



18/02/2008

AE2CF Team Member

Turkish Institute of Natural Archaeology (TINA) and AE2 Commemorative Foundation (AE2CF) Joint Workshop 2008

The Australian submarine HMAS AE was lost in battle with the Turkish torpedo boat Sultanhisar on 30th April 1915. AE2 remained undiscovered until the efforts of Mr Selcuk Kolay, a Turkish Maritime researcher located the submarine in 1998. A joint Turkish and Australian team, led by Dr Mark Spencer, dived on the submarine lying in 73 m in the Sea of Marmora and positively identified it as AE2. The Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) joined the ongoing efforts to resolve a way ahead for the future management of AE2 in 2004. In 2006 the Australian Government accepted a proposal from the SIA to lead a project to assess the physical condition of the submarine and provide jointly agreed recommendations for its future management. The SIA established the AE 2 Commemorative Foundation Ltd (AE2CF) as a commercial entity to manage the project and concluded an agreement with the Turkish Institute of Nautical Archaeology (TINA) to jointly conduct the project.

A team of 23 Australian volunteers, assisted by our Turkish colleagues in TINA, conducted a Maritime Archaeological Assessment (MAA) of AE2 in September 2007. This was made possible by the generous financial support from two major sponsors; the Australian Government and ASC Pty Ltd. Many invaluable contributions were also made by Australian industry and individuals. Last, and by no means least, I would like to recognize the efforts of the volunteer members of the Australian and Turkish team who gave generously of their expertise and time to make this possible. These supporters are recognised in the attached MAA Report.

Further details on the background and the project are available of the SIA website at:

www.submarineinstitute.com.

The objectives of the MAA were achieved; the key outcomes cited in the report are:

- The submarine is lying in a particularly low corrosion environment.
- The pressure hull is in a remarkably good state of preservation though a more detailed survey would be required to both confirm this impression and support full scale recovery.
- Before either moving or raising the submarine additional data would be required.
- The remaining torpedo must be located and the risk from its warhead removed before any effort to move the submarine is made.
- The casing and fin have suffered significant deterioration arising from corrosion and impact by nets and anchors.
- Development of options for future management is now proceeding.
- The joint workshop in Istanbul in April 2008 is intended to provide a recommended way ahead.
- Irrespective of which option may be adopted the following immediate actions are recommended:
 - ongoing site monitoring.
 - installation of site physical protection measures.
 - installation of cathodic protection.
 - implementation of Turkish cultural heritage controls at the site.
 - support from all parties for the joint workshop.
 - education programs to be delivered in Australia and Turkey.

As part of the Assessment Phase of the project a joint Turkish/Australian workshop is to be held in Istanbul at Bahcesehir University, Osmanpasa Mektebi Sokak No: 4 – 6 , 34100 Besiktas, Istanbul commencing at 1000 on Saturday the 26th April 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to jointly agree a recommended way ahead for the future management of AE2 to the Turkish and Australian Governments, in whose hands responsibility for future action lie.

A programme for the workshop and a scoping paper setting out a range of options and considerations as a starting point for the workshop are attached.

On the half of the Turkish Institute of Nautical Archaeology and the AE2 Commemorative Foundation I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the workshop. The AE2CF is happy to provide assistance to defray the costs of your attendance. Details of these arrangements are attached.

Registration for the workshop and further details can be obtained from our website www.submarineinstitute.com

I look forward to working with you in the future to protect, preserve and tell the story of AE2; an important part of Turkey and Australia's shared history.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Briggs AO CSC
RAN Rtd
Chairman
AE2CF

Attachments:

1. MAA Report
2. Workshop Programme
3. SIA/TINA Workshop on Future Management of HMAS AE2
Istanbul, 26-27 APRIL 2008 - Some Options for the Future
Management of HMAS AE2
4. Arrangements for Worksop Attendees including Terms and
Conditions