



# Junior Recruit Memorial Project

## Newsletter Number 14

August 2009

Welcome to Newsletter Number 14.

The watermark on this page is an old recruiting add for Junior Recruits provided to us courtesy of John Perryman who is an ex JR who works as a historian at NHQ in Canberra. John undertook a lot of the research associated with the search for HMAS Sydney (II) and has also made excellent contributions to the latest book on this naval disaster *The Search for the Sydney* (David Mearns 2009- Harper Collins) It is a good read and good value as well.

*HMAS Tingira* - The foundation of the “boy sailor” heritage

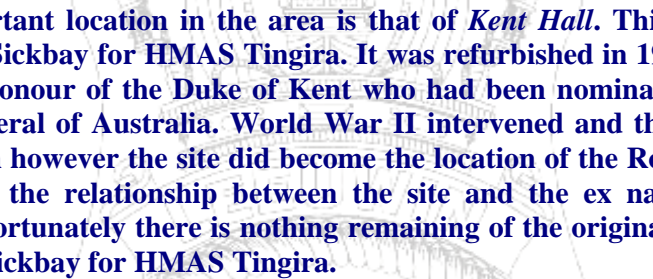
*Kent Hall*- HMAS *Tingira*'s Sickbay

Rose Bay in Sydney harbour was the site where the training ship HMAS *Tingira* was moored. This location is in the Municipality of Woollahra and a number of historical naval sites are found within that municipality. The Council has also established a Heritage Committee that serves to protect these and other important historical locations in the area.

The council has made a lot of effort to maintain the historical importance of HMAS *Tingira* and to that extent it has established a memorial in *Tingira Reserve* at Rose Bay. The *Tingira Reserve* was established in 1962 and in later years a memorial to HMAS *Tingira* was established with the assistance of the Council, DVA and the local RSL.



HMAS *Tingira* Reserve



Another important location in the area is that of *Kent Hall*. This building was originally the Sickbay for HMAS Tingira. It was refurbished in 1938 and named Kent Hall in honour of the Duke of Kent who had been nominated as the next Governor General of Australia. World War II intervened and the appointment did not happen however the site did become the location of the Rose Bay RSL in 1951. As such the relationship between the site and the ex navy community continues. Unfortunately there is nothing remaining of the original building that served as the Sickbay for HMAS Tingira.

### What about a HMAS Leeuwin Reserve?

A question that might arise in the minds of some is *“will the Western Australian community follow the example of Woollahra Council in the future and takes steps to preserve the history and heritage of HMAS Leeuwin?”*

Perhaps something like a HMAS Leeuwin Reserve on the foreshores of the Swan River might be in order. Let me know we might start to write letters if there is support for the idea.

The Naval Historical Society, the RSL or Naval Association in WA could be the organisations to initiate or support this concept.

### Memorial Project Fundraising

We are pleased to announce that the project has to date raised sufficient funds to meet the costs of the memorial construction and some ancillary tasks. There is however some work still to be done in this regard and we are presently seeking quotes for the landscaping of the memorial garden area and preparation of the area for the Dedication Ceremony. Other matters still outstanding include the costs associated with seating hire, first aid and other support arrangements for the day. The fund will on completion of the project be subject to a formal audit that will acquit all grants and reconcile accounts. As previously advised, in the event that the fund is in surplus at the end of the project then those funds will be used to further the project to extend the concept of the JR Memorial. This could be in a number of forms such as a “living memorial” where the funds could be used to support activities that celebrate the JR Scheme and its achievements. The committee is presently considering some options in this regard and when the fund is wound up an announcement will be made with regard to the dispersion of any surplus. The sale of Commemorative Medallions will continue whilst the demand is there and with proceeds still being passed to the Memorial Fund



## ***“Looking at Leeuwin “– Historical Film***

Recently the historian at NHQ in Canberra John Perryman was able to locate a short movie film that was made at HMAS Leeuwin during the late 60's. John Perryman who is himself an ex Junior Recruit has had the film digitised and placed on the navy's web site. Approval has been given for the film to be used as part of the promotion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations and the reunion group have put the film on their web site for easy viewing.

During 1963 another short film was made, this was entitled *“Heart of Oak”* and featured activities associated with the day-to-day life of a Junior Recruit. Attempts are presently being made to locate this film and if we can we will also make it available for viewing on the reunion web site.



## **JRTE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Service St John's Anglican Church Fremantle**

All Junior Recruits who passed through Leeuwin will have memories of the Flying Angel Club in Fremantle. This was a venue for weekend leave and most of the facilities provided would have been utilised by all who visited there. For most the Flying Angel Club was a welcome distraction from the day to day rigors of Leeuwin and provided an opportunity to relax in a comfortable environment with access to television, pool and snooker tables as well as the canteen that provided the usual fare of milkshakes and snack food.

Perhaps not all would have visited the chapel at the Flying Angel however St John's Anglican Church has a long association with the RAN, in particular the cruiser HMAS Perth and of course HMAS Leeuwin. It is also the location for some of the many annual maritime commemorations held in Fremantle.

Joe Newbold is an ex JR who left the navy to become an Anglican Minister and is the Rector of St Michael's at Mount Pleasant in Perth. Joe along with the Rector of St John's and the RAN Chaplin appointed for the Dedication Ceremony is presently considering the idea of a Commemorative Service to be held at St Johns during the week of celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our meetings to be held in November will discuss the merits of this and an announcement will be made in due course.

## The “*Leeuwin*” mast is replaced



The new mast at Leeuwin is in a typical naval form and is also the “official flag station” for the establishment. Staff at Leeuwin Barracks also undertook substantial work in replacing the concrete surrounds of the mast area. The JR Memorial will be immediately in front of the new mast.

(Photo courtesy of Robin Giles at Leeuwin Barracks)



R.I.P.

I had advice recently that David Hanson an ex JR probably from the 8<sup>th</sup> intake passed away in Adelaide on 27 July 2009- A Vietnam Veteran

## Commemorative Medallions-*Still Available*



The Commemorative Medallions will continue to be made available for the duration of the project. Don't forget *Christmas*, 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.

**Some Very Early JRTE History**



**Nakina Division 1962**  
(Photo courtesy of Bob Fuller)



**Nakina Division 1962**  
(Note the 303 Rifles and the dreaded red gravel surface of the Parade Ground)  
(Photo courtesy of Bob Fuller)

*Did this advertisement influence your enlistment?*

*the Navy has the answer on opportunity for boys*

*it's the* **RAN**  
JUNIOR RECRUITS' TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

This school trains Junior Recruits for the Royal Australian Navy. Candidates are entered twice yearly, in January and July. In addition to being provided with a sound education, Junior Recruits receive appropriate basic Naval training to fit them for future service.

On completion of courses, Junior Recruits reach a standard where they are able immediately to proceed to other Naval Establishments for technical training.

**LOCATION.**

The Junior Recruits' Training Establishment is situated on the Swan River at Fremantle, 8 miles from Perth, Western Australia.



*A ship of the "Daring" Class*

(This recruitment image courtesy of John Perryman)



**Cerberus Junior Recruits**

**We expect to have a significant article about Cerberus JR's in the next issue however we are very keen to get some more input into our newsletters from any Cerberus JR or intake group.**

**The newsletters that have been produced so far have tended to have large amounts of information related to the Leeuwin stream and most of this comes as contributions from the ex JR community. Something further from the Cerberus intakes would be very welcome.**

**Anything of interest including old photos, memorabilia or short anecdotes of life at Cerberus at the time would be very welcome.**

## Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden immediately in front of the JR Memorial will be refurbished over the next 6 months or so. We are presently consulting experts in this area to gain advice on the choice of plants and ground cover for the garden. The rose bushes that have been there for many many years are not in the best of health and will need to be relocated to an area nearby that is better suited. The choice of plants to replace these will be varieties that will not need a lot of care. The environment is also a consideration with its sandy soil and salt laden atmosphere and expert advice will no doubt point us in the right direction with plant selection.



(Photo courtesy of Robin Giles Leeuwin Barracks)



*“Yours Aye”*

# *Ken Dobbie*

Junior Recruit Memorial Committee

Email [ken.dobbie@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.dobbie@bigpond.com)

**The Commemorative Medallion  
Order Form**



**Junior Recruit Memorial Fund  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medallion  
Order Form**

**Please Supply:**

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

<b>Your Name</b>	
<b>Home Address</b>	
<b>Postal Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

**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.**