

# AMC/LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry

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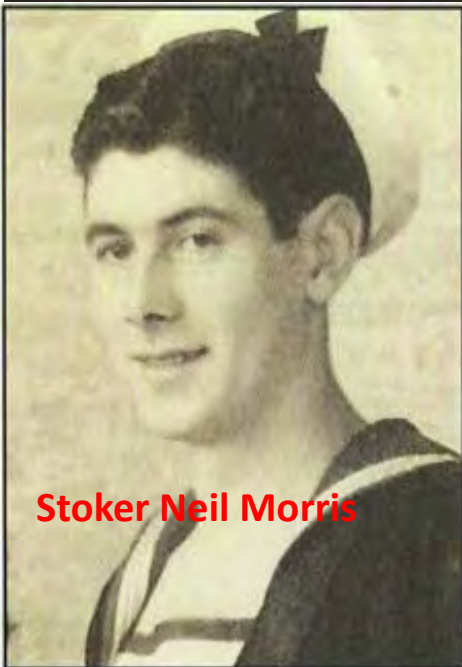
Patron:- Hiram Ristrom



**Norman William Tame** Patron of AMC/LSI Association of Victoria, who served on HMAS Australia II, HMAS Kanimbla, HMAS Wyatt Earp on it's epic voyage to the Antarctic and HMAS Sydney III, Veteran of WW2 & Korea War, passed the bar 13th October 2020 aged 97.

We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Norm Tame in October last year, he was the last President of HMAS Assault Association ( Navy Beach Commandos ) his service on HMAS Australia II which included the battle of Coral Sea. In 1944 he joined HMAS Kanimbla then as a Beach Commando, Balikpapan on Borneo.

In 1947 he was posted to HMAS Wyatt Earp which undertook Australia's first Antarctic exploration since the Mawson voyages of 1929–31 were undertaken in HMAS Wyatt Earp an old wooden ship, Displacement 402 Tons, Length 135 feet, speed 8.5 Knots.



**Stoker Neil Morris**



**WRAN Patricia M Phillips** who pass away was the mother of our President Chris Harvey.



**L/S Norm Tame**

The Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration / Forecourt, Shrine of Remembrance Sunday 9 May 11.30 for a 12.00 noon start to 12.30, all are welcome.

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## **ANZAC DAY MARCH 2021 Melbourne.**

The following ANZAC Day 2021 details have come from the ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee meeting at ANZAC House Melbourne on the 04/02/2021 & 03/03/2021.

This year 2021, there will NOT be a Gunfire Breakfast, nor an ANZAC Day March in Melbourne as we know it, and no bus from Birdwood Ave to City, no cars in the March and no Salvos catering and no gathering at our Memorial Tree of Remembrance.

Non & Serving ADF Veterans will March from the Art Centre to the Shrine of Remembrance grounds Step off time: 9.30 , 5,500 only and to be nominated by ANZAC House.

The RAAF will lead, as this is their Centenary year, followed by Navy and Army.

All WW2 Veterans will not be marching ( all will be picked up from home by RACV and offered to be transported to the VIP section to watch the march & home ) family members, Descendants, Children, Foreign Veterans will not be permitted to march.

Banners will be massed by Service, veterans will march behind their service Massed Banners and Bearers will be organised and nominated by the ANZAC House. There will be NO marching behind individual banners, nor leaders. All Navy will march together and must be registered and will be email or posted a pass, should you not be registered or have a pass, the police will not let you through the Barriers, the public are permitted to watch from behind the Barriers .

The service will be live streamed, as will the Governor's address and only the Governor and one RAAF Veteran will lay wreaths at the Shrine of Remembrance. Only 1400 Victorians will be permitted to attend and will be chosen via Ballot, (SOR will arrange this) and an area will be roped off for the lucky ones. The after-Parade Service will be conducted in the Sanctuary (again live streamed) and the Shrine grounds will be police.

### **On ANAZC Day AMC / LSI Association of Victoria Members Gathering.**

We will be gathering at Cheltenham / Moorabbin RSL with our Banners, Veterans, members and Navy family's at 2.00pm, to march and lay a Wreath of Remembrance for all our Ship mates who have passed in the years gone by, to say the Ode and play the Last Post one more time. I have no information from RSL's N.S.W./ S.A./ TAS/ QLD or WA of which I have asked. WW2 Vet's who wish for a RACV car from home to the Shrine of Remembrance, ring Chris 0412 390 686, Max 0413 753 473 or email amclsivic@gmail.com

## **DRIVEWAY at DAWN SERVICE 2021.**

**Let us all stand again outside our homes in our DRIVEWAYS on Sunday 25th April 2021 to play the Last Post and observe one minutes silence as we did last year.**

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

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## 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BATTLE of the CORAL SEA

"The Day that Australia was Saved"

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79 years ago, the Japanese seemed unstoppable.

The pride of the US Navy had been sunk in a surprise attack at Pearl Harbour.

The great imperial garrison of Singapore had fallen - the worst defeat in British military history, as Churchill described it. The Royal Navy's battle ship *Prince of Wales* and the battle cruiser *Repulse* had been sunk by Japanese bombers. The Australian Navy had lost eight ships. Most of Australia's army was either fighting in the Middle East or prisoners of the Japanese.

Darwin was bombed, which we did not even hear about as Australians. The Dutch East Indies was taken, as was the north coast of New Guinea and the naval base of Rabaul. Japan's next advance was to seize Port Moresby, from which it would isolate Australia and take us out of the War to be invaded at the convenience of the new masters of the Pacific.

2021 marks the 79th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea - one of the most critical naval battles that reversed the tide of World War II (WWII) in the Pacific and this battle to save Australia has never been spoken about by our historians, educators, schools and politicians

4 May - 8 May 1942, Australian and US forces came together to halt a planned seaborne invasion by Imperial Japanese forces of Port Moresby in New Guinea.

No matter what reasons you might read, hear and/or theory behind the United State of America they came to our aid and the one thing we can be sure of and know is that One: - The British could not save Australia. Two: - If it was not for the bond between our two nation today yes today, we would have been speaking Japanese.

The four-day battle marked the first air-sea battle in history and an engagement in which the lead role was played by aircraft launched from ships at sea, yet sadly this Battle in our region hardly gets a mention. However, I am proud that the Australian American Association has and will continue to push for this commemoration to be commemorated as "The Day that Australia was Saved" "The Battle of the Coral Sea"!

In May of 2019 we were very honoured and proud to have in our presents Mr Norm Tame WWII Veteran who served on the HMAS Australia, unfortunately in 2020 Mr Norm Tame had left us to join his mates, that he proudly served with. He will never be forgotten by us and he will always have his place in our commemoration. Furthermore, I would have again proudly hold up the medals of the late Mr Jack Surman, WWII Veteran who also serviced on the HMAS Australia during the Battle of the Coral Sea. They along with all of those that served in saving our home land Australia, we say thank you, you will always be in our prayers especially when we commemorate this significant date.

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"The Day that Australia was Saved"

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For four days, the air/sea Battle raged, and many planes were destroyed or lost. The American aircraft carrier USS Lexington was badly damaged, and her crew forced to abandon ship. 216 of her crew lost their lives. Two other American ships went down inside what are now Australian waters. The Japanese aircraft carrier Shoho was sunk further north of Australian waters and other Japanese ships were badly damaged. Amazingly, the HMAS Australia was protected through skilful Seamen and Crew Members during a fierce level-bombing attack.

Over 656 Australian and American Seamen, Crew Members and Airmen were killed or wounded, they fought so VALIANTLY against great odds to protect our great nation Australia so that we may live freely and in peace.

While the Japanese sank more ships than they lost, the Australians and Americans forces successfully prevented a Japanese occupation of Port Moresby and greatly reduced Japanese forces critical for future battles.

From that day on both Australia and the United States of America have stood side by side in union, our alliance covers the broad spectrum of the issues that face both of our countries on a daily basis AND NOW 79 YEARS ON it is testament to the trust, reliance, goodwill and sheer hard work by all, all be it with differences from time to time, we continue to take our alliance to new levels.

As the site of one of the most critical battles during the War in the Pacific, the Coral Sea is an ocean monument to those who fought to protect Australia's borders and the region during this TURBULENT TIME.

We should not lose sight of the great sacrifices that were made to protect our Homeland Australia from an invasion by the Imperial Japanese forces. This along with the Battle of Darwin should be marked on our calendar as a National Day of remembrance "The Day Australia was Saved"

Let us not forget & let us ensure WE DO NOT forget the significance and magnitude of this the Battle of the Coral Sea.

79 years on... How fortunate are we now!

79 years on... it is only a memory for a very few, and it is a commemoration for us. How truly fortunate are we!

This important event in Australians History

GOD BLESS OUR TWO NATIONS  
AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AS THE YEARS GO BY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE  
REMINDE OURSELVES THAT THE LOSS OF LIVES  
AT SEA DURING WAR SHOULD NOT BE IN VAIN.  
WE MUST PRESERVE THEIR MEMORY  
AND MAINTAIN THE PEACE OF OUR BEAUTIFUL,  
FREE LANDS OF  
AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LEST WE FORGET

By: - Mr. Sam CJ Muscat JP  
President Australian American Association (Vic)

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## RAN Torpedo Factory, Neutral Bay

By Midshipman Lloyd Skinner, RAN

In 1942, the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Torpedo Factory, located at Neutral Bay, Sydney commenced operations. Previously, the Torpedo Depot at Garden Island across the Harbour had been the main site responsible for managing torpedo maintenance and storage. Additionally, a torpedo range established at Pittwater in Northern Sydney had responsibility for testing torpedoes from late 1943.

On 22 December 1941 the War Cabinet decided that torpedoes would be manufactured on Australian shores. This decision reflected an expansion of precision mechanical engineering across Australia throughout the Second World War. Historian Stuart Macintyre asserts that Australia was "unable to produce a motor in 1939 yet by 1945 it was manufacturing the most advanced four-engine aircraft."

Implementation of the Government direction was swift with the Business Board seeking to economize by acquiring an existing industrial facility as the preferred option. Thus, the site chosen for the RAN Torpedo Factory was the defunct North Sydney Gasworks site at Neutral Bay, Sydney.

The RAN acquired the assistance of Mr Essington Lewis, who directed the Department of Munitions during the Second World War and was a managing director at BHP. It was Lewis' decision to demolish the entire existing infrastructure in Neutral Bay. In keeping with wartime pace, Lewis instigated a meeting at his Melbourne office on Friday and by the evening a contract was signed in which a contractor would begin renovations on the coming Monday. As of February 1943, the RAN Torpedo Factory, in outstandingly short time, had been completed. The factory employed specialist turners and fitters, many from Garden Island who constructed torpedoes with parts acquired from the United States and South Australia.



Workers in the Torpedo Factory, Neutral Bay.

Two hundred women were also recruited to work in the Torpedo Factory. They filled roles such as machinists and performed detailed work. The employment of women in munitions and factory work represents a growth of women in the workforce during World War Two. In January 1942, the Manpower Directorate had been established with the intention of sanctioning the transfer of workers from non-essential sectors to industries that would directly assist the war effort. As a result, many women, both voluntarily and compulsorily, entered the workforce. Women, in unprecedented numbers were employed in what was contemporarily called 'men's work,' particularly in manufacturing munitions. In 1939, women accounted for just 10% of the munitions workforce, yet by 1943 women constituted 50% of this profession.

Women were also involved in testing of torpedoes at the Pittwater Firing Range. The range was initially surveyed by the RAN Hydrographic Branch. Then followed construction of observation stations, workshops, a pier, target rafts and firing tubes. The first torpedo was ranged on 24 February 1944 when Range Officer, Lieutenant Owens stated that "the performance of this torpedo could not be bettered." Every torpedo would be tested on the range twice before its deployment on a submarine or warship.

The establishment and operation of the Torpedo Facility and range is demonstrative of how Australia's wartime needs culminated in efficient and rapid actions to fill gaps in the Nation's warfighting capability.

While the wartime conditions spurred on quick actions to establish and operate the facility, there were minimal short cuts and compromises in the production of munitions by the Torpedo factory and testing processed on the Pittwater Range.

We wish to thank Call to Hands NHSA, Issue No. 49 February 2021.

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

Dec- John Boyd, George Hinton, Bob Elliot.

Jan- John Boyd, Uki Macartney, Leon Beech, Jock Inglis, Elva McBay.

Feb- Robert Murdock, Martin Marks.

Mch- Frank Byrne, John Peck, Danny Bolton.

Apr- Ian Gardner, Kelvin Smibert, Bob Hutcheson.

## 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**

Dr Valerie O'Keeffe in memory of her dad Raymond.

Leigh Munro in memory of his dad Douglas.

Loris Mahood, Port Macquarie NSW.

Hiram Ristrom for his mates.

**HIRAM RISTROM**



## VALE

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

Isabel Wedderburn wife of Jack, passed July 2020.

AB / F.E.J. (Bill) Galton, passed 5th Oct 2020, age 95.

AB Kevin O'Malley passed August 2020, age 93, S.A.

WRAN Patricia M Phillips passed 25/12/2020 age 95 Vic.

ERA Keith Tonkin 18/08/2020 & wife June 02/01/2021, Vic.

Stoker Neil Morris, 28 January 2021, age 91, Vic.

L/S Norm Tame, 13 October 2020, age 97, Vic

AB Dan Bolton, 27 February 2021, age 97, QLD.

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.burton4@defence.gov.au](mailto:mark.burton4@defence.gov.au)

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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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