

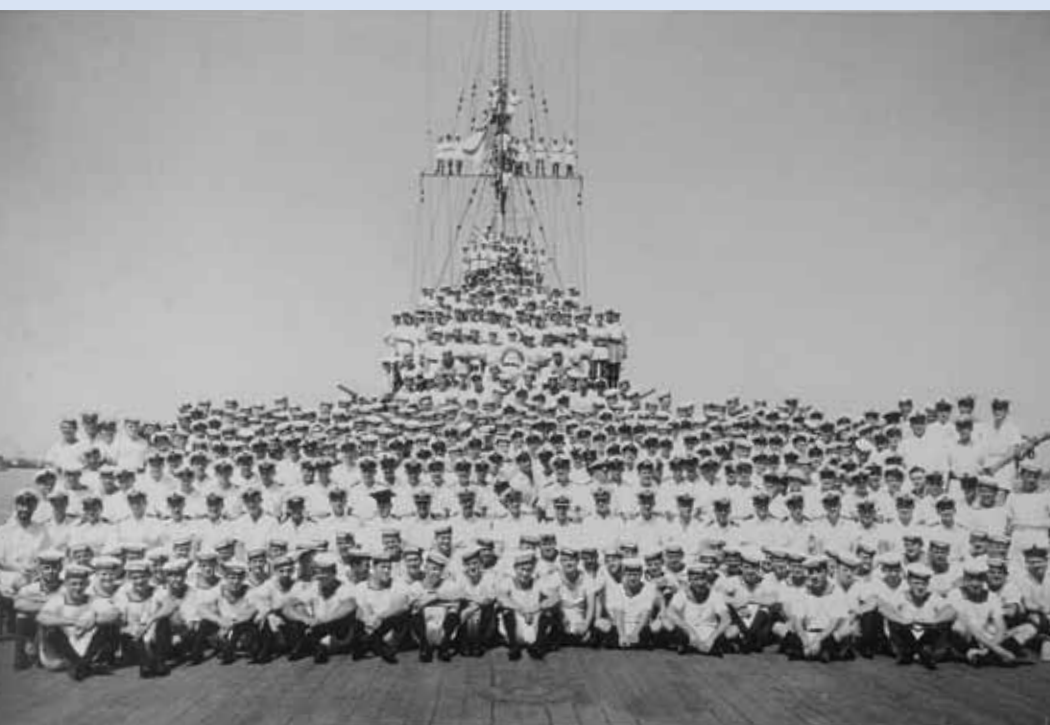
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM PRESENTS



FOREWORD BY ALEC COLES OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Remembering *Sydney* HMAS *Sydney* II Seminar

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November 2011
Queens Park Theatre



Ship's company on board HMAS *Sydney* in Alexandria, Egypt after sinking Italian cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni* in July 1940. Image courtesy of the Australian War Memorial.

With its evocative and moving memorial overlooking the city, and the grave of the 'Unknown Serviceman' nearby, the City of Geraldton is recognised as the Australian focus for the commemoration of HMAS *Sydney* II and its lost crew.

The 70th anniversary of the ship's disappearance on 19 November 1941 will be marked in Geraldton by the dedication of a new 'Fifth Element' at the Memorial on Mt Scott.

For all of those who attend – be they the relatives, friends and comrades of the ship's lost crew, or those of us who feel humbled by the sacrifice made by these brave men on our behalf – it will be an intensely moving occasion.

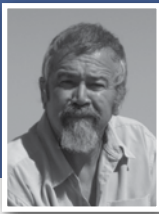
The Western Australian Museum has been associated with the search for HMAS *Sydney* II for many years. When the Commonwealth Government declared that the Sydney and Kormoran wreck sites were to be protected under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976, it delegated this responsibility to the Western Australian Museum. It is a responsibility that the Museum takes very seriously.

The seminar brings together speakers from the Universities of Western Australia and Adelaide, from the Finding Sydney Foundation, the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation, Royal Australian Navy and the internationally acclaimed sculptors of the HMAS *Sydney* II Memorial. The keynote presentations will be repeated over the two days to provide maximum opportunities for attendance. It will take place at Queens Park Theatre and we acknowledge the support of the City of Greater Geraldton for providing this facility.

The Western Australian Museum is proud to present the *Remembering Sydney* seminar as part of the 70th Anniversary commemoration of this ship and her crew. It will review the science, the passion and excitement of the discovery in 2008, but it will also honour the memory of those that were lost so tragically 70 years ago.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
museum



SEMINAR CHAIR
 ADJUNCT PROFESSOR DR MICHAEL MCCARTHY
 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Remembering Sydney: HMAS Sydney II Seminar

Dr Michael McCarthy is a curator in Maritime Archaeology at the Western Australian Museum and leads the Museum's HMAS Sydney / HSK Kormoran research program. He was official observer on board MV *Geosounder* for the Commonwealth Government when the two wrecks were examined.

In 2010 he edited the Western Australian Museum's analysis HMAS Sydney (II); Legendary Warrior, and worked with the Museum's Web team to develop their award winning HMAS Sydney II website.
 (<http://wamuseum.com.au/Sydney>)



PROFESSOR KIM KIRSNER
 UNIVERSITY OF
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PROFESSOR JOHN DUNN
 UNIVERSITY OF
 ADELAIDE

The Search for *Kormoran* and *Sydney*: An Australian Voice

The search for the wrecks of *Kormoran* and *Sydney* produced a long and fascinating dialogue about Search Definition, the question of where to look for the wrecks. Possibly for the first time Cognitive Science played a crucial role in a search for shipwrecks.

Between 2001 and 2005, research work shaped by two considerations was implemented for and on behalf of the Finding Sydney Foundation (FSF). First, were the reports provided by Detmers during interrogation in 1941 inconsistent and unreliable and, second, knowledge about the location of *Kormoran* was distributed among the crew because each lifeboat made its way to the coast independently.

Kim Kirsner has published numerous articles and research around topics including memory, language recognition, skill acquisition, bilingualism including second language learning, and the objective measurement of fluency in language production. He was a Foundation Director of the Finding Sydney Foundation and is an Honorary Associate to the Western Australian Maritime Museum.

John Dunn has published more than 100 articles on topics related to visual attention, cognitive psychology, memory including work on methodological issues in neuropsychology, decision-making in complex environments, and mathematical models.



TED GRAHAM AM
 EX-CHAIRMAN FINDING SYDNEY FOUNDATION

"I just wanted to know where my Dad is" The Successful Search for HMAS Sydney II

The Finding Sydney Foundation (FSF) was established after Ted Graham contacted friends Dr Don Pridmore and Dr Kim Kirsner in 2001. During that time the Foundation was instrumental in creating the political and financial means to search for *Sydney* which finally saw success in March 2008.

Ted Graham AM acknowledges the contributions of all Foundation Directors during its history in achieving a successful search outcome. On Australia Day 2009 he was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) "for service to the community through leadership roles in the successful search for HMAS Sydney." In 2010 Ted and his fellow Directors were collectively named Western Australian Citizen of the Year in the Gold Swan category, recognising the Foundation's contribution. They were also made honorary members of the HMAS Sydney Association.



DR ROGER NEILL
 DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION
 (DSTO)

The Science Underpinning the HMAS Sydney Commission of Inquiry

Following the discovery, in March 2008, of the wrecks of HMAS Sydney and HSK Kormoran, the Chief of Defence Force established a Commission of Inquiry aimed at determining the circumstances associated with the loss of Sydney and subsequent loss of life. The DSTO and the Australian Division of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects were tasked by the Commission to review the evidence and apply modern scientific techniques to assist in meeting the object of the inquiry. The Commission released its findings in August 2009 and much of the technical detail included in the report relied heavily on these scientific analyses.

Dr Roger Neill is Head of Automation and Unmanned Maritime Systems and the Coordinator of DSTO's Future Undersea Warfare Corporate Enabling Research Program (FUSW CERP). The research programs for which he has responsibility are being used to help guide the Australian Defence Organisation as it moves towards making significantly greater use of automation and unmanned systems in the maritime environment. He is a recognised expert in the interpretation and visualization of historic naval shipwrecks.



COMMANDER MATTHEW BLENKIN
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

The Search for the Unknown Sailor: A Forensic Journey

On 19 November 1941 the Australian Leander Class Cruiser HMAS *Sydney* II was sunk off the coast of Western Australia by the German raider HSK *Kormoran*. The *Sydney* was lost with all hands. Curiously, one of *Sydney*'s life rafts floated into Flying Fish Cove some three months later. Within the raft lay the remains of an unknown sailor. He was buried in a cemetery on Christmas Island, the location of that grave forgotten over time. The search for the location of this grave and the forensic investigation that has attempted to reveal his identity has created great interest.

Commander Matt Blenkin has a Masters of Science in Forensic Odontology and is now a Board registered specialist. Since that time he has been deployed both nationally and internationally on many occasions in his capacity as a forensic identification expert. He is currently posted as the Senior Health Officer at Fleet Base West and is Chair of the Surgeon General's Consultative Group on Forensic Sciences.



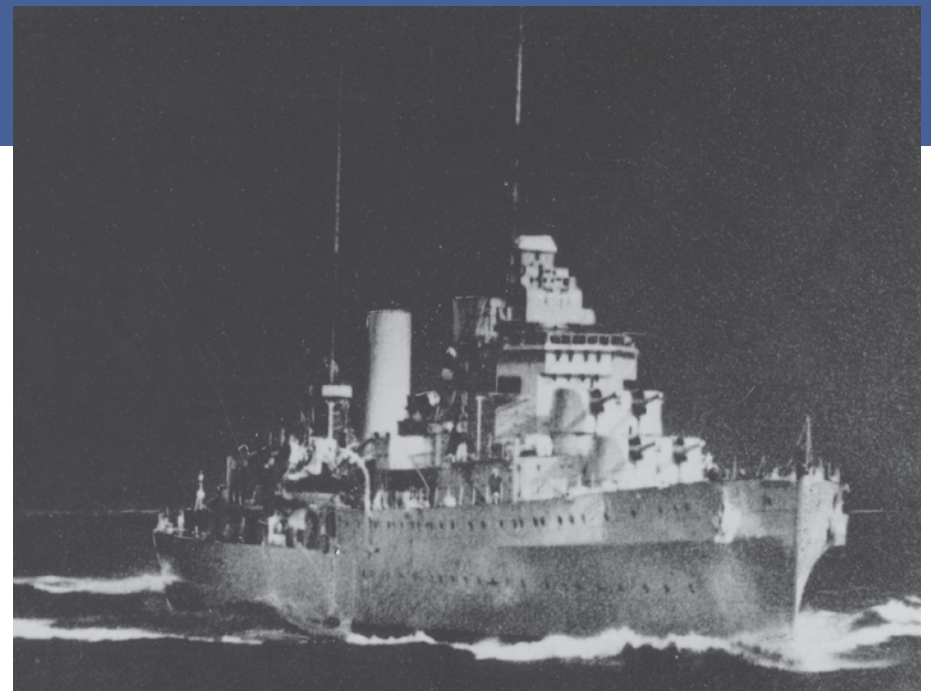
CHARLES SMITH AND JOAN WALSH-SMITH

Closing the Circle: Design and Construction of the HMAS Sydney II Memorial from the Artists' Archives 1999 to 2011

Walsh-Smith, designers and sculptors of the HMAS Sydney II Memorial will explore the complex journey undertaken by them. Their creative challenge was to synthesize the history of the tragedy and the emotions of those involved, into a visual symbolic form, which would specifically commemorate the 645 lost crew members of HMAS Sydney II.

Charles Smith and Joan Walsh-Smith are a husband and wife team originally from Ireland, working internationally on large-scale public artworks in a wide variety of media and interpretation throughout Europe, Asia and Australia, where they settled with their three children, in 1984.

In Australia, they have specialised in commemorative civic works and memorials. They have created many well-known landmark commemorative artworks in Western Australia and were the artists responsible for the National Memorial to the Australian Army on Anzac Parade in Canberra.



HMAS Sydney W.H. (John) Ross collection, WA Museum.



CGI Model of the wreck of HMAS Sydney. By Thomas Schmid.
Reproduced with permission of David Mearns.

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER
TIME 11.00am - 5.00pm

11.00am	Welcome
11.15am	The Search for <i>Kormoran</i> and <i>Sydney</i> : An Australian Voice
	Professors Kim Kirsner and John Dunn
12.00pm	“I just wanted to know where my Dad is” The Successful Search for HMAS Sydney II
	Ted Graham AM, ex-Chairman Finding Sydney Foundation
12.45pm – 1.00pm	Panel Q&A
1.00pm – 1.40pm	LUNCH
1.45pm	The Science Underpinning the HMAS Sydney Commission of Inquiry
	Dr Roger Neill, Defence Science and Technology Organisation.
2.30pm	The Search for the Unknown Sailor: A Forensic Journey
	Commander Matthew Blenkin Royal Australian Navy
3.15pm – 3.30pm	Panel Q&A
3.30pm – 3.50pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.55pm	Closing the Circle: Design and Construction of the HMAS Sydney II Memorial from the Artists’ Archives 1999 to 2011
	Charles Smith and Joan Walsh-Smith
4.40pm	Panel Q&A
5.00pm	Close

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER
TIME 10.00am - 1.30pm

The keynote presentations will be repeated over the two days to provide maximum opportunities for attendance.

10.00am	Welcome
10.05am	The Search for <i>Kormoran</i> and <i>Sydney</i> : An Australian Voice
	Professors Kim Kirsner and John Dunn
10.50am	“I just wanted to know where my Dad is”: The Successful Search for HMAS <i>Sydney</i> II
	Ted Graham AM, ex-Chairman Finding Sydney Foundation
11.35am – 11.55am	MORNING TEA
12.00pm	The Science Underpinning the HMAS Sydney Commission of Inquiry
	Dr Roger Neill, Defence Science and Technology Organisation.
12.45pm	The Search for the Unknown Sailor: A Forensic Journey
	Commander Matthew Blenkin, Royal Australian Navy
1.30pm	Close

REMEMBERING SYDNEY HMAS SYDNEY II SEMINAR

Venue Queens Park Theatre, Cathedral Avenue Geraldton

Tickets Adults \$10, Concession \$5. Children under 16 free.

Bookings are essential 9921 5080 or book online
museum.wa.gov.au/whatson-Geraldton

Tickets can be collected from WA Museum
Geraldton from 1 November.

Western Australian Museum Geraldton

Open daily from 9.30am – 4.00pm

Guided tours are available daily at 11.30am

For more details phone 9921 5080



HMAS Sydney II Exhibition

Pride of the Fleet: **Search for HMAS Sydney II** is an exhibition at the WA Museum Geraldton dedicated to the search and discovery of HMAS Sydney II. Guided tours for the Pride of the Fleet gallery can be requested at any time from 15 – 22 November 2011.

RECOLLECTING SYDNEY: A CALL TO MIND

Venue Birdwood House and WA Museum Geraldton

Date Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 November

Are you a relative, or did you know a crew member of HMAS Sydney II? Visit Birdwood House or the WA Museum Geraldton with your family and friends and work with artist Marina Baker to leave something of your story here in Geraldton. Using copies of your letters, photos, newspaper clippings or anything else you may have with you, Marina will guide you to create a shared memory that when joined with others will leave in Geraldton a poignant story from the people who recall the men of Sydney II as husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin or friend.

This is a free event. For more details on locations and times, call the WA Museum on 9921 5080 or visit the Museum's website:
museum.wa.gov.au/whatson-Geraldton.



HMAS Sydney II Memorial, Geraldton.
WA Museum (Jon Carpenter)



Headstone for the Unknown Serviceman, HMAS Sydney. Commonwealth War Cemetery, Utakarra Geraldton. WA Museum (James Thompson)