

# AMC LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry



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www.amclsi.navyvic.net



Patrons: Bruce Candy & Hiram Ristrom

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## ANZAC Day—Melbourne 25 April 2017

The ADCC (ANZAC Day Commemoration Council) has decided that the 2017 March should focus on the WW2 Veteran community and promote this year as the 75th Anniversary of Australian involvement in pivotal battles and campaigns of 1942—in particular Alamein, the Malayan/Singapore campaign, the Bombing of Darwin, the Kokoda Track/Milne Bay campaigns and crucial naval battles such as the Coral Sea.

In Melbourne the ANZAC Day march is going to be a special and unique event because the honour of leading the march has been given to our most deserving, loved, admired and highly respected Patron, Hiram Ristrom. Hiram was President of the HMS/HMAS Kanimbla Assoc Inc for 26 years. He's a father, grandfather, great grand-father, gentleman, tireless worker in all things navy, dear friend and committee member, who is so very humble saying, "There are others more deserving of the honour". He will be joint leader with two other WW2 veterans, one from the Army and the other from the Air Force. Following him will be Graham Robinson, another well deserving veteran of WW2 and President of the Manoora Assoc. Graham has been asked to lead the Navy. We are absolutely thrilled for them both. For the record; Hiram served in HMAS Westralia, Assault, Manoora and Kanimbla while Graham served in HMAS Westralia, Assault Toorbul and Manoora albeit at different times.

For our precious remaining veterans if you are unable to march the distance, there are three transport options available to you:

- Ask a descendant or carer to arrange a wheelchair so you can "march" behind your banner.

- Be picked up from your home by an RACV vehicle, transported into the city then join the procession in a chauffeured vehicle to the Shrine where you may be seated for the duration of the march. You then have the option of either being transported to your reunion or back home—not both. Ring Gaye on 0421 331 643 before 14th March 2017 to arrange this.
- Be chauffeured in a vehicle from corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets to the Shrine. Ring Gaye on 0421 331 643 before 27 March 2017.

### Dawn Service Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt



Assemble from 4.30am onwards  
at Shrine Forecourt  
5.45am Preamble  
6.00am Service

The Navy steps off at **9am** so be there well beforehand as there may be a last minute reshuffle of the order of banners. Remember to wear medals.

After reaching the Shrine we make our way to the memorial tree for HMAS Kanimbla Westralia Manoora (see mud-map) where we gather to remember those we have lost in the past year. To our veterans: no matter which of the sister ships you served on, your

cohesiveness, camaraderie, good cheer, dedication and commitment is what we most admire you for.

After that we head across to Jardin Tan restaurant (previously known as the Observatory Café) in the Royal Botanic Gardens for a reunion.

For us this unique and very special ANZAC Day will never come again. We fully support & humbly embrace it as we honour and remember our veterans.

The ADCC has indicated that It is highly probable that this year will be the last time descendants will be permitted to march behind banners. They also anticipate that next year there will be significant construction works for Melbourne's new underground tunnel which may hamper the march.

Contact:

Chris on 0412 390 686 for time & place enquiries  
Gaye on 0421 331 643 for vehicle or restaurant reservations

#### Mission Statement

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# A DAY OF HIGH SPIRITS

By Max Tozer  
Son of Alan Tozer

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February I had the honour of accompanying Gaye Lewis, Chris Harvey and our Patron Hiram Ristrom to the Centenary Experience Spirit Of ANZAC held at the Geelong Arena.

We all gathered at Gaye's residence Docklands for departure at around 10-45 am. Following a pleasant drive to Geelong upon arrival we were greeted and well looked after by Spirit Of ANZAC volunteers and serving Defence staff. Following a brief instruction on how to use the individual audio equipment provided to us we soon realized we were in for a very special experience. I should note at this stage we were joined by what seemed like several hundred school students however, they were well behaved, some breezed through the experience as just another school excursion, and a few took genuine interest.

Upon entry, we were first greeted with a short film presentation on what life was like in Australia before the outbreak of the First World War – lots of happy early 1900's faces with a belief that a better life was achievable free from old world class and repressive traditions. At around this stage I was almost taken over with a feeling of total immersion, I actually felt like I was a soldier in 1913 about to embark on an adventure having little understanding of the horrors that awaited me.

Continuing our journey, we found out more about the Royal Australian Navy's initial involvement including the sinking of Emden and the loss of H.M.A.S. AE1. We then had the unique experience of peering through portholes of the ship for a glimpse of the crowds as they waved us goodbye from the shores of Australia – this brought it all home to me. We thought we were heading to Europe only to find ourselves in Egypt and intensive training for where or what we were not sure.

Then it was 4am. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April as we stepped onto the shores of Gallipoli confronted with the terrain of the Gallipoli ridges, things took a more serious tone at this point as the adventure we thought this was to be – was now a matter of life and death.

Life moves on as now we are in the trenches of Belgium and France faced with constant shelling, gas attacks, night raids and terrible weather. This was when a feeling of sadness tended to envelop me for I could imagine now those poor boys just wanted to go home.

Suddenly the war was over, and we were faced with deep feelings of reflection, contemplation and commemoration – all those thousands of young lives sacrificed. I think we were in agreement this was indeed a fitting tribute to all our service men and women, and well done to the Australian War Memorial for providing us with this experience.

Our day was moving on and it was time to go down the road and visit the Geelong Maritime Museum. This place is truly a treasure trove for those interested in Australian naval history.



Max Hiram Chris

How fortunate were we to have our Patron Hiram Ristrom with us as he along with others was instrumental in locating and gathering for display the many artifacts presented before us.



For me the highlight was the large scale replica model of the Kanimbla as a peacetime vessel. With the help of Hiram, our mind was able to recreate the ship into the Armed Merchant Cruiser that we are familiar with, complete with a model of LCI K12, the landing craft coxswained by our very own Patron.

A touching and very meaningful moment for me was when Hiram was able to point out for me where my father's sleeping quarters were, starboard side two portholes down midships, this means so much to me, thankyou Hiram.

We were getting hungry as the time was now 3pm. Time went so fast, a much appreciated and sumptuous lunch was placed before us lovingly prepared by Gaye followed by good conversation. Time to head home and face the city traffic and boy did we face traffic. As true descendants of seafarers though we sailed on and made it home safely.

This remarkable day is one that I will treasure and never forget, combining reflection on brave human sacrifice and a happy get together of friends.

Thankyou Gaye, Chris and Hiram.



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## ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2016

The Shrine of Remembrance is Melbourne's magnificent yet humble memorial that quietly delivers more than expected. Its very position, structure, internal design and surrounding space exudes a gentle and profound sense of solemnity that is absolute in its dedication and respect to the men and women who served this country. We are exceedingly grateful to be enabled to hold our wreath laying ceremony in the sanctuary of this amazing memorial, the Shrine of Remembrance.

Around 60 people attended our service to honour and remember those who served on HMAS ASSAULT, KANIMBLA, MANOORA and WESTRALIA. We'd moved the ceremony date to the weekend so as to enable more descendants, who would otherwise be working, the opportunity to attend. It also gave some their first experience of accompanying their veteran father to the Shrine for this dedicated service. For descendants whose veteran father, uncle or grandfather had since passed, the service presents a very close and almost tangible connection to their loved one.



HMAS Cerberus gave amazing support, providing us with CMDR Matthew Ferguson as our guest speaker. His speech was fantastic, resonating with everyone and even had some of us in tears. HMAS Cerberus also provided the Navy Catafalque Party headed by PO Arty Bateson with his four guards and bugler AB Doran Broomhall. We are so grateful to the Navy for bringing distinction to the ceremony where we gather to honour and remember those who served on HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA and ASSAULT.



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## XMAS REUNION BENTLEIGH RSL 10 DECEMBER 2016



"BIG THANK YOU" to everyone who attended—and what an effort you made. Ninety year old Ian Gardner from Queensland was up before the sparrows and together with his family (Robyn, Scott & Ingrid) flew down to Melbourne just for the event, with the whole family flying back the next day. Amazing stamina!



91 year old Frank Birmingham & wife Shirley, drove 150 kms from Maldon to meet up with family for the Shrine service before heading on to the reunion. 3 Generations—awesome!



Syd Atkinson brought his wife, Mavis, for the first time. Welcome & great to see the face that belongs to the chirpy voice over the 'phone.



There were so many others who made the intrepid trip to be with us. The legendary Klaenna and Margaret drove from Werribee. Frank Barrile arranged leave of duties to be able to attend, while Tas & Elizabeth Luttrell brought their clan. See more photos on facebook: amclsivc or view webpage: [www.navyvic.net](http://www.navyvic.net).

"BIG THANK YOU" to Robbie Lewis, our Events Manager, for organising & coordinating these two events ... Fantastic!

## BRADLEY MEEK Perpetual Shield Award



The Bradley Meek Perpetual Shield is awarded to the 'Most Outstanding Combat Survivability Instructor in the Royal Australian Navy School of Survivability and Ship Safety organisation'.

For the third year in a row the Award was won by a recipient at HMAS CERBERUS. Leading Seaman Marine Technician Daniel Jakobson was presented the award by CMDR Matthew Ferguson. Congratulations Daniel.

The very first recipient of this award was WOMT Paul Corcoran OAM RAN Rtd., who was presented the award at HMAS CRESWELL by the Meek family.

## Australia Day 2017 Joint Citizen of the Year Award Central Goldfields Shire, Maryborough

Ray O'Keeffe, who served on HMAS Kanimbla, has been awarded Joint Citizen of the Year Award, together with his comrades Charles Williams and Leslie Morlock (absent due to illness). They were recognised for their community, charity, humanitarian, education and aged services work within the community.

Congratulations  
You make the world a better place.



Photo courtesy of The Maryborough District Advertiser

## Tribute to Douglas John Wallace Michael 20 July 1927 to 7 August 2016

By son, David Michael

Douglas Michael was born in Ayr, North Queensland to Reverend Norman and Adelaide Michael. He was the youngest of four brothers and named after his uncle, Douglas John Michael who died of wounds received in action on the Somme in 1916.

Soon after completing his education Douglas attended the Navy recruiting office on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1944 and followed his brothers into the Forces. All were on active service. After undertaking basic training at HMAS Cerberus as an Ordinary Seaman 2nd Class he joined HMAS Kanimbla where he served until demobilized on 30 September 1946 at age 19.



Douglas was married in 1951 to Margaret (Margo) Clare née McCombe. They had three children, Graham, David and Meredith. He pursued a career in local government initially as the Bendemere Shire Clerk then in Townsville and Brisbane where he retired in 1987. Passionate about family history part of his legacy are 7 biographical works he researched and wrote in retirement.

He was a great family man, a true gentleman with strong values and great dignity. Throughout his life he was a devout Christian and active in parish life wherever he was. Although a quiet and private person, Douglas was keenly interested in other people and assisted them whenever he could. He was admired and respected by all he came into contact with. His love for Margo was deep, strong, enduring and demonstrated by his 2015 decision to move with her into nursing care despite his relatively good health.

Doug was blessed to have had 89 years in which he did many wonderful things for his family which included 6 grandchildren. All cherished him and all he did for them. He will be missed but always remembered.

*Rest in Peace*

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# HOW I NEARLY “STACKED” THE MANOORA

By Tel Kelvin Smibert PM4510



One shouldn't feel proud of a thing like this but hopefully the passage of time lends humour to the event.

HMAS Manoora had left Goodenough Island of the D'entracasteaux group en-route to an assault landing at Hollandia (Sukarnapura?) in Dutch New Guinea.

The convoy was formed and headed at night through the strong currents of the strait between Finischhafen and New Britain. The plan was to be seen during the day heading north towards Manus, later to slip quickly south-west to arrive at Hollandia at dawn.

Manoora was stationed at night very close behind Admiral Barby's USS Henry T Allen, who had only a small blue light on her "tail" for Manoora to keep proper station. Communication was by "line-of-sight" VHF radio for security. On Manoora's bridge was a tiny specially built cubby-hole of wood and canvas about 3 feet x 2 feet where us Tels set up this new-fangled super high frequency receiver to relay navigational instructions from Henry T Allen.

On this very black tropical night I took over for the middle watch under the sheet of black canvas where the previous watchkeeper indicated the log and gear with the flash of a tiny pencil torch. Quite soon came a coded message from Henry T Allen! I wrote down the message and reached for the daily-changed code sheet to decode it.

THE SHEET WASN'T THERE! Panic! Panic! Called down to the wireless office where a copy was supposed to be. THEY HADN'T PREPARED ONE! The form of the message was an alteration of course and speed, so I called to the officer of the watch that there was a course and speed change, but I didn't know what the hell it would be!

Before anyone could come up with an idea, came the "execute".

Now we had all been travelling at a very modest 6 knots but when the ship 200 meters or so in front of you stops to dead slow it's amazing how quickly one finds oneself alongside and within spitting distance! Came an urgent call. "What's wrong with Manoora?"

Eventually the blue light signal exchange got us on the right track.

Next morning it's caps off in front of the Exec. With the charge of not handing over/receiving the watch (i.e. code sheet) in proper manner. Both of us insisted that we did the best we could in the darkness. I had planned to complain that the office should have had a copy but the Sigs officer suggested this would not do ME any good.

It was many weeks later that when unscrewing the temporary "desk" on the bridge that the offending sheet was found behind it.



Similar VHF receiver used by the navy in 1944. Would have had short wire aerial and a pair of headphones.

Front far left: Sig Alf Withers from Ballarat who died of wounds after Tarakan.

Front far right: Tel Jack Cleary from Bendigo > NSW > South Africa > Brisbane



Photo taken at Trinity Beach, Cairns Mock landing with 9th Division AIF showing portable communications equipment.

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## VALE

We regret to advise  
of the passing of the following veterans.  
Our sincere condolences to their families and friends.



AB Doug Michael  
7.8.2016  
Brisbane



AIB Coast Watcher  
Don Bath  
6.2.2017  
Sandy Bay, Tasmania



AB Harry Rich  
16.9.2016  
Kangaroo Island



AB Bob Worthington  
17.12.2016  
Rosebud



## Lest We Forget

If we have omitted your loved-one,  
please contact us so we can publish their name in our next newsletter.



## THANK YOU for your donations

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

- ◆ Hooley family in memory of LWTR Alan Hooley former Honorary Secretary to HMAS Westralia Assoc
- ◆ Kelvin Smibert, S.A.
- ◆ Bob & Pam Murdoch, Vic
- ◆ Loris Mahood in memory of STO Fred Mahood
- ◆ Bill & Beverley Galton, Qld
- ◆ Brian Sullivan
- ◆ Mac Hay in memory of his father Sub Lieut William Hay
- ◆ Carol Zeuschner in memory of her father STO Ron Zeuschner, founding member HMAS Assault Assoc
- ◆ Hiram Ristrom
- ◆ Keith & Doreen Krause
- ◆ Ray & Eunice O'Keeffe
- ◆ Keith Overton

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

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

or

Transfer funds to Westpac Bank  
Account No. **42-2541**  
BSB No. **033-070**  
In Description Box please state  
"donation" & your name.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November **Hurtle Inwood** Ray Winter **Bryan Peters** Neil  
Morris Tas **Luttrell Roy Cummings** Adrian  
Edwards **Roy Seiboth** Cedric Bowerman  
Doug Gordon

December **Bob Worthington** Reg Dorwood **Binnie**  
Wilson John Boyd **Keith Tonkin** George  
Hinton **'Rocky' Gardner** Bob Elliott

January **Max Kenner** Nev  
Phillips Jock Inglis  
Max Kenner Bill  
Tattersall Leon Beech

February **'Uki' Macartney** Bruce  
Collett **Clarrie Bridge**  
Robert Murdock Martin  
Marks Derek Self



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

## MERCHANDISE



Cap \$25.00 + P & H  
To order phone Max Tozer (03) 9782 8353  
or write to 6/19 Robin Drive, Carrum Downs, Vic 3201

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## Self-care during times of commemoration

Acknowledging the commitment, dedication and sacrifice of our servicemen and servicewomen through commemorations is a significant and important part of Australian culture.

Commemorative periods can be emotional. We might have feelings of pride in family and friends who served or continue to serve, grief for those we have lost, sadness for those who come home changed, and optimism that their service has made the world a better place.

Emotional responses can be varied and sometimes confusing or distressing as we reflect during these times. For veterans and their families, especially those who are living with combat-related mental illness, commemorative periods may be confronting.

Self-care during these periods is particularly important. Being aware of possible triggers that cause you distress, and taking a few extra steps to look after yourself during these times, can make a difference. If you have a smart phone, use an app like High Res or PTSD Coach to monitor how you are tracking each day. These are free self-management wellness apps available in the App Store or Google Play.

Participating in social activities associated with a commemoration can sometimes be a difficult thing to do. Having said that, these activities can also bring a great sense of reward, satisfaction and recognition. Validation and acknowledgement of past experiences can be both a rewarding and often healing experience. Each small step taken to reconnect and avoid social isolation can be a big step towards recovery.

If you think you may benefit from support during the upcoming Anzac Day commemorative period, try to reach out and talk to friends, connect with family, or seek support from a professional during this time. The most important thing to remember is that you are not alone.

The [Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service \(VVCS\)](#) is also here to support veterans, and their families. VVCS offers free and confidential counselling for war and service-related mental-health and wellbeing conditions.

For help, to learn more or to check eligibility for VVCS services, call 1800 011 046 or visit [their website](#).

## WHAT'S ON

- |        |         |  |
|--------|---------|--|
| 24 Mar | 12noon  | <p>HMAS Stuart &amp; Scrap Iron Flotilla Association Annual Lunch</p> <p>An open invitation to anyone that has any connection with the Navy to come along and enjoy a three course lunch for a measly \$35 at William Angliss Restaurant 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne</p> <p>RSVP Chris Banfield 0412 832 148</p>                           |
| 25 Apr | 9.00am  | <p>ANZAC Day march, Melbourne (assemble well before hand)</p> <p>After we march up to and around the Shrine we then congregate at memorial tree for HMAS Kanimbla, Manoora, Westralia &amp; Assault for a short service.</p> <p>Reunion</p> <p>Jardin Tan Restaurant, (previously known as Observatory Café) Birdwood Ave, Royal Botanic Gardens</p> |
|        | 11.30am |  |
| 7 May  | 12noon  | <p>Battle of Coral Sea—75th anniversary Wreath Laying Ceremony</p> <p>Shrine of Remembrance WW2 Forecourt</p>  |
| 11 Sep | 11.00am | <p>Battle of Bitas Paka (Rabaul 1914) Wreath Laying Ceremony</p> <p>Shrine of Remembrance</p>  |
| 21 Oct | 7.00pm  | <p>Navy Ball</p> <p>Melbourne Town Hall</p> <p>Dress: Black Tie &amp; miniature medals</p> <p>\$155 per person</p> <p>Tables of 10—come join us</p> <p>Invitation open to: all service, ex-Service men and women, Mariners plus families and friends are encouraged to attend.</p>   |
| 9 Dec  | 11am    | <p>HMAS ASSAULT, KANIMBLA, MANOORA &amp; WESTRALIA Wreath Laying Ceremony</p> <p>Shrine of Remembrance—Sanctuary</p>   |
| 9 Dec  | 12.30pm | <p>HMAS ASSAULT, KANIMBLA, MANOORA &amp; WESTRALIA Xmas Lunch Get-Together</p> <p>Bentleigh RSL</p>  |

**ANZAC BISCUITS** sometimes referred to as Soldiers' biscuits, are believed to have been the answer to a nutritional, home baked, long lasting snack that were made by womenfolk to send to their men on the battle field.

### Ingredients

125g butter  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 tablespoon hot water  
1/2 cup coconut  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup rolled oats  
3/4 cup plain flour



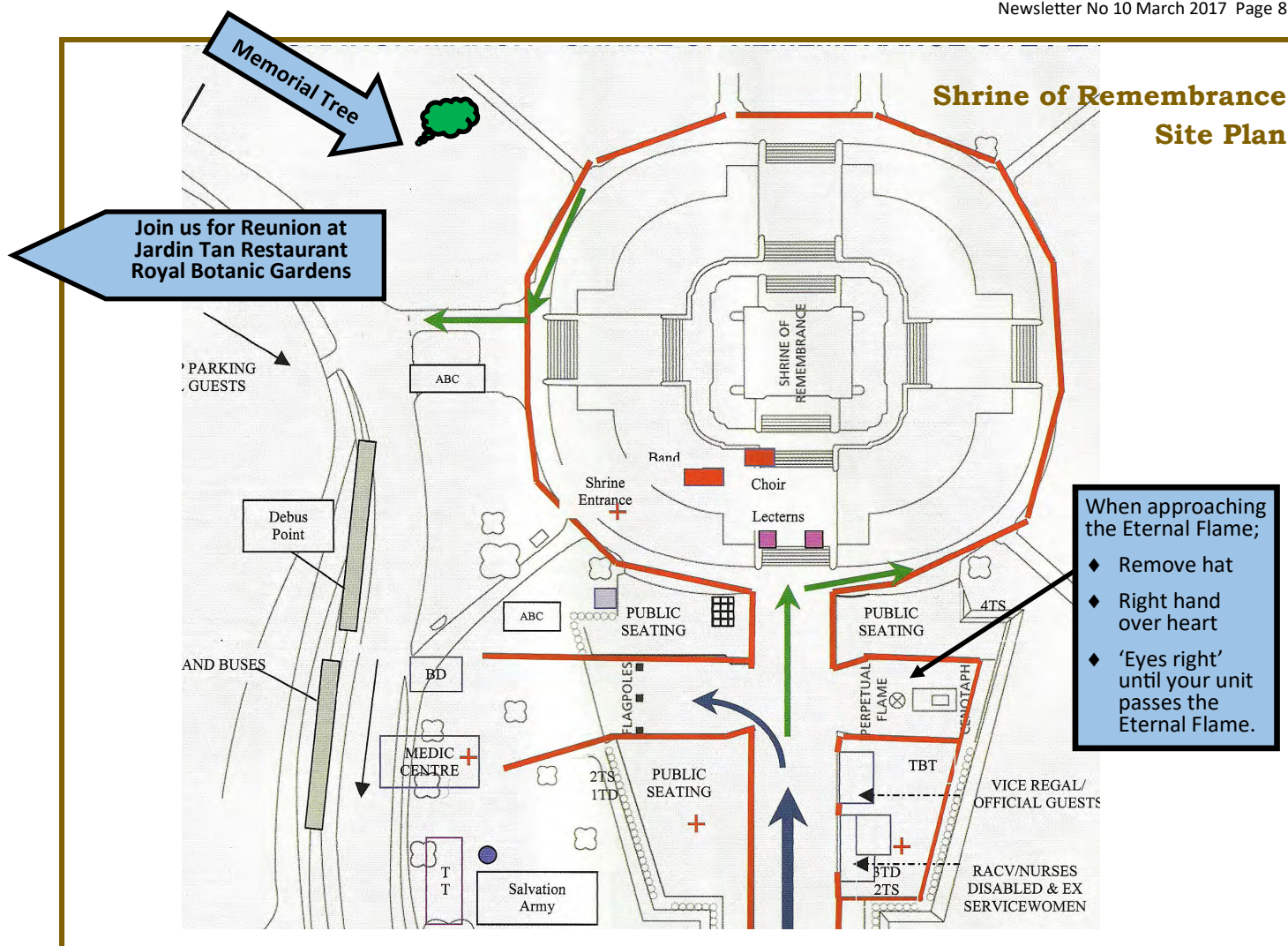
### Instructions

- 1 Place coconut, sugar, oats and flour in a large bowl.
- 2 Melt the butter and golden syrup in a saucepan.
- 3 Dissolve baking soda in hot water then add to the saucepan.
- 4 Add to dry ingredients and mix well.
- 5 Place rounded teaspoonsful of mixture on a greased oven tray allowing room for spreading.
- 6 Bake 180 degrees C for 15 minutes or until golden. Makes 25

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To be retained by member.

Carry in top left hand pocket.



ANZAC Day 2017  
Medical Identification Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Medical History: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: (name, dosage, and frequency) \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: This newsletter has been a collaboration of help & inspiration from David Michael, Ann Bright and the Rich family, Val Worthington, Simon Bath, Kelvin Smibert, The Maryborough District Advertiser, Carol Warren (nee Zeuschner) Chris Harvey, Mary-Beth Hosking, Mac Hay, Robbie Lewis, Max Tozer and Gaye Lewis.

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