



8 February 2015

Guy Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants announced

Congratulations to the four successful recipients of grants under Round 1 of the Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program 2014-15.

The Program supports Tasmanian ex-service organisations and clubs by funding minor capital works with up to \$8000.

A total of \$100,000 has been allocated for the 2014-15 Grants Program, which will be provided through three rounds.

The Grants Program takes its name in tribute to the bravery and sacrifice made by Tasmanian sailor Edward 'Teddy' Sheean, who lost his life serving his country and fellow shipmates during a battle in 1942 off the coast of East Timor.

The Grants Program honours Teddy Sheean as a representative of the many Tasmanians who selflessly gave their lives for others in the defense of our country.

Four grants, totaling \$28 481.25, were awarded for:

- New Carpet – Railton RSL Sub Branch;
- Car Park Sealing - Latrobe RSL Sub Branch;
- New Front Door - Bicheno Bowls Club and RSL Sub Branch; and
- Bookcases – Royal Australian Air Force Association (Tas Branch).

The Tasmanian Government recognises the valuable contribution of Tasmania's service men and women and is committed to supporting the serving and ex-service community in Tasmania.

Background on Teddy Sheean

In June 1942 Teddy began his service as an Oerlikon anti-aircraft gunner on the newly commissioned corvette, HMAS Armidale.

On 1 December 1942, Armidale was hit by two aircraft-launched torpedoes and began to sink.

Sheean was wounded, but rather than abandon ship, he strapped himself to his Oerlikon and began to engage the attacking aircraft as the ship sunk beneath him.

He shot down two planes, and crewmates recall seeing tracer rounds rising from beneath the surface of the sea as Sheean was dragged under the water, firing until the end.

He died aged 18.

Only 49 of the 149 men on board survived the attack and subsequent ordeal on rafts and in life boats.

Many people consider that Sheean's actions deserved the Victoria Cross.

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