

AMC LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry

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Patrons: Bruce Candy & Hiram Ristrom

Melbourne's sky was fittingly grey while the heavens kindly held off any rain. The media set up their positions as people arrived early to take up their seats. Bus loads of school children arrived while extra trams were put on to move people from Flinders Street to the Shrine of Remembrance.

Music was provided by the Royal Australian Air Force Band, and there was a flypast over the skies provided by an aircraft from the RAAF Museum. The Navy Guards in their whites looked spectacular against the grey day as they marched in unison.

Victorian Remembrance Day Service 11 November 2015

After the bugler played the 'Last Post' there was the One Minute Silence where stillness fell upon everyone as we shared the precious moment to collectively remember those who

served this country for freedom and world peace. The 2nd/10th Light Battery 105 mm gun fire followed the bugle call 'Rouse' and 'Carry On'.

WW2 Veteran Leading Seaman Harold Ristrom (Hiram) read the Ode. The air was palpable. As an Elder, he carries the history of his time, experience and wisdom. When Hiram read the Ode his voice resonated in our hearts as collectively we remembered his comrades and all who served to protect this country, its people and the freedom we value.

At the conclusion of the ceremony 60 students from Caulfield South Primary School Drum Corps marched and performed on the Forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance. Coincidentally it so happened to be the school Hiram attended during the Great Depression. The band expressed acknowledgement and respect in their traditional manner.



The Shrine Guards paraded up the Forecourt and flags were lowered to half-mast. The Catafalque Party took their positions around the Eternal Flame and the overflowing crowd waited patiently for the Premier of Victoria, The Honourable Daniel Andrews to arrive shortly followed by Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Marilyn Warren AC.

The Official Party, dignitaries and special guests included Air Vice-Marshal Chris Spence AO (Retd), Chairman of the Shrine of Remembrance Trustees, Life Governors and Governors, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Defence Service Chiefs, Consular Corps, Returned & Services League and Legacy, Veterans' Associations, the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize 2015 finalists and the Shrine Young Ambassadors.

A wreath was laid inside the Shrine by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria on behalf of the people of Victoria. (The Governor General herself was in London). Many wreaths were laid on the steps at the Forecourt by student representatives.



Hiram Ristrom with Sandy Hood, Master of Drum Corps.

And, right in the middle of Melbourne's busy intersection (corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets) trams, taxis and people stood still—while a bugler took centre stage and played the 'Last Post'.



Mission Statement

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

Annual Seafarers Service St Paul's Cathedral 18 October 2015



The Annual Service of Remembrance for Seafarers serving in the RAN & Merchant Navy is one of pageantry, organised by the Mission to Seafarers, Company of Master Mariners and Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria (NCCV).

Political & consular dignitaries attended. Music was provided by the Royal Australian Navy Band while the Cathedral Choir 'lifted the ceiling'. Relevant Readings and Prayers were given by Officials from the RAN, Master Mariners, and Mission to Seafarers. Reverend Ken Rogers delivered a most meaningful sermon which had such relevance to our current day.

The Mission to Seafarers cares for the spiritual and practical welfare of all seafarers, regardless of nationality or faith.

No matter what creed or background you come from this is a Service not to be missed. Put it in your diary for next year.



Navy Week 18 October 2015 Shrine of Remembrance Wreath Laying Ceremony



Bugler Dorian Broomhall, Des Shinkfield
President, Rev Andrew Knight & Bruce Crowl



Service in Memory of Those Who Served in HMAS AUSTRALIA 22 Oct 2015 Leyte Lingayen Day

Relatives Pat, Genevieve & John with photo of
18 yo Richard Cahir



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Navy Week kicked off with the ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball held at Flemington on Saturday 17 October 2015. What a night! Congratulations to the Naval Commemorative Committee, especially the legendary PO Carmel Tom and David (Speed) Dwyer who worked tirelessly for two years to make it all happen. Every detail was attended to starting with a dedicated express train delivering patrons directly from Flinders Station to practically the front door of the Atrium at Flemington. The venue was fabulous, as was the food. There were complimentary embossed port glasses, commemorative medallions and 14 fantastic door prizes including a Virgin Airlines return flight to Los Angeles, Bose Home Theatre System and gift vouchers, etc. Over 800 attended and the RAN Dance Band had the dance floor packed all night. We had a ball !

Mary-Beth Hosking
Vice President

Chris Harvey
President



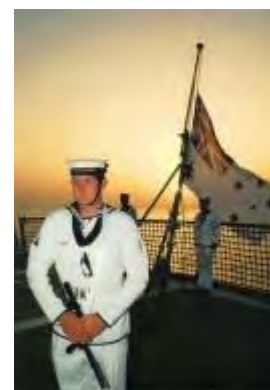
Rob Lewis
Events Manager

Gaye Lewis
Secretary

Hiram Ristrom
Patrom

All welcome
to join us at

Wreath Laying Ceremony
Tuesday 15th December 11.00am
Shrine of Remembrance, Sanctuary



Each year the AMC/LSI Assoc. of Victoria hold a service on 15 December to honour and remember the men and women who served with **HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA** and **ASSAULT**. The date chosen marks the first major landing operation by an Australian Landing Ship Infantry (LSI) during WWII. As a unit of the United States 7th Fleet at Arawe, New Britain, it was HMAS WESTRALIA which took part in that historic operation on 15th December 1943. According to Executive Officer, W.N. Swan, "It would require the ship's company to put in a superhuman effort to achieve their mission." And that they did. Subsequent to the Arawe landing, HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA and ASSAULT all took part in several major landing operations culminating in the Allies celebrating VP Day on 15 August 1945.

After the Service, we move to Bentleigh RSL for our annual Christmas Lunch Get-Together
(RSVP by 4 Dec: 0421 331 643, or email: amclsivic@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you.

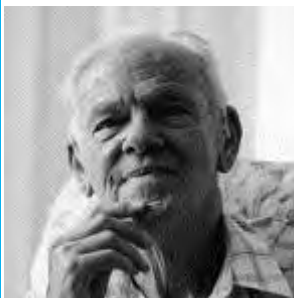
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VETERANS in BORNEO for the 70th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

In June 2015 eight WW2 Australian Veterans were in Borneo for a week of commemorations for the anniversary of the Oboe landing, Australia's last major campaign of WW2. The Oboe campaigns amphibious landing of Australian troops on Borneo beaches, were carried out by the Royal Australian Navy Landing Ships Infantry HMAS Kanimbla, Manoora, Westralia and Assault Beach Commandos to help liberate the people of Borneo from Japanese occupation, May / July 1945.



Pat Curtis Age 90



Age 20 Qld

HMAS Westralia

NAVY



Bryan Wearne Age 90



Age 20 Vic

HMAS Manoora & Westralia.



Keith Hearne Age 89

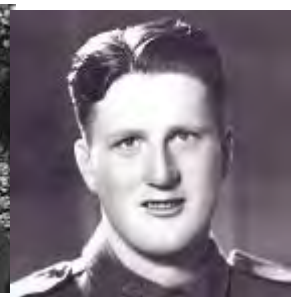


Age 19 Vic

ARMY



Geoffrey Chapman Age 91



Age 20 Tas



Jack Olsson OAM Age 96

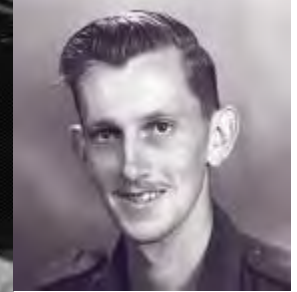


Age 26 ACT

ARMY



Kenneth Brian Winchcombe Age 89



Age 19 WA



Frederick Sharon Age 89

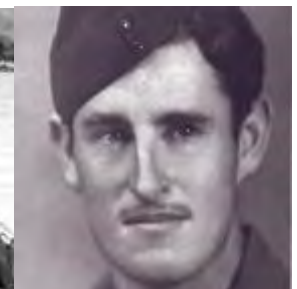


Age 19 SA

RAAF



Tom Tyne Age 94



Age 24 NSW

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HMAS ASSAULT
Landing Ships Infantry & Commandos
Training Base Port Stephens NSW

In June 1942, Commander Frederick Norton Cook DSC former Commander of the Combined Operations Centre, in command of the Landing Craft for the withdrawal of No 12 Commando's Bruneval Raid 15/5/42, and on loan to the RAN to help establish an Australian combined operations school, identified Port Stephens as the ideal location to establish a RAN training base for amphibious landing.

The stone frigate **HMAS ASSAULT** was commissioned on 1 September 1942. **ASSAULT** was initially operated from **HMAS WESTRALIA**, but moved ashore on 10 December 1942. The base's main purpose was to train boat crew for landing craft, commandos to prepare beaches and coordinate landing on the shore, and signals sections to facilitate communications between ships and land-based forces.

The young men became members of the elite **Royal Australian Navy Special Service Beach Commando Force**. Intensive training was given in driving and landing small craft of armed soldiers onto beaches, hand to hand combat, weaponry of all types, explosives training for underwater demolition techniques and jungle warfare. **ASSAULT** commandos served in Dutch New Guinea, Borneo and many on islands in the south west Pacific, often behind enemy lines.

Training at **ASSAULT** was initially hampered by the lack of LCVP and LCM craft available. By March 1943 enough landing craft had been manufactured in Australia and delivered for full-scale landing exercises; RAN Landing Ships Infantry was born (LSI). **HMAS WESTRALIA, MANOORA, KANIMBLA** and the US Navy ship **USS HENRY T ALLEN** were involved in landing under simulated invasion conditions on Zenith Beach, Wreck Beach and Box Beach in readiness for the amphibious invasions of Dutch New Guinea, Tarakan, Balikpapan, as well as the Leyte and Lingayen invasions of the Philippines.

The **Naval Beach Commandos** hold a unique place in Australian naval history. From 1942 to 1945 around 1000 RAN sailors trained in amphibious warfare alongside their compatriots from the Army, Air Force and large numbers of US servicemen. These sailors played an instrumental role in the Operation OBOE landing at Tarakan, Brunei Bay and Balikpapan.

In April 1945, the base was given to the Royal Navy, who used it as a Commando Depot for the Royal Marines units attached to the British Pacific Fleet.

Doug Pain, Secretary & Norm Tame, President of HMAS ASSAULT Assoc attending Wreath Laying Ceremony at Shrine of Remembrance 26/4/2015

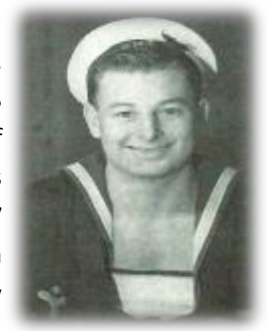


SHARING THEIR STORY by Steve Gooch



George Livermore, Arthur Imison, Steve Gooch

George Livermore, Arthur Imison & Steve Gooch all trained at HMAS ASSAULT. George served on HMAS WESTRALIA, Arthur on HMAS MANOORA and Steve on HMAS KANIMBLA. In later years all joined Brisbane Sub-Branch of the Naval Association of Australia, and served as Presidents of the sub branch; George 1998-2000, Arthur 2001-2007 and Steve 2008-2012. The HMAS ASSAULT plaque which was donated to the sub branch is displayed immediately above Arthur's head.



Steve Gooch

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BABES at SEA by Danny Bolton

I was posted to HMAS KANIMBLA as an Able Seaman on 22/9/1943. It was Kanimbla's first trip as a Landing Ship Infantry (LSI). We had left the Sydney Heads astern of us and I was sitting in the mess when silence broke with the pipe: "ALL FO'CSLE HANDS MUSTER ON THE FO'CSLE TO HOIST OUT THE PARAVANES". The silence was broken again when someone said, "WHAT THE BLOODY HELL ARE PARAVANES?"

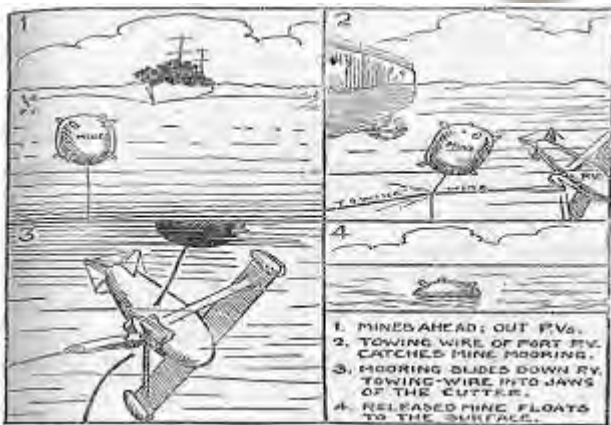
Babe's in the woods?

NO.

Babes at sea.

Really we were little more than kids but we grew up fast.

Danny Bolton



THIRD GENERATION in the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY



by Ross McBay, son of David & Elva McBay

Ross McBay, Senior Technical Officer, Maritime/Ship Repair, Thales Australia at Garden Island, is proud to announce his son's graduation from Recruit School (GE 336) on 22nd Oct 2015. 19 year old Ian David McBay is now doing category training at HMAS Cerberus as an Electronic Technician. Congratulations to Ian McBay and we wish him all the best in his career in the RAN.



Able Seaman David McBay S6900 trained at HMAS Cerberus, Penguin & Assault. Served on HMAS Kanimbla, Manoora and Westralia.



SPO Archibald Henry Dick PM1160 Study Tour by Queensland Students

In 2014 a group of 15 students from the Pimlico State School in Queensland, accompanied by teacher, went on a 15 days study tour of South Africa and Swaziland with the view of visiting the grave sites, war memorials and scenes of engagement of Australian service personnel from Boer War to WW 1 & 2.

Well before departure each student was given basic details of an Australian serviceman buried in the Territories to be visited. One student, Miss Melyssa Thacker, was given my father's details; Archibald Henry Dick PM1160 served RAN in WW 1 & 2. As a SPO he served on HMS KANIMBLA, Armed Merchant Cruiser from her commissioning until May/June 1941. He died in hospital in Durban June 12th 1941 and is buried at Stellawood Cemetery in Durban South Africa.

On the 9th July 2014, Melyssa with the other students visited Dad's grave and after a brief Ceremony of Remembrance left tokens of their visit.

It is wonderful that young people are still conscious of service and sacrifice of previous generations. Melyssa recorded in her school's diary of the tour, "I was very honoured to be able to commemorate Archibald's life on behalf of his family."

Story by son Ron Dick





VALE



With much sadness our committee informs the passing of the following Veterans:

Alan John Dickson, AB. Passed 8/5/2015 VIC

Fred Harrison-Williams, L/Sig. Passed 24/7/2015 NSW

Rob Cran, Lieut. Passed 31/8/2015 NSW

Fredrick Lear, AB. Passed 20/9/2015 NSW

John Banks, AB. Passed 22/9/2015 VIC

Mick Garrioch, PO. Passed 25/9/15 VIC

Keith Jones, Tel. Passed 26/9/2015 VIC

MERCHANDISE for SALE

Cap \$25.00 + P & H

Ship's Name & Crest



Crest only



Orders: Phone Chris 0412 390 686, or
Write to: 1/129 Surrey Rd, Blackburn Vic 3130

Donations

We wish to thank and acknowledge the following generous donations received since our last newsletter:

Bill Galton

Don Dykes

Ron Feben

Pat Phillips

Don Clough

Ken Primmer

Danny Bolton

Brian Sullivan

Hiram Ristrom

Steve Cunningham

Edna in memory of Keith Bray

If you wish to donate to AMC/LSI Assoc of Vic you can either

Send a cheque to
1/129 Surrey Rd
Blackburn Vic 3130

or

Deposit directly into Westpac Bank
Account No. **42-2541**
BSB No. **033-070**



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



- July** Des O'Connell 100 years Barry McKillop Bruce Candy Jim Rees Frank Barrile
Ron Lee Don Eglinton Bryan Wearne Jim Rees Ron Johnson Allan Booth Jim Lyall
Jack Austin Doug Michael Keith Brown Jim Davison Terry Ferguson John Hooper.
- August** Reg Baggs George Carrington Graham Robinson Harry Peers.
- September** Tom Fowler Wally Cumberland Arthur Lunan Geoff Wilkinson Cecil Browning
Roy Gunning Bill Baird Bill Robinson Norm Tame David Nelson Syd Atkinson
Les Barton Steve Cunningham Max Sluggett.
- October** Don Clough Bill Harrison Noel Grant Kevin Smith Graham Knight Reg May
Stan Hale Terry Sheehy Keith Jones Ken Kemp Cyril Bayley-Pike Mick Garrioch.

And, to those we may have missed—please let us know—and we wish you a “Very Happy Birthday”

Toll Group is proud to announce its support for the **Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience** – the flagship community project of the Anzac Centenary national program – as the traveling exhibition’s official logistics sponsor. The highly interactive exhibition has been made possible through an innovative partnership between the Australian Govt., the Australian War Memorial and the



Department of Defence, and will be visiting 23 locations around Australia over the next 20 months. We highly recommend that you attend this exhibition when it comes to your town. For your convenience here is the upcoming schedule:

STATE	TOWN	VENUE	SHOW DATES
VIC	Ballarat	Ballarat Exhibition Centre	8—14 Nov 2015
VIC	Bendigo	Bendigo Exhibition Centre	25 Nov—1 Dec 2015
NSW	Wollongong	University of Wollongong—URAC	11 –20 Jan 2016
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre	8—25 Feb 2016
SA	Adelaide	Adelaide Event & Exhibition Centre	7—20 March 2016
NSW	Tamworth	Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre	25 April—1 May 2016
QLD	Toowoomba	Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre, USQ	18—24 May 2016
QLD	Brisbane	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre	16 –29 June 2016
QLD	McKay	McKay Entertainment & Convention Centre	24—30 July
QLD	Cairns	Cairns Showground, Fred Moule Exhibition Centre	11—20 Aug 2016
QLD	Townsville	Townsville Entertainment & Convention Centre	2—11 Sept 2016
NT	Darwin	Darwin Convention Centre	16—25 Oct 2016
SA	Port Augusta	Port Augusta Stadium	8—14 Nov 2016
WA	Perth	Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre	27 Nov—10 Dec 2016
WA	Bunbury	Eaton Recreation Centre	9—15 Jan 2017
WA	Kalgoorlie	Goldfields Oasis	26 Jan—1 Feb 2017
VIC	Geelong	Geelong Arena	14—20 Feb 2017
NSW	Orange	Venue coming soon	3—9 Mar 2017
NSW	Newcastle	Newcastle Entertainment Centre	19—28 Mar 2017
NSW	Sydney	Sydney International Convention Centre	8—25 Apr 2017

WHAT'S on

- 19 Nov 12 noon** HMAS SYDNEY, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Shrine of Remembrance
- 22 Nov 11.10 am** HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service. March steps off from King Street, Queenscliffe. 11.30am Service at Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliffe.
- 27 Nov 10 am** Unveiling the Lone Sailor 'Answering the Call' dedicated by Chief of Navy on the foreshore of Port Melbourne near the former site of HMAS LONSDALE.
- 1 Dec 10 am** HMAS ARMIDALE, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Shrine of Remembrance
- 15 Dec 11 am** HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA & ASSAULT, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Shrine of Remembrance, Sanctuary. Followed by: Christmas Lunch Get-Together at Bentleigh RSL Club at 12.30pm (RSVP by 4 Dec 0421 331 643 or email amclsivic@gmail.com)