

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
1960-2010



JUNIOR RECRUIT MEMORIAL PROJECT

29 June 2015

The Hon. Darren Chester, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Disposal of Leeuwin Barracks

Dear Mr Chester

I write seeking your assistance with the retention and protection of a memorial located at the Leeuwin Barracks site related to the training and service of members of the Australian Navy when the site operated as HMAS Leeuwin.

The Junior Recruit Memorial Committee was established in 2006 for the purposes of constructing a memorial at the Leeuwin Barracks site to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Junior Recruit training scheme that was established at that site in 1960. The scheme was phased out of the Australian Navy in 1984 following the successful training of more than 13,000 boys aged 15 to 16 who saw service in the defence of Australia in every conflict and peace keeping related activity from 1960 until the present day. Some continue to serve today in areas such as Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf alongside coalition forces.

The memorial is located immediately behind the ceremonial entry gates adjacent to the main building (I have included an image for your information). The memorial was dedicated by the then Chief of Navy Vice Admiral RH Crane AO CSM RAN (ret) in 2010 himself an ex Junior Recruit. More than 3,000 ex and current serving men and their families attended the occasion. The construction and design of the memorial was funded through donation from the ex Junior Recruit community and an amount exceeding \$120,000 was raised. The site is now a point of remembrance and celebration for ex members and is used on important occasions such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and as such holds a place of honour amongst ex serving members.

Junior Recruit Memorial Fund Inc.
Patron RADM B.L Adams AO RANR
75 Lovett St Devonport Tas 7310
Tel. 03 64247198
Email ken.dobbie@bigpond.com

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In addition to the memorial funds raised for this purpose funds are also allocated each year to a "*living memorial*" that provides an annual bursary prize to Naval Cadets at TS Perth and TS Tingira. This award provides to the best performing cadet in each unit \$3,000 to support future education and also to provide encouragement towards a career in the Australian Navy.

I note from a recent media release from your office that due diligence activities are to be undertaken before the site is sold relevant to heritage assessments. We are seeking your support to retain the Junior Recruit Memorial at the site and provide for its future protection as an important symbol of service to the nation by 13,000 boys in the Australian Navy.

Yours Faithfully

Ken Dobbie
Chairman

CC

VADM RH Crane AO CSM RAN (ret)
RADM BL Adams AO RAN (ret)

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