



Junior Recruit Memorial Project Newsletter

July 2009

Welcome to Newsletter Number 13

The planning for the construction and dedication of the JR Memorial continues at a steady pace. Many aspects of the preparation for this event are now coming together with various components of the plan now being delegated to others who will deal with matters from within their area of expertise.

The Navy will provide the RAN Band for the ceremony along with other support arrangements. We now have the Navy Events and Marketing Manager Lieutenant Commander Jillian Brownlie assisting with many of the planning matters associated with the navy's involvement. A Navy Chaplain has also been appointed for the ceremony.

Other matters presently being considered are the need for seating and first aid facilities on the day as well as traffic management issues. Given the expected crowd some consideration is being given to street closure and parking control. At this point in time all of our planning is on track and we are meeting all milestones ahead of time. We are confident of achieving all that we set out to do.

The weather in WA at this time of year is often inclement and with this in mind provision has been made in our planning for wet weather and Leeuwin Barracks has kindly made the Drill Hall available to us in the event of rain. I expect that if we are caused to use the Drill Hall then it will be standing room only. Given fine weather we plan to provide some seating for those attending in the area surrounding the memorial although if we have the numbers presently estimated to attend then it might not be possible to seat everyone on the day. The Dedication Ceremony will take about two hours to complete.

A key focus point in the fifty-year commemoration of the Junior Recruit Training Scheme is that it includes those from both Leeuwin and Cerberus. It also celebrates the Training Scheme for all intakes, not just those who commenced their training in 1960.

History of the Junior Recruit Training Scheme- “The Book”

The history of the Junior Recruit Training Scheme has been written. Given access to Navy records, including those held in the National Archive, the history titled *Boy Sailors – Junior Recruits in the Royal Australian Navy 1960 to 1984* was written by Brian Adams (22nd Intake). He took over the task from Paul Kerr (60th Intake) who came up with the idea about a decade ago. Other former junior recruits assisted by providing photographs and information.

The 35 000 word book and the 40 photographs contained in it will be published by the Navy’s Sea Power Centre – Australia. The publication date is not firm at present but we plan to have it ready for distribution by July 2010.

Beginning with a description of RAN boy sailor training early last century it goes on to describe the thinking that underpinned the Naval Board’s 1959 decision to re-introduce boy sailor training that had lapsed in the RAN in 1926. The nature of education and training provided to JR’s, major features of the life experienced by boys in *Leeuwin* and *Cerberus*, the reasons for the end of the scheme and the activities of JR’s today are all covered. The book will provide an excellent policy background to the more personal accounts of the JR training experience that are available in other books about the RAN, in JR intake reunion booklets or are on the Internet.

The author of this book, Rear Admiral Brian Adams AO RAN (ret), is the Patron of the Junior Recruit Memorial Project and as more information comes to hand we will publish it in the JR Memorial Newsletters.

Dedication Ceremony-“The Padres”

An important feature of the Dedication Ceremony will be the blessing of the Junior Recruit Memorial by Chaplains. The Memorial Committee is pleased to report that the RAN has appointed Chaplain Duncan Becsi to represent the Navy on this occasion but in addition we have also invited the Reverend Joe Newbold to also assist with the service. Joe Newbold joined the RAN as a Junior Recruit and after leaving the navy went on to enter the Anglican Church Ministry. Joe’s role now is as the Rector of St Michael’s Church at Mount Pleasant.

The “*Leeuwin*” Mast is replaced

The old mast at *Leeuwin* is now in the process of being recycled by the reunion group but the good news is that it has been replaced.

The Department of Defence in recent weeks has installed a new metal mast of a traditional naval design. This area is now retained as the *Official Flag Station* for the establishment and is where the Australian National Flag is flown daily. The area is also used for important ceremonies such as the commemoration of ANZAC Day. Once the JR Memorial has been completed it is hoped that ex JR's will attend important commemorative events such as this at the site

In addition to the mast being replaced *Leeuwin* Barracks staff have had significant refurbishment of the concrete surrounds carried out and all that remains for us to do is lay the reinforced foundations, install the 3 panel granite Junior Recruit Memorial and re-landscape the Memorial Garden. Commencement of this work will be in November.

Laying of Wreaths



A number of requests have been received regarding the laying of wreaths at the JR Memorial on the occasion of its Dedication. Potentially this could involve a number of personal wreaths and those from the various intakes. For this reason the arrangements will need to be closely coordinated with the other activities planned for the ceremony. It is expected that there will be the opportunity for those who wish to do so to lay a wreath at the end of the Dedication Ceremony.

For those who are involved with the coordination of the various intake groups, web sites and reunions can I suggest that you work within your groups to come forward with a single proposal for your intake and nominate a person who will act as the point of contact for this activity. Those who may wish to come forward with something of a more personal nature such as for a family member I would ask that they contact me personally so that we can coordinate the arrangements on the day.

Commemorative Medallions-Still Available



The Commemorative Medallions will continue to be made available for the duration of the project. We have received many enquiries in recent weeks that suggest that there may be some perception that the medallions are no longer available. This is not the case, our intention is to continue to have them made but there will be a cut off point most probably mid 2010.

Don't forget **Father's Day** in September, what could be better than a Commemorative Medallion for dear old Dad or perhaps the next birthday. The order form is at the end of this newsletter.

The "Bronze" has been cast!



The first casting of the bronze centrepiece for the Junior Recruit Memorial has been carried out. The casting was done at Grigsby's Foundry in conjunction with Jim Benny of Techcast Pty Ltd at Ballarat from the sculpture by Andrew Borg. The bronze casting is of a young Junior Recruit (torso) in winter uniform. The casting is in relief and all features of the uniform including the TINGIRA badge are included. It is important that we also point out that the image is not that of any real person, that is we have not copied an ex JR's photo or such like and although some may suggest that it might look like someone they know it is only an artistic representation of a young sailor.

This first casting was created in a sand mould and will require further finishing work with hand tools to enhance the detail in the uniform and other features of the work. When all of the detailing work has been completed the metal will be treated with a sulphur lime chemical to create a "natural" patina to the bronze. Following the final treatment the bronze will be transported to Perth for attachment to the granite panel.

The granite surface will need to be prepared for the bronze by cutting a rebate into which the metal sculpture will fit. This will allow the bronze to fit flush with the surface of the granite. Other components of the fixing process will include the placement of two 50 mm bolts from the bronze into prepared holes in the granite. To further ensure that it cannot ever be removed a masonry glue will also be applied. The masonry work is to be undertaken by Chris Thomas from the firm C.J. Vases in Perth who also undertakes work for the Australian War Graves Commission.



“HMAS *Leeuwin*’s Bell”- *Where is it?*

The search is now on, we have just 12 months to go to the 50th Anniversary and time yet to track down the ships bell from HMAS *Leeuwin*. Somewhere out there in the ex navy community someone must know where the ships bell went to in 1985. The original bell would look very similar to the one in the photo above.

It would be very fitting that it was returned for the big event. No names, no pack drill but a lead from someone might take us to where it is with a request that it be returned.

It is now time to start some action to see if we can track it down for display next year. The bell is quite large and very heavy, advice is that it would have needed take two people to carry it and it would a shame if it was languishing away in someone’s back shed. I cannot see that it would have personal value to anyone unless in the unlikely event that it was sold as scrap metal. Perhaps a few letters to the Editors of some of the major WA newspapers might stir something up.

The bell “*disappeared*” from the gangway at Leeuwin during the night before the place was decommissioned in 1985. There is every chance that those who were on watch that night and know something about it are now quite elderly or perhaps even passed on in which case family members might be able to help out.

All of the JR website managers might be able to create more awareness the search by posting information on their web sites.

Lets see if we can track it down.



Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc.
Patron RADM B.L Adams AO RAN (Ret)
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Some Very Early JRTE History



Thursday Divisions - March 1967

(Photo courtesy of Frank Lindsay)

Just about all of the buildings in this photo have now been demolished, there is some evidence of the “new” accommodation (as at 1967) in the top right hand corner. The class at front centre (Marks Division) certainly had their act together and were looking very smart.

“A Blast From the Past”



JR Australian Football Team 1961

(This photo courtesy of Kev. Connolly)

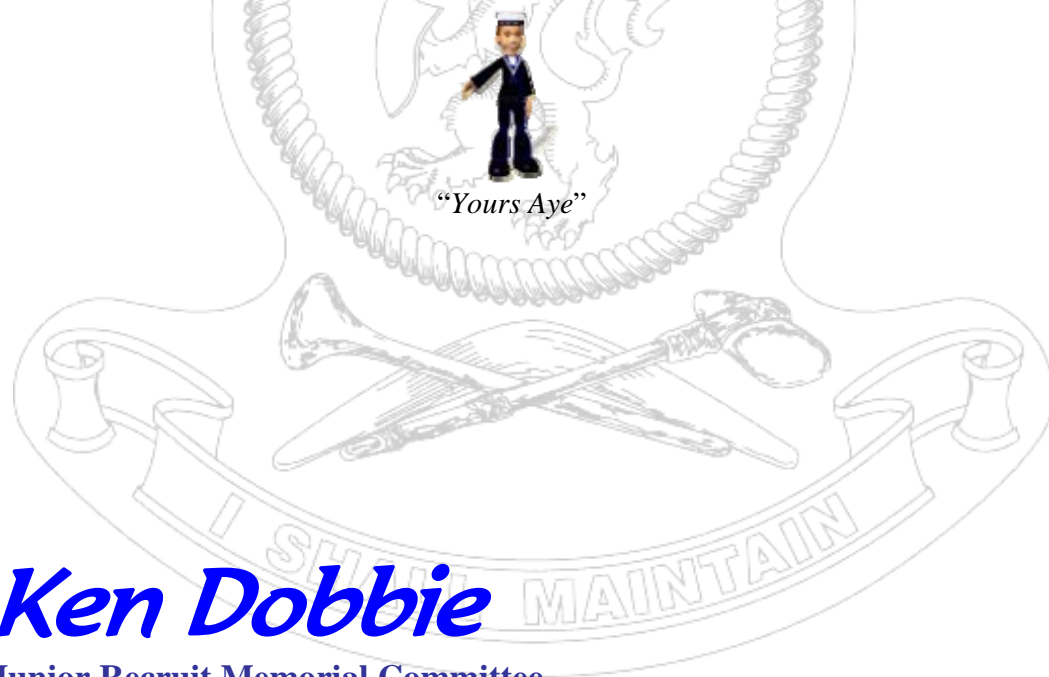
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JR Memorial Fund Inc.– Funds Management

As previously reported in our newsletters the JR Memorial Fund is established as an incorporated (not for profit) association. As such we have quite well defined arrangements under which the funds are managed such as on the winding up of the fund or the changing its role or objectives.

Under our incorporation arrangements we simply cannot spend or dispose of funds (surplus or otherwise) as we might wish and as such we may only transfer funds or any surplus to a “like organisation” that has the same or similar objectives to the association as it was originally set up. In our case the establishment of a memorial to the Junior Recruit Scheme

With this in mind the JR Memorial Committee will at its Annual General Meeting in August put in place arrangements for the association that will guide future decisions associated with the disposal of surplus funds or actions to be taken on the winding up of the fund at the conclusion of the project.



Ken Dobbie

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com

The Commemorative Medallion Order Form



**Junior Recruit Memorial Fund
50th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion
Order Form**

Please Supply:

Number of Medallions Required @ \$85.00 per unit	\$
Engraving of Name and Official Number (optional) @ \$10.00 per unit	\$
Please write below <u>exactly</u> what is to be engraved	
Name & Initials.....	
Official Number.....	
Postage and Handling @ \$7.30	\$
Total Cost (includes GST @10%) <small>(Payment by cheque or money order should be made to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc. Do not send cash)</small>	\$

Your Name	
Home Address	
Postal Address	
Telephone	
Email Address	

Techcast Aust. Pty Ltd manufactures the medallions in Ballarat Vic.

**Please remit cheque or money order with the order form to:
Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc
75 Lovett St Devonport Tas 7310
Tel 03 64247198 Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com**

All proceeds from the sale of the medallions are passed to the Junior Recruit Memorial Fund.