

# AMC/LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry

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



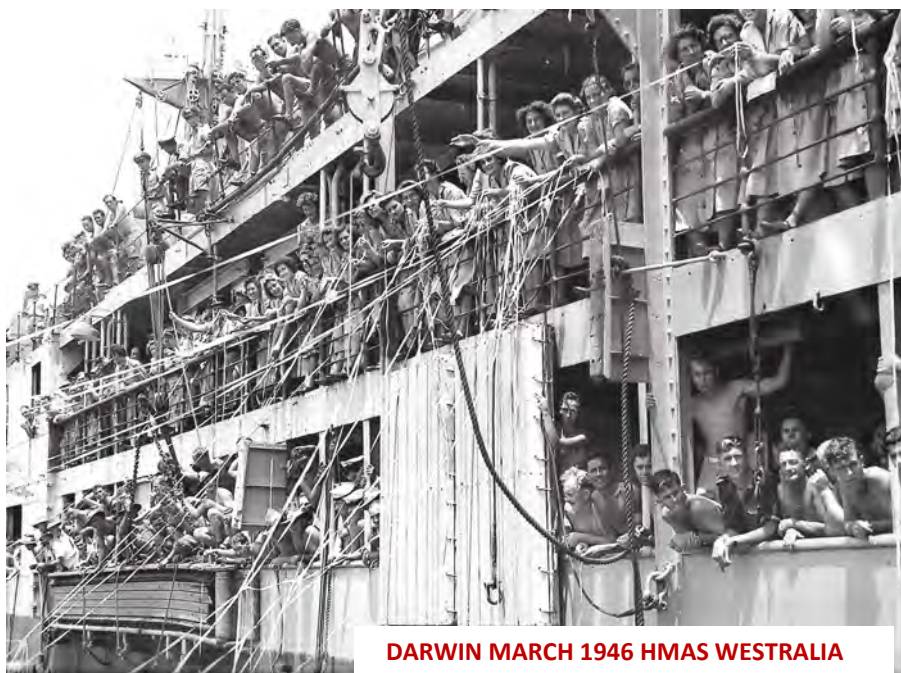
Melbourne: Nev Phillips, Ian Ristrom ( Son )  
Bill Tattersall, Hiram Ristrom.

## Mission Statement

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



## REPATRIATION



**DARWIN MARCH 1946 HMAS WESTRALIA**

After the surrender of Japan and the WW2 had come to a close in the Pacific the Royal Australia Navy took on a mammoth job of repatriating Australian military personnel and POW from across the Pacific and the islands of Japan. From December 1945 our three ships were involved in this operation. HMAS Westralia, Manoora, Kanimbla were sent to Tokyo Bay to collect Prisoners of War. They transported over a thousand men and women back to Australia. A job they had been designed to do as a passenger ship on a journey of over 4,500 miles one way. On board were 243 A.M.F. personnel and 775

A.M.F. members and three nurses and three welfare workers and men of the War Crimes section for Kure Japan.

On the return trip from Japan, HMAS Westralia was half-way between the Mari-anas and the Philippines bringing soldiers, dependants and POW service of HMAS Perth home from Japan, "hove to while the ship's doctor, Captain Harris, boarded the transport ship HMAS Duntroon on her way to Japan, to answer a mercy call and operate on a soldier suffering from acute appendicitis.

**MV Duntroon:** *On the night of 20th November 1940, MV Duntroon was loaded with troops, and on her way down Port Phillip Bay, when she struck and chopped in half the mine sweeper **HMAS Goorangai**. She quickly sank with her entire crew of 24.*

This mercy call led to a mid-ocean reunion of three Australians who had not seen each other since they were taken prisoner in Greece April 1941. When half the unit of the 2/5th AGH was ordered to stay behind to look after 600 wounded and 2,000 casualties who were extracted from the evacuation. They were Captain Carter, medical officer of HMAS Duntroon; theatre orderly, Corporal Victor Miller and WO2 Clifford Haughton ward-master of HMAS Westralia.

HMAS Kanimbla did four trips to Japan and back taking over a 1,000 BCOF members military, doctor, nurse and welfare personnel each trip and returning with Australian POW. In June 1948, HMAS Kanimbla, took an Australia Navy crew via the Suez Canal to England for the first R.A.N. aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney III. On her return trip the infamous **"Incident at Genoa occurred"**.

**The Argus newspaper in Melbourne on 9 October, 1947 page 4, Tokyo AAP-Reuter reported;**

**General MacArthur** yesterday sent the following message to officer and crew of the converted passenger, cargo vessel and Landing Ship Infantry HMAS Manoora, which was recently withdrawn from the run between Japan and Australia.

*"The announcement of the retirement of your ship from occupation service, "he said, "will be received by member of the occupation force with sincere regret, for this gallant vessel and her company have served with signal distinction in the wresting of victory from war and in building upon that victory a structure of peace. To her commander and the entire company of all ranks I send my gratefully acknowledgment of duty, well done and God speed".*

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## **Saburo Sakai, Japan's greatest living ace.**

Saburo Sakai was the greatest Japanese fighter pilot to survive World War II. He was a living legend in Japan, a veteran of more than two hundred aerial combats. Sakai claims he downed 64 enemy planes.

He was born in 1916 on a small farm in a very poor village in poverty near Sage City in a family of three brothers, and three sisters. His father died when he was 11-year-old. In 1933, he enlisted as a sixteen-year-old Seaman Recruit in the Imperial Japanese Navy. Harsh discipline training of punishment and severest beatings to all Naval Personnel was common place in the Japanese military. He never questioned the orders from authority because of the punishment.

In 1935 he underwent Naval Gunners School training and served onboard the Battleship KIRISHIMA & HARUNA 1936, on a 16 inch gun as a Petty Officer, Third Class. He entered Navy Flying School at Tsuchiura in early 1937 and trained as a Zero fighter pilot at the Sasebo Naval Base. He did service in China 1938-41 was wounded and shot down in action in Oct 1939 over China.

In the Pacific War on 8 December 1941, he flew a Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero fighter that attacked Clark Air Base in the Philippines. In his first combat against the Americans, he shot down a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk in the air and destroyed two B-17 Flying Fortresses by strafing then on the ground. On the third day of Battle Sakai he shot a B-17 flown by Captain Colin P. Kelly. Transferred to Tarakan Island in Borneo early 1942, he achieved 13 more victories before he was grounded by illness. In April 1942, he joined a squadron out of Lae, New Guinea. Over the next four months, he scored more victories, flying against American and Australia pilot based at Port Moresby.

On 3 August 1942, his air group was transferred to Rabaul Airfield and on the 7 August the U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal and captured the airfield (Henderson Field) that was under construction by the Japanese. The airfield soon became the main battle ground of the Guadalcanal hindering the Japanese resupplying their troops with daily air battle from Tainan Kokutai.

On the 7 August, Sakai and three pilots shot down an F4F Wildcat flown by James "Pug" Sutherland. Sakai was amazed at the Wildcat's ruggedness and three days later Sakai shot down a dive bomber flown by Lt. Dudley Adams of Scouting Squadron 71 from USS Wasp, making it his 60th Victory. During the battle of Guadalcanal, Sakai was seriously wounded in a fight with a dive bomber rear mounted twin 7.62 mm guns destroyed the canopy of Sakai Zero. Hit in the head by a bullet, blinding him in the right eye and paralyzing the left side of his body he managed to fly his damaged Zero in a four-hour & 47-minutes flight back to his base on Rabaul, using familiar volcanic peaks as a guide. He was evacuated to Japan on the 12 August, at Yokosuka Hospital, surgery repaired the wound to his head and only partly restore vision to his right eye.

Discharge from hospital in January 1943, he spent a year in training new fighter pilots recruited from the Navy. In April 1944, was deployed to Iwo Jima, on the 5 July he was ordered to lead a *Kamikaze* mission with torpedo bombers. He was engaged by Hellcat fighter's and shot down one, but he failed to find the U.S Navy fleet.

In August 1944, commissioned an Ensign and returned Yokosuka Air Wing. After the war, Sakai visited the US and met many of his former adversaries in 2000 at US Navy Dinner, Sakai died of heart attack age 84.



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# THE AUSTRALIAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL

BALLARAT, VICTORIA

On Sunday the 3rd February 2019, I attended along with Veterans, descendants and members of the Benthleigh R.S.L. the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial 15th Anniversary Service held in the magnificent Ballarat gardens on the shores of Lake Wendouree.

This is truly a place of reflection. Like all great memorials from the moment I entered this sacred ground I felt I was being taken on a journey to remember the 36,000 Australian men and women who were held captive as prisoners by the enemy during the Boer War, World War 1, World War 11 and the Korean War.



Max & Hiram

The raw description of a P.O.W. is a person, whether combatant or non-combatant, who is held in custody by a belligerent power during or immediately after an armed conflict.

This description failed to express what it must feel like to have all freedom removed for taking part in a War that was not their choosing, and the sudden realization that you were no longer a defender of all that you thought sacred, you were now a prisoner, to be held in the most degrading of circumstances.

Walking through this memorial you can't help but feel proud to be Australian, glancing at all those names fathers, brothers, sons and daughters and it made me wonder how I would have coped as a P.O.W. As Australians we regard our freedom as a right and not a privilege and then to have that fundamental belief torn away from us I would be asking what do I have left? Of course in times of great hardship and stress I would have turned to my fellow man for support because without it there was no surviving

this terrible ordeal, they were mates, and that's a word we should never underestimate the importance of love for each other.

The 3rd of February 2019 was a very hot day in Ballarat, not that we were daunted as we were well taken care of with lots of water and plenty of shade. The Navy band entertaining as always, a delight adding the gravity this memorial deserves. There were several speeches of the sort that forced me to listen as these speakers spoke from the heart. Then came time for the traditional wreath laying ceremony, a task to be carried out by our Patron **Harold Hiram Ristrom**. Days like this day really bring home to us the importance of the words **Lest We Forget**, for as long as we have beautiful memorials such as this, our P.O.W's will never be forgotten.

by Max Tozer

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## **FUNDING for REPLACEMENT PLAQUE LINGAYEN GULF PHILIPPINES**

I have recently received an email from the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria asking if our Association would be willing to pledge funds towards a new Commemoration brass plaque to be positioned at Lingayen Gulf Philippines which is in poor condition and need to be replaced by a new plaque.

The cost will be in the vicinity of \$4,300, AMC/LSI Association will make a small donation and if any members would like to donate funds towards a new plaque for our Ships at Lingayen Gulf please forward your payment as follows.      Regards Chris Harvey President of AMC/LSI Association of Vic.

If you wish to donate to the Lingayen Plaque; cheque to be sent to: **The Treasurer of AMC/LSI**  
**2 Clyde Street Oakleigh Vic 3166.**

For online banking:

**BSB 033 070    Account No 422541**

In description box please state; **Plaque & surname**

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**From:** Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria  
**Sent:** 08 May 2019 21:11  
**To:** Westralia Chris Harvey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Commemorative Plaque - Philippines

Dear Chris,

the NCCV has received a note from an ex-Navy representative in the Philippines advising that the commemorative brass plate positioned at Lingayen Gulf, Philippines is in poor condition. Photo attached. The brass plate was originally constructed and installed by the NCCV on behalf of ships listed.

As a consequence, we are seeking financial assistance to replace the existing brass plate. This new plaque will be a little different, in that the existing was originally dedicated to those Warships that attended the Lingayen Gulf conflict. Unfortunately, as you can see in the attached photograph, the list is not accurate and the inscription also reflects the overall support against the Imperial Japanese Forces.

The intention is to replace the existing plate with a bronze plaque that reflects the fight to free the Philippines by the Royal Australian Navy. Photographs of sample plaques attached. The list below comprises all RAN Warships and one RFA with a DEMS gun crew.

Our request is to seek your Association's financial assistance to make it so! The cost will be in the vicinity of \$4,300. If your Association has the capacity to support this initiative, great, if not thanks anyway.

We would welcome advice, one way or the other insofar as your Association's is willing to pledge funds towards this proposal .

Yours aye, NCCV Executive.



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## ANZAC DAY 2010 Police Club South Australia.

Back Row Left to Right  
Joe Hepitnstall, Doug  
McCloud, Doug Gor-  
don, Bill Begg, Tim  
Young President, John  
Hooper.

Front Row: Snowy  
Bartlett. George Gray,  
Max Kenner, Roy  
Seiboth, Wally Freer,  
Ralph Ingham.



## ADELAIDE ANZAC DAY 2019



John Bartlett, President George Hinton, Ron William, CPO Peter Cannon.NSW



Ron's granddaughters Georgia, Ron Williams  
and daughter Margaret **ANZAC DAY Sydney.**



SYDNEY MARCH 2019



## ANZAC Day Melbourne 2019



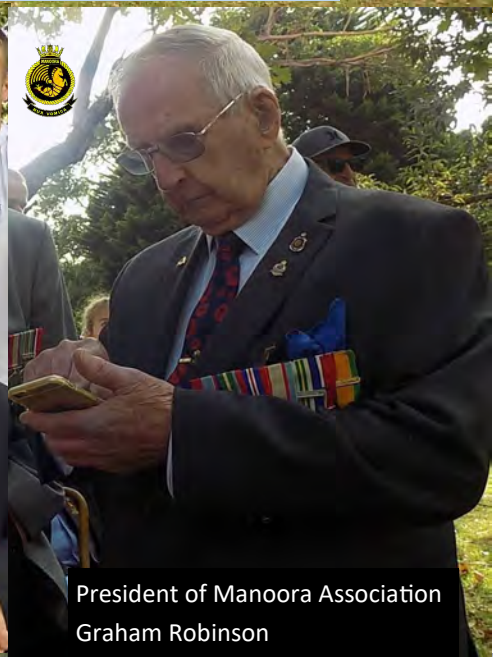
**OUR TREE- SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE GARDENS**



Margaret Hatterley & Max Tozer



Christine



President of Manoora Association  
Graham Robinson

Stanley Price & Grand-  
son David from daugh-  
ter Lynette Pimm at Rye  
Victoria.



Hiram and great-granddaughter.

There are many more photo's on our facebook page from ANZAC Day and please give us a like:- amc/lsi association of Victoria



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

**March;** Frank Byrne, John Peck, Danny Bolton,

**April;** Ian Gardner, Kelvin Smibert, Bob Hutcheson, Stanley Price. Kevin O'Malley.

**May;** Frank Birmingham, Steve Gooch, Bruce Brown.

**June;** Keith Overton, Jack Wighton, Ron Feben, Pat Phillips, Brian Sullivan, Hiram Ristrom, Bill Galton, Keith Krause.

## VALE

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

**CPO Albert Ernest Bartlett** whose Ashes were committed to the sea over the wreck of HMAS Canberra 2, 24/03/19, WA, pass 23/07/16.

**AB Bruce Candy**, President of HMAS Westralia Association of Vic, pass 5th April 2019, age 93.

**CP Roy Gunning**, 17th April 2019, age 74.

**Ken Ray**, of NSW, Pass 2017 age 92.

**Bill Robinson**, May 2019, age 93.



## THANK YOU FOR OUR DONATION

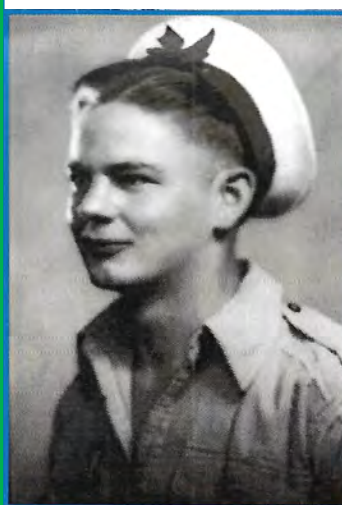
We wish to thank you and acknowledge the following generous donation received from members.

- ♦ **Brian Sullivan** of NSW.

If you wish to donate to AMC/LSI Association of Vic, you can send by cheque:

To the Treasurer 2 Clyde Street Oakleigh 3166 or Transfer funds to **Westpac bank, BSB No 033 070 Account No 42 2541**

In description box state your name please.



AB Bruce Candy 1943



ROY GUNNING RIP

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

Caps \$25 each + P & H

## MERCHANDISE

Caps \$25 each + P & H

To order phone **Max Tozer Vice President** 03 9782 8353 or write 6/19 Robin Dr Carrum Downs Vic 3201.

We have new Kanimbla caps.

2 Manoora caps left.

5 Westralia caps left.



Pocket Badge old \$20 post free, last one.



Pocket Badge \$20 post free



We are getting pocket badge made for HMAS Kanimbla, Westralia and Assault so order NOW, ring **MAX 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, Robert Lewis, Hiram Ristrom and Chris Harvey.



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