

Patrons: Alan Hooley & Bruce Candy

# AMC/LSI ASSOCIATION of VIC

Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry

Email: [amclsivic@gmail.com](mailto:amclsivic@gmail.com)



1/129 Surrey Road  
Blackburn Vic 3130

M: 0412 390 686

[www.amclsi.navyvic.net](http://www.amclsi.navyvic.net)

The AMC/LSI Association has been going strong since December 2013. We have been lucky to have two wonderful patrons and to have received an endorsement from the HMAS WESTRALIA Association.

We have also received donations to assist with the further development of the AMC/LSI Association and these have been gratefully welcomed. We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations:

- ❖ Alan Hooley
- ❖ Max Sluggett
- ❖ Binnie Wilson
- ❖ Brian Sullivan
- ❖ Chris Harvey
- ❖ HMAS WESTRALIA Association

If you would like to donate to the AMC/LSI Association you can do so by either sending a cheque made out to our association or by depositing directly into our account:

Account Number: 42-2541  
BSB Number: 033-070

For further information about the AMC/LSI Association of Victoria or to view merchandise for sale, feel free to visit our website:

[www.amclsi.navyvic.net](http://www.amclsi.navyvic.net)

## Navy Calendar Events

- 03 Sep Merchant Navy**  
*Wreath Laying Ceremony*  
2pm Shrine - Sanctuary
- 11 Sep Battle of Bita Paka**  
*Wreath Laying Ceremony*  
11am at The Shrine - Forecourt
- 14 Sep Loss of AE1**  
*Wreath Laying Ceremony*  
11am at The Shrine – Sanctuary
- 19 Oct Annual Seafarers Church Service**  
10.30am St Pauls Church
- 19 Oct Navy Commemorative**  
*Wreath Laying Service*  
12.30pm Shrine – forecourt
- 15 Dec HMAS Westralia Fly the Flag**  
*Wreath Laying Ceremony*  
12 noon at the Shrine – Sanctuary

Navy Victoria Network website:  
[www.navy.vic.net](http://www.navy.vic.net)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**HMAS WESTRALIA**  
**Fly the Flag Ceremony**  
New time & date:  
**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014**  
midday  
**Shrine of Remembrance**



### **AE1 Crew**

Lt Com Thomas.F. Besant R.N.  
Lt Charles F Moore R.N  
Lt Leopold F Scarlett R.N.  
Joseph W. Wilson /Chief ERA,  
Thomas F Lowe /Chief.  
John A Marsland /Chief.  
James A. Fettes /Chief.  
John Messenger/Chief.  
Harry Stretch/ Chief stoker.  
Robert Smail P/O.  
Henry Hodge P/O.  
William Tribe P/O.  
Thomas M Guilbert P/O.  
John J Maloney, Stoker  
Charles F Wright, Stoker.  
William A Waddilove, Stoker.  
Gordon C Corbould.  
Sidney C Barton.  
John Meek.  
William E. Guy.  
John Reardon.  
Fred W Woodland.  
Jack Jarman.  
James B Thomas.  
Arthur H Fisher.  
Frederick C Dennis.  
George Hodgkin.  
Percy L Wilson.  
John J Bray.  
Ernest Blake.  
Richard B Holt.  
James Guild.  
Henry J Gough.  
George Dance, Signalman.  
Cyril L Baker, Telegraphist.

## **Extra Extra Read All About It AE1 submarine sunk 14 September 1914**

The ANZAC Centenary is upon us. This event signifies the first shot fired on 5<sup>th</sup> August and the first Australian deaths of able seaman Billy William and Captain Brian Pockley on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

The 14<sup>th</sup> September will be the 100 year anniversary of the sinking of the AE1. She was an E-class submarine of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). She was the first submarine to serve in the RAN, and was lost at sea with all hands near Papua New Guinea, after less than seven months in service. The wreck of the submarine has never been found, despite several searches.

- ❖ First search attempt 2003 sponsored by the ABC
- ❖ Second attempt 2011 sponsored by the RAN
- ❖ Another search attempt is scheduled for 2014



The Shrine of Remembrance will be holding a wreath laying service, Sunday 14 September 11am, all are welcome.

## Sharing Your Story

At the AMC/LSI Association of Victoria we receive many letters from descendants. It is through this sharing that we hope to preserve the memory of those who have served. Greg Davison, Son of Jim Davison sent us this photo with back story:

The enclosed photo is of the 35 mess on board the Manoora from 1942 to 1945.



Back row: Gungha Ahern. Tang Roach. Bluey Donaldson. Butch Davison. Smiler Hibberd. Spike Haygarth.  
Front row: Shorty Haines. Ossie Witt. Doebels Mathews. Slim Robinson. Bats Waddell. Tony Allen.

All the young men in this photo were called up to join the Royal Australian Navy in 1942 among many others from all around Australia. After an adventurous and dangerous 4 years all of us got home in one piece. While I write adventurous and dangerous, I mean just that, because we made more initial landings on enemy territory than many other fighting ships in the allied navies.

This photo was taken in 35 mess on board H.M.A.S. MANOORA, by an American army photographer. On our mess table (35 mess) was used for eating, sleeping, playing cards also dice, 2up, craps and a few others.

Our ship HMAS MANOORA and many other Aussie ships formed C.T.F.77 along with American and other allied units. Admiral Daniel Barby U.S. Navy was the supreme commander of this formidable fleet. I look back over those years and realize how lucky we all were to get along so well together.

Our ship the "MINNY" as she was affectionately known carried 26 barges, each barge carried 20-30 heavily armed troops, which would hit the beach drop the ramp and off they'd go. I was a crew member of a barge (4 of us) and we would push off the beach back to the MINNY and repeat the procedure until all the troops were ashore 16-20 hours later.

The ship would go back to base and repeat unless the ship was called elsewhere. We made initial landings on enemy territory at three places in New Guinea and three in Borneo the last one on my 21st birthday. I thought God timed that very well, by the same token, I said many words to him during some of those landings and air attacks and I am sure I wasn't the only one.

## Les Kennedy passes at age 89

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Les Kennedy.

As mentioned in the article in Ballarat Courier, Les was the driving force behind honouring Australia's ex-prisoners of war.

He will be remembered by the Ballarat community, particularly for his role in establishing the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat. Further information can be found at the POW Memorial website:

[www.powmemorialballarat.com.au](http://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au)

Les served on the HMAS MANOORA during WWII as a Coxswain and was President of the HMAS MANOORA Association. Les also served as President of the NCCV.

He was a great supporter of the work that the AMC/LSI Association of Victoria are trying to do and we will always be grateful for this.

Les was also a member of the Masonic Fraternity for 62 years.



Les will be missed but his contribution to the community will not be forgotten.

## Welcome to Country Ceremony

HMAS *Cerberus* recognised the traditional owners of the Cerberus land by officially unveiling an Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians plaque.



Commanding Officer HMAS *Cerberus*, Captain Stephen Bowater, OAM, RAN, together with Elder and CEO of the Boonwurrung Foundation, Aunty Carolyn Briggs

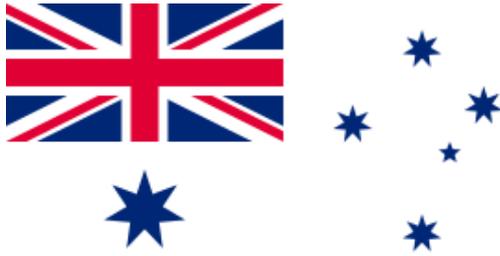
Elder Carolyn Briggs told the story of the coming of the Europeans who did not follow their laws or respect their land. The old wise men & women were consulted on what they should do. They responded that a vision told of a period of much upheaval and despair, followed by a new world with the strength and power of a common nation.

Elder Dean Stewart conducted the Smoke Ceremony explaining its symbolism in the welcome and acceptance of visitors to the land, the exchange of friendship and protection and honouring community; those past and present. It was a deeply moving ceremony.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett opened the ceremony and later was Viewing Officer for the Winter Ceremonial Divisions where over 900 personnel stood proudly on parade.



Photos by: Cassie McBride & James McDougall.



**HMAS WESTRALIA  
FLY the FLAG Service  
Monday 15th December 2014,  
12.00 noon Shrine of Remembrance**

This is our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance to honour and remember the former shipmates from HMAS WESTRALIA who are no longer with us. We welcome Veterans, descendants and current serving members. The Shrine Trustees will fly the flag of the White Ensign to honour HMAS WESTRALIA for its part in the landing operation conducted at Arawe, New Britain, 71 years ago on 15th December 1943 as a unit of the USA Seventh Fleet. We are requested to assemble in the Shrine Forecourt at 11.45am and if the weather is against us, then in the Visitors' Centre inside the Shrine. The Service will commence at 12.00 noon in the Sanctuary. Later we move to the nearby Observatory Cafe for a cuppa and catch-up.

**OBITUARY**

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

❖ **Les Kennedy** OAM – Cwain - Manoora, Ballarat, 6 July 2014

If we have missed a name, we apologise. Please contact us and we will include your loved-one in our next edition.



**Congratulations and best wishes to**

**2014 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday marathoners:**

**Jim Davison Frank Barrile Ronald Lee  
Joe Hicks Bert Clark Robert Flett Graham Robinson**

And, to those we may have missed – please let us know – and we will put you in our next newsletter. In the meantime we wish you a “Very Happy Birthday”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: This newsletter has been a collaboration of help and inspiration from Chris Harvey, Greg & Jim Davison, Michael Formaini, Mary-Beth Hosking, Dean Robinson and photographers Cassie McBride & James McDougall. We would like to thank all of them for their contributed to this edition.