

# AMC/LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry

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Patrons: Bruce Candy (dec), Hiram Ristrom & Norm Tame.

The ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee at ANZAC House, has decided the 2020 Melbourne March would not go ahead and a Televised Dawn Service and Wreath Laying would be closed to the public. There will not be a closing service, and the Shrine of Remembrance has been temporarily closed.

This Anzac Day lets all stand as one  
outside our homes for a minutes silence  
**Driveway at Dawn Parade**  
9 am Saturday 25th April 2020  
We Will Remember Them

If 9am is a more suitable time for you ( in spirit ) I stand outside  
my home for one minutes silence and play the Last Post.

**Lest We Forget**

# ANZAC DAY 2020

[www.rememberlestweforget.com](http://www.rememberlestweforget.com)

### Mission Statement

To honour and remember those who served with the AMC/LSI including but not limited to  
HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA & ASSAULT

## HOW TO LAND 495 TONS of CARGO 760 TROOPS IN 7 HOURS 36 MINUTES

### IN 1944, IN ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORY.



Back row L/R . 1/ Not known, 2/ Bluey Paton, 3/ Merv (Duck) Wardle, 4/ Tom Scott, 5/ Ken Woodhead  
Front row L/R. 1/ Billy Godfrey, 2/ Not known, 3/ Bill ( Winks ) Winkle, 4/ Not known.

**CONSIDERATIONS...**1/ Being bombed and shot at by Japanese aircraft.

2/ Avoidance of floating mines, supplied by Japan, America and Australia.

3/ Deafening noise of bombardment supplied by the 16" guns from U.S. ships just off shore.

4/ Getting shot at by Japanese land based artillery.

The are just some of the hazards faced by boats crew from H.M.A.S Manoora, Westralia and Kanimbla when landing troops while on operation in places like Leyte, Tanahmerah Bay and Balikpapan Borneo.

At the beginning of WW11 the possibility of amphibious landing carried out by Australian ships seemed remote to allied planners, however the Japanese advance and occupation of allied territory on ports as close to Australia as New Guinea highlighted the need for specialized ships to transport thousands of troops to hostile areas. Also the highly detailed training needed for not only American and Australian troops but also the sailor that manned these ships and landing craft crews. Having been requisitioned the three ships built for peacetime service, and converted Armed Merchant Cruisers from 1940 to 1942 and then converted Landing ship Infantry in late 1942, and also the need for an amphibious training base, thus the establishment of H.M.A.S. Assault located at Fly Point, Port Stephens NSW in 1942.

Training at Assault proved to be very arduous for both soldier and sailor, even in training landings far from the enemy it would be easy for mistakes to be made, but it is almost impossible for us to imagine what the real thing must have been like.

The task of mustering troops at the net positions in full battle kit weighing more than 60 pounds and have them clambering down the net into the allocated boats-was the easy bit. The tricky part was once the disembarkation point was reached the bow ramp was dropped so as the troops could approach the beach. Safety in this part of the exercise was dependant on many factors, such as the state of the tide, the height of the swell, and unknown reefs and sand bars, this was where the skill and training of the coxswain came into play, drop the ramp too early and landing craft could fill with sea water and sink, or the troops could rush out and possible drown in water above their heads.

One thing about this that impressed one seaman from HMAS Manoora was how quiet and orderly the Aussie soldiers were in comparison to the American counterparts. The Americans didn't think they were doing it right unless there was a lot of yelling going on.

U.S. Admiral Barby ( Commander 7th Amphibious Force ) summed up the achievements in these words.

*Its (7th Amphibious Force ) ships carried close to one million allied troops and a million tons of supplies from Australia, along the New Guinea coast, and into the Philippines, and landed them in a series of lighting strokes on enemy-held beaches in a series of fabulously successful operations with a casualty list of 272 men. Considering the number engaged, it was a phenomenal in its smallness.*

*To every man who served in H.M.A.S. KANIMBLA. MANOORA. WESTRALIA and ASSAULT, we would do well to recall the Australian contribution to that SUCCESS. By Max Tozer*



Also attached is a photo of the unveiling of the new plaque at Lingayen Gulf by the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Mr Steven J Robinson AO. The replacement of the previous weathered and pitted plaque was proudly completed by the NCCV with the generous assistance from Philippines resident Paul Baker, Terry Makings, a number of generous donors, and other people and organisations too numerous to mention here, but much appreciated from all members and Veterans. Terry Making President of NCCV.

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ANZAC DAY 2006. By E. R. (Ted) Cherry.

The news teams are busy as they film old men,  
With their medals all bright, to march once again  
From Flinders Street Station, to the Shrine far away,  
All hoping the weather will bless them today.

My heart is wrenched, as I think for a while  
About my mates, while they're forming that file  
To march in honour, for our comrades who died  
In two World Wars, in pain, for our side.

For I can't be there, nor visit our Tree,  
Though I marched last year, at age eighty-three.  
But we cannot stop time, nor reverse its effects,  
To again let us march, to pay our respects.

So our numbers are dwindling as age took away  
Yet one more mate, from among them today,  
For our years are heavy, and our steps now slow,  
And our backs quite bent, though we try to not show.

But, inside our heads, we're young as we were,  
And retell old jokes, and give them a stir,  
And we laugh about Jack, who fell on his back,  
But couldn't get up till we took off his pack.

But, come next year, I'll be fit as can be!  
If you don't quite believe, --- come along and see  
As I march to the drum, upright and free,  
To our Melbourne Shrine, and Memorial Tree.

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We wish you a "Very Happy Birthday" from the committee and member's of AMC/LSI Association of Vic.

**November;** Ray Winter, Bryan Peters, Neil Morris, Tasman Luttrell, Roy Cummings, Roy Seiboth.

**December;** John Boyd, Keith Tonkin, George Hinton, B.

**January;** Nev Phillips, Uki Macartney, Bill Tattersall, Leon Beech, Jock Inglis, Elva McBay.

**February;** Robert Murdock, Martin Marks, Derek Self.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We wish to thank & acknowledge the following generous donations received from our members.

If you wish to donate to AMC/LSI Association of Vic, you can send a cheque to :- **The Treasurer, 2 Clyde Street, Oakleigh Vic 3166** or

Transfer funds to Westpac Bank  
**BSB No 033 070 Account No 42 2541** and name.

- \* Bill Beston, Taigum QLD.
- \* In memory of RJH Okeeffe.
- \* Betty Foxcroft in memory of Norman.
- \* In memory Bob & Ian Dixon (Twin) May.
- \* Brian Sullivan, Gosford NSW.
- \* Mac Hay in memory of his Dad.
- \* Frank & Shirley Birmingham.
- \* Steve Gooch QLD
- \* John Hooper, Everard S.A
- \* Bob Elliot, Murdock W.A.

## VALE

*We regret the passing of the following Veterans or their wives. Our sincere condolences go to their family, friends and shipmates.*

AB Terry Ferguson QLD age 94

AB Derek Self 19/11/2019 age 90 QLD.

AB Robert Dixon, NBC & Coast Watcher, Vic.

AB Don Eglinton, 19/12/2019 Mitchell Park SA.

Writer Ken Kemp 2019 W.A.

Phyllis Moreland wife of Jim, 8 April 2020

To lay a Plaque in the Gardens of Remembrance for your family's Veteran, there are in all Australian Capital cities (Springvale Cemetery Victoria, Woden Public Cemetery ACT, Sydney War Cemetery NSW) are just a few.

If you wish to have your ASHES committed to the sea by the Royal Australian Navy (serving or ex-Navy members only) make your wishes known to family beforehand, and families may request to commit the ASHES of their Family Navy Member to sea, by contacting Defence Community Organisation, Locked Bag 18, Darlinghurst N.S.W. 2010 or send an e-mail to LCDR Mark Burton at [mark.borton4@defence.gov.au](mailto:mark.borton4@defence.gov.au)

Caps from \$25 each + P & H

## MERCHANDISE

Caps from \$25 each + P & H

To order phone **Max Tozer 03 9782 8353** or e-mail [amclsivic@gmail.com](mailto:amclsivic@gmail.com)

New Kanimbla Caps \$ 30 + P & H

1 Manoora Cap left \$25 + P & H

Westralia \$ 25 + P & H



AMC/LSI  
Pocket  
Badge  
\$15 +P&H



**Max Tozer Vice President & Merchandise Manager 03 9782 8353**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: This newsletter has been a collaboration of team work from the AMC/LSI Association of Vic Committee Carol Zeuschner, Mac Hay, Max Tozer, Hiram Ristrom and Chris Harvey.

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## Photo's of HMAS Kanimbla I, for Sea Power Centre Australia.

To all our members, we have received the email below from Petar Djokovic, who is the senior Naval Historical officer, Naval History section at Sea Power Centre in the ACT. He is asking if any of our members have an original photo of the HMAS Kanimbla 1. Unfortunately I don't have an original but I am asking you, our members, if you have an original photo could you please send it to Petar at the address below or myself.

Kind Regards to all and keep safe

Chris Harvey President of AMC/LSI of Vic, 2 Clyde Street Oakleigh Vic 3166, M 0412 390 686.

**From:** Djokovic, Petar MR  
**Sent:** 13 March 2020 11:09  
**To:** harvbor76@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HMAS Kanimbla (I) photographs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning Mr Harvey,

My name is Petar and I am the Senior Naval Historical Officer in the Sea Power Centre – Australia. Your email address has been passed on to me by Mr David Dwyer (via CMDR John Goss) who informed us that you have some images of HMAS *Kanimbla* (I) that you would be willing to pass on to the Navy History Section. Anything that you would be happy to pass on would be gratefully accepted. We are always keen to add to our collection. You may be assured that anything that you donate would be stored in museum standard, acid-free sleeves and maintained in perpetuity for the practical use of future researchers.

May I ask where the collection is currently located?

Kind regards,

Mr Petar Djokovic  
Senior Naval Historical Officer  
Naval History Section  
Sea Power Centre - Australia  
107 Tennant Street (169 Gladstone Street)  
Fyshwick  
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