes the appointment by Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King MP of the appointment of Vice Admiral (ret'd) Russell Crane, AO, as our new Marine Commissioner.**

VADM Crane had an extensive career in the Royal Australian Navy, culminating in serving as Chief of Navy between July 2008 and June 2011, during which time he initiated the New Generation Navy program and established the inaugural RAN Seaworthiness program. His Navy service also included three seagoing commands (including of HMAS SUCCESS, then the largest vessel in the Navy), and serving as Commander of the Navy Systems Command, Director General Coastwatch, and Deputy Chief of Navy.

Since retiring from the Navy, he has held a number of board and advisory positions. VADM Crane commenced his three-year term as an ATSB Commissioner on 14 December.

"With VADM Crane's extensive experience as a highly experienced mariner and senior leader he is exceptionally well placed to help shape and guide the ATSB, and I have no doubt he will make a significant contribution to improving transport safety," said ATSB Chief Commissioner and CEO Angus Mitchell.

"I welcome his appointment and look forward to working with him."

As an independent Commonwealth Government statutory agency, reporting to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the ATSB is **governed by a Commission** comprising the Chief Commissioner and three part-time Commissioners.

ATSB Media

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## JUNIOR RECRUIT BERETS

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### MILITARY BERET

*The Military Beret has been reproduced for current serving members, cadets and ex service organisations. Various colours and sizes (see fitting gallery) easy fitting with vinyl trim and eyelets*



### 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*



### THE WEST AUSTRALIAN - 1975

**TESTING RUN - A *hot summers day* did not deter 12 HMAS LEEUWIN Junior Recruits and three PT instructors from making an 18 km run for the Austcare Relief Fund.**

We were certainly fit in those days what with PT, drill and sports

I am very proud to have been a JR and to have worn our uniform, especially on public occasions such as ANZAC Day at the Kings Park memorial , and during the Passing out Parades.

I was part of the Leeuwin Topmen Division and was selected to Creswell as a Midshipman.

Unfortunately, I left the Navy prior to Graduation from Creswell.

I regret this premature departure as I felt that my career was cut short and I had much to learn and contribute as an RAN Officer to the Service and Country.

I would certainly join again as a JR if I had my time again. I and many shipmates have great memories of Leeuwin and Creswell and what we experienced as young people men in those days. **CJ**

### Clinton and Sue James Tamborine Mountain

*Hi Mark, just wanted to say hello and thank you for the amazing Tingira Jubilee celebrations,*

*Best wishes , Clinton and Sue*





# TINGIRA BOYS

TINGIRA AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION  
1-1-11 FIFTEEN YEARS ONWARDS

# YESTERDAY'S HISTORY - 1866 to 2025



# TINGIRA

## Our Story So far ...

CSS SOBRAON . HMAS TINGIRA . HMAS LEEWIN . HMAS CERBERUS

**O**f all the great ships of Her Majesty's Australian Navy, the ship which has possibly received the least acclaim, and yet the one which should receive high honours, is HMAS TINGIRA.

Tingira, an Aboriginal word for 'open sea', was originally the clipper sailing ship Sobraon, built in the yard of the famous shipbuilder, Alexander Hall of Aberdeen. Sobraon was launched in 1866 and was the largest composite ship ever built.

### CLIPPER SHIP SOBRAON.

For 24 years, she sailed between England and Australia and her Commander, James Aberdour Elmslie RNR, earned the utmost respect from his sailing fraternity and all those who ventured the seas to place their lives in his capable hands. Captain Elmslie never unduly stressed his ship or her passengers. The New South Wales Government, in 1891, negotiated with Sobraon's owners Devitt and Moore to purchase her after she had reached Melbourne, or rather Hobson's Bay, in January 1891. Sobraon was towed to Sydney Harbour, arriving there on 15th February 1891.

This action by the Government to purchase Sobraon had been brought about because a

ship had been urgently needed to replace the Vernon, an old Blackwaller which had been acquired in 1867 to act as a floating reformatory for boys who had been dispatched to her under the regulations which emanated from the Act for the Relief of Destitute Children, the Act to Establish Juvenile Reformatories and the Public Schools Act of 1866. The Vernon had been lying at anchor off Garden Island until 1871, when she was towed to the confluence of the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, where she was moored off Cockatoo Island, then named Biloela, an Industrial School and Reform School.

### NAUTICAL SCHOOL SHIP SOBRAON

Sobraon was placed in Sutherland dock. Cockatoo Island for an inspection and complete refit. She was found to be as sound as a bell and by October 1892, after £31,429 had been spent on modifications, the great ship was prepared to enter the second stage of her life as an Industrial School Ship, or Nautical School Ship, for underprivileged boys whom the court had found destitute, or for other reasons saw it fit to hand these boys into the strict, disciplinary life on board Sobraon, under the careful control of Superintendent Frederick William Neitenstein, Lieutenant William Henry Mason, and their officers.



Apart from being disciplined, the boys were allowed to develop their skills as tradesmen and were inculcated with a basic education, both moral and academic. The band was in much demand on many an important ceremonial occasion, and such was the standard of their tuition and development that some of the lads found positions in orchestras. Indeed, many of them attained acclaim, both at home in Australia and overseas, in the field of sport as well as music.

This exercise aimed to encourage young lads to join the navy or merchant service, which at this time was undergoing a dramatic change, as steam was gradually winning the race with wind-propelled ships. In 1911, the New South Wales Government, which had been constantly studying the means of making progress in the treatment of children whose young lives were disadvantaged, decided to dispose of the 'Nautical' type of reform in favour of a land-based system. Accordingly, Brush Farm was purchased at Eastwood, NSW.

It was here that the boys from the Sobraon were housed until an establishment at Mt. Penang was constructed in 1912. It is interesting to note that the porch at the entrance to the main building is known as the quarterdeck, even to this day. Sobraon was sold to the young Commonwealth Government for £15,000. In 1890, the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Henry Parkes, initiated moves towards the federation of the Australian states, which led to the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia being decreed on 1st January 1901.

In March 1901, the naval forces and establishments of the State Governments were transferred to the Commonwealth, but the

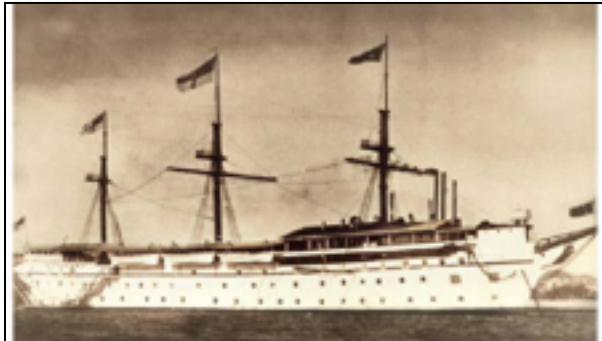
States continued to administer them under State Acts and Regulations until February 1904, when the Commonwealth Defence Act came into force. An amending Act, decreed on 12th January 1904, led to the establishment of a Naval Board of Administration, with Captain W.R. Creswell as Director.

Now in 1909, a proposal for Australia's naval defence emanated from the Imperial Defence Conference; the Pacific Fleet was to be formed of three units, one attached to the Australian Station, one attached to the East Indies and one to the China Station, which was also to defend New Zealand. The East Indies and China units were to be under the British

Admiralty's control, while the Australian unit was to be paid for and controlled by Australia, and was to be eventually manned by Australians. In 1910, the Naval Defence Act was passed, and in October 1911, the adoption of the title 'Royal Australian Navy' was authorised by King George V. This same year saw the launching on the Clyde of HMAS AUSTRALIA and the purchasing of the Sobraon by the Commonwealth of Australia. Sobraon was again placed in the hands of Cockatoo Docks for an extensive refit. She was again found to be as sound as a bell at the ripe old age of 55.

#### **HMAS TINGIRA**

The stage was set for yet another honourable role in the long life of this ship, for at 8 o'clock on the morning of 25th April 1912, just three years before the famous Anzac Day, the white ensign was hoisted to commemorate the commissioning of HMAS TINGIRA, exSobraon, the first naval training ship in the Royal Australian Navy. Tingira, an Aboriginal word meaning 'ocean', or 'open sea', and



pronounced Tinguy-rah, was to become the training ship for thousands of young boys who chose the Navy as a career under the Department of the Navy's boy enlistment scheme. Though all those who trained in her went to sea, the Tingira did not - instead, she swung at her moorings in beautiful Rose Bay, opposite Lyne Park, for the next 15 years.

The commissioning Captain of HMAS TINGIRA was Commander Lewin, RN, who, with his first lieutenant, Lieutenant Commander Browne, RN, and Executive Officers Dean and Seaton, was the first of a long line of distinguished men who had been carefully chosen for their special ability to impart knowledge and instruction to sturdy, self-reliant, intelligent boys.

Arriving on board Tingira, the boys were immediately assigned an official number which remained with them throughout their naval service. They were then placed in either the 'port' or 'starboard' watch and kitted up in what was termed casual clothing. This was an interim naval kit consisting of: a cap, a duck suit (coarse white material, a towel, soap, a hammock and blankets. Shoes were only ever worn when undertaking parade or gunnery training or when going ashore for Sunday divine service. A more complete kit-up usually followed a week later.

Boys as young as 14 were trained in Tingira between 1912 and 1926. Boys were placed in classes of about 12, and for the first four months, they received comprehensive instruction in seamanship. On completion, they would sit an examination before beginning their gunnery training. This was where discipline reportedly came into its own. Everything was done at 'the double' and failure to carry out the correct drill or any order with alacrity was

severely dealt with. A typical day's routine for a Tingira boy saw them turn out at 0530 and 'lash and stow' their hammocks before mustering for baths and showers. After bathing, each boy would receive a cup of cocoa, known as 'ki', before turning to' and cleaning ship. Boats would then be turned out, and on completion, the boys would fall in for physical training. The last boy to fall in would be sent over the ship's rigging half a dozen times, which was never a pleasant prospect, particularly with no footwear on a cold, frosty morning.

Boys aloft in Tingira's rigging. Scaling it was a daily event for most boys. After a vigorous half an hour of physical training, all of the boys would be ordered over the ship's rigging three times before mustering for breakfast. Grace was said before all meals which were overseen by the ship's padre. On completion of breakfast, the day's classroom and practical instruction began, continuing until 1600, at which time the boys turned their attention to domestic duties or compulsory organised sport. At 1900 hours, on completion of supper, the boys were allowed to write letters or participate in voluntary games until 2030, when they fell in before being ordered to 'turn in'. Lights out occurred promptly at 2100.

The first intake of boys took place between 1st June and 28th June 1912, and at the date of HMAS Tingira's decommissioning, 3,168 boys were trained in Tingira, and most took their place as sailors in the fleet. Many served in the RAN during the two World Wars, and some, such as Signalman J.W. Varcoe, DSM and Petty Officer J.T. Humphries, GM, were decorated for individual acts of gallantry during those conflicts.



*Commanding Officer, Captain Graham Wright, greeting the first Junior Recruit intake July 1960 outside the Fremantle Railway station with the then mayor, Frederick Samson. Onto awaiting buses for the trip to HMAS LEEUWIN. Riverside Road, East Fremantle.*

The last draft of the Tingira boys began their training in 1926, and in August that year, recruiting of boys ceased. On 30 June 1927, Tingira paid off, and after passing through the hands of a number of different owners, she was later broken up off Sydney Heads in 1941.

These young boys had had the privilege of having their initial training, not on a shore establishment, or a stone ship that didn't rock, but in the safe confines of one of the finest ships ever built.

#### **RAN JUNIOR RECRUIT TRAINING SCHEME HMAS LEEUWIN**

The first Junior Recruits (boys aged between 15 and 17) commenced training at HMAS LEEUWIN, at Fremantle, WA. The Junior Recruit Training Scheme (JRTS) was designed to provide boys with a year of academic and basic naval training before they were sent to other bases for specialist training.

The scheme continued until 1984, and over 12,000 Junior Recruits graduated from LEEUWIN during those 24 years. Many went on to lengthy careers in the RAN, with a large number reaching commissioned rank. In many ways, the Junior Recruit concept and training were modelled on the boys' training ship HMAS TINGIRA (1912-27), which had trained boys between the ages of 14 and 16 for service in the RAN.

HMAS Leeuwin was a shore establishment of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), located in Fremantle, Western Australia.

Leeuwin was commissioned into the RAN on 1st August 1940 as the naval depot for Fremantle. The original facility was centred around a drill hall constructed in 1926 at East Fremantle, but Leeuwin was relocated in 1942 to Preston Point, on the other side of the Swan River.

After World War II, Leeuwin was tasked with training reservists and national servicemen. The base was reclassified as the Junior Recruit Training Establishment in 1960: boys would normally join the military from the age of fifteen, and the JRTS served to give them a year of secondary education along with basic naval training, before sending them to other bases for training in their specialty.

Education and training of RAN Junior Recruits was shared with the Royal Australian Naval College at HMAS Creswell, located on Jervis Bay, New South Wales.

The first JRTS intake consisted of 155 recruits, and by the end of the decade, over 800 junior recruits and 100 Officer Candidates were in residence. Several of the early intakes were trained at **HMAS CERBERUS**, Crib Point, Victoria, whilst the new construction for the expansion of Leeuwin took place.

The JRTS program was closed in 1984, after having educated 12,074 recruits: the improving quality of education in Australia meant that the RAN no longer felt the need to provide secondary education to those wishing to join the navy.



*The HMAS LEEUWIN graduation march past, a relieving day for most boys as they then soon departed East Fremantle for the 'Open Sea' as the life of a 'Tingira Boy' was about to start within the fleet of the Royal Australian Navy.*



*Under the proud banner of TINGIRA many of the JR membership look forward to Anzac Day around the nation where many catch with former shipmates and make new friends with other Tingira Boys.*

Leeuwin, as a naval base, was decommissioned on 11 November 1986: one of several RAN facilities closed during the late 1980s and early 1990s because of funding cuts and the rationalisation and consolidation of shore bases.

The facilities remained in the possession of the Australian Defence Force and were later reopened as Leeuwin Barracks, a facility of the Australian Army. The Barracks provides support for personnel of all three branches of the Australian military in the Fremantle area.

In July 2010, over 700 former JRs gathered at Leeuwin Barracks to celebrate the commission of the 'Junior Recruit Memorial', a dedicated statue wall and garden in memory of the Leeuwin Tingira Boys.

A reunion followed, and from that have grown friendships to form the new 'Tingira Australia Association' on 1/1/11, to carry on the name from the former Tingira boys known as the Tingira Old Boys

Association, who had the motto - 'Tingira will live forever'.

**2015** - The Australian Government has put Leeuwin Barracks up for sale for future private development.

**2025** - The Army has moved from Leeuwin Barracks, which is now a Defence Logistics Depot, with the present Government yet to comment or commit to the long-term use of the base facility.

**7 November 2025** - Tingira Australia Association celebrates, Sapphire Jubilee, 65 years since the first intake of Junior Recruits at HMAS Leeuwin.

Committee men, Wake, Lee and Kalajzich resign after an accumulated 40 years service to the Tingira Australia Association.

**1 January 2026** - National Tingira Committee. Chris Perrin takes the helm as President

**ML**

**CSS SOBRAON . HMAS TINGIRA . HMAS LEEUWIN . HMAS CERBERUS**

## SOCIAL MEDIA - JRs Communicating



**ON HIS BIKE** - The best postie in the West!  
Darryl Walton is the pride of his streets as he is always up for the dress up festive occasions and those classic theme days on his postie run!



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**TAKE A SEAT SAILOR** - Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> JRTS Intake, sitting back at the Globe hotel downtown Perth watching the Western Australian sunset.



**TAKE A KNEE SAILOR** - Members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> JRTS Intake, outside the Leeuwin front gate at the 2025 JR Reunion.



1 tillyfynne@yahoo.com  
Re: HMAS Leeuwin RAN Junior Recruit School 1980 70th Intake  
To: TILLYLYNNE@yahoo.com, Cc: Australia Tingira, tingirasec@gmail.com, Mark Lee

Hi guys  
I made it a project to get someone to help me edit my super 8mm home movies Recruit School HMAS Leeuwin in 1980. Feel free to share as you wish.  
My hope was that someone from my intake (70th) might get to see it and enjoy it.  
Glad I got it done before the reunion.  
Regards  
Neil 'Tilly' Tilbrook

[See More from tillyfynne@yahoo.com](#)

1 tillyfynne@yahoo.com  
HMAS Leeuwin RAN Junior Recruit School 1980 70th Intake  
To: Australia Tingira, tingirasec@gmail.com, Mark Lee

<https://youtu.be/Emu1EN-f9cf7si-KcT5b8fBLpyb/fe>



## 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)

