

AMC/LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry

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Patron:- Hiram Ristrom

Banner bearers, Jeff
Lovegrove & daughter
Renee.



← VICTORIA

The Cheltenham Moorabbin RSL ANZAC Day Commemorative Service 2021 was a great success introduction and welcome by Vice President Chris Barrile, Prayer of Remembrance by Judy Smith, Commemorative Address by Ray Fryer, Reading by Michelle Cust and the New Zealand and Australia National Anthem Vocalist Kate Collier who was outstanding.



New Pin
Badges \$25,
30mm

ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA AMC/LSI ASSOCIATION

Ben Hooper John Hooper Philip Bartlett Bill Hooper



Mission Statement

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

AB John Hooper

ANZAC DAY 2021 ADELAIDE



BY PHILIP BARTLETT.

On a day we all should be remembering, thanking and honouring our servicemen and servicewomen both past and present for their dedication, suffering and sacrifice we find ourselves banned from doing so apart from the select few. We all understand why the 2020 March was cancelled and accept that. The appalling rules and restrictions implemented by ANZAC house National and State controlling bodies for this year's march were ludicrous. They all, to a person should be shamed of any part or action that they were responsible for in implementing this disgraceful insult to all servicemen and servicewomen past and present and descendants and friends of those servicepeople. Double standards have been applied when thousands are allowed to go to the AFL and NRL games in all states and other large gatherings in more unsafe environments with less opportunities to social distance. I for the first time felt ashamed and embarrassed to call myself an AUSTRALIAN.

I drove to Adelaide even though I was told I could not march or even attend as a spectator. I arrived to march with John Hooper, a close friend shipmate of my deceased dad, Albert (Snow) Bartlett. I have since dad's passing attended and marched with John as many times as possible. I spoke to John several times before arriving and on arrival as he was concerned that many would not attend because of restrictions, he asked me who will carry the AMC/LSI Association banner. Other regular banner carriers were injured John Lawson son of Geoff Lawson deceased shipmate of my dad and John Hooper and his son Matt who were unavailable to attend and carry the banner this year as well. Last minute changes were made so that Bill, John son and I would carry the banner and his Grandson Ben could push John in the wheelchair, when he needed a rest or could not keep up with the pace of the march.

Sunday 25 April 2021

It is a beautiful day, blue sky and quite warm in the sun with light winds. You could not have ordered a better day. On our way to the assembly area a large crowd is assembling to cheer us along the route which is fantastic considering the restrictions that only family members of marching servicemen and servicewomen can attend the march.

09:15 While waiting in our allocated assembly area on North Terrace we are joined by Ron George another of John's shipmates making it two HMAS Westralia crewmen to march this year.

09:30 The march begins. The pace is very fast as the Airforce service personal set a cracking pace as usual according to John. Bill, myself and Ben who is pushing John have to almost break into a jog to catch up and keep the correct gap. John hops out of the chair to stand, walk and salute at all designated areas. We passed the bands that are all set up in North Terrace on the side of the road as they are not allowed to march with us. We turn the corner at Government House on to King William Road and continue down the hill while the Fly over passes over head just before we reach the parade grounds and the officials and dignitaries grandstand. John stands and walks again for the last time this march as we pass the officials and dignitaries also for the last time this march. John sits in his chair again for the last leg across the bridge over the Torrens River and up the side road into Melbourne Street another march comes to a successful end.

We all say goodbye to Ron for another year and John hops out of his chair and his pace picks up as we head to the Cathedral Hotel North Adelaide. We meet up with many of John's family and friends on the way to the pub which is only two hundred metres from the end of the march. Many drinks and many stories are shared at the pub a fitting end to a wonderful day of remembering and honouring past and present servicemen and servicewomen.

Over the next couple of weeks after ANZAC Day John had visits and calls from many people who normally go to the March but were intimidated and concerned that they would be fined or charged for attending. One of these people June actually made the new banner and has not missed a March. John and many others were greatly angered by the travesty of this year's March.

Regards Philip Bartlett proud son and nephew of Albert Ernest Bartlett RAN and Frank Harry Charles Booth Harper ARMY 2nd 27th whose medals I wore while marching in their honour and gratitude for the service and sacrifice.



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The Banner of AMC/LSI Association of N.S.W.



This is the banner of AMC/LSI Association of N.S.W. of which its Veterans and descendants march behind every year on ANZAC day in Sydney with their President CPO George Hinton Rtd RAN (Who made two Antarctic journeys to Heard Island and Macquarie Island onboard LST 3501 in 1947/8).

Days before ANZAC Day march 2021, George telephoned me and we had a very long conversation about AMC/LSI Association of N.S.W. He informed me due to his ill-health he may not be marching in front of the NSW AMC/LSI Association Banner this year nor the next, and he and CPO Peter Cannon have called a majority of 10-12 descendants that were marching somewhat regularly, to a lunch and meeting on the 24 July. At a possible disbanding of AMC/LSI Association of N.S.W. we are hoping that descendants will step forward and take seats on this committee, and that this committee of NSW will not disband on the 24 July 2021.

AMC/LSI in all of Australia has 102 WWII Navy Veterans who are living at home with family or in age care, and may not be able to march on ANZAC Day, but do enjoy reading our newsletter and are still members of the Naval family as we all are, we cannot abandon them, as they would not abandon us.

So I ask all sons, daughters and grandchildren (descendants) to come forward and support your AMC/LSI Association and committee of NSW.

Kind Regards to all our Navy Family

Chris Harvey President of AMC/LSI of Victoria. PS, I am a descendant too, age 70.

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Someone layed flowers at our Tree in the Shrine Grounds Vic

Thank you.

Photo by Gaye

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Thomas Fowler and the KAMIKAZE



In 2019 our Committee members Chris Harvey, Mac Hay and Max Tozer invited Thomas Fowler Officer Cook RAN, who served onboard HMAS Westralia C61 in WWII to lunch at Box Hill RSL for his 100th birthday.

And in the course of our lunch, Thomas told us a story about a Kamikaze attack on HMAS Westralia at Lingayen Gulf HMAS Westralia was a Landing Ship Infantry, during WWII in the South West Pacific, which trained with L.C.V.P. to land a thousand troops (American Marines, Rangers and Australia Army) on Japanese held islands in amphibious operation under General Douglas MacArthur US 7th Fleet.

The Japanese Kamikaze aircraft had attacked Australian warships. The flag ship of the RAN, HMAS Australia II was hit by a suicidal Japanese Aircraft on Saturday 21 October (Trafalgar Day) 1944 and thirty officers and ratings, including its Commanding Officer, Captain DECHAINEUX RAN, were killed in a battle, and sixty four officers and ratings wounded HMAS Australia II was attacked seven times by Kamikaze in battle.

Thomas story;

On the 8 January 1945 in the China Sea, the Fleet came under attack by Japanese kamikaze planes and torpedo bombers. I had just finished my shift as assistant Officer's cook and was going up on deck for a breath of fresh air, when action stations was sounded. As I came on deck all anti aircraft guns were pointing vertical and firing, plus our four inch Gun, I look up and could see an aircraft (Zeke Zero) in a vertical suicide dive at our ship HMAS Westralia and dropping two bombs which fell to port and starboard of our ship and exploded sending a tower of water into the air onto the ship and me .

I ran looking for a place to take cover from the attack and not finding one, as all hell broke loose around me, I finally found shelter with shipmates in a companionway under the Ship's bridge. The Kamikaze Zero was hit many times by our gun crews (40mm Bofor's Gun's & 20mm Oerlikon Guns) the plane was blown to pieces all over the ship's deck and the main body of the aircraft hit the water and the sea became a blazing inferno. Part of the left wing hit the stern deck next to the depth charges and then fell into the sea. damaging the ship's steering, which sent us off course for a short time.

We were lucky not to have major damage to our ship. Three times in the past Japanese propaganda was said to have sunk HMAS Westralia- all not true. There were no casualties in this Kamikaze attack and the bits of the Japanese Zero scattered on deck became souvenirs for the crew.

Thomas will be 102 on the 02/09/2021, if you wish to send a birthday card, please send it to us at AMC/LSI Association and we will send it on to him.



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

May; Frank Birmingham, Steven Gooch, Bruce Brown.

June; Ronald Feben, Brian Sullivan, Hiram Ristrom, Keith Overton.

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 and name please.

Doug Hooley in memory of his dad Alan Hooley HMAS Westralia.

Catherine D'Druz from C Bryant for Vets.

Simon Lepage & Andretta from A.E. Page for his mates.

Kimbal Hennessy for Jack Hennessy.

Chris Harvey in memory of Syd Harvey.

Hiram Ristrom for the association.

Wendy Kelly in memory of Alan.

VALE

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

Betty Paine widow of Doug, HMAS Assault.

Marjory Gwen Tattersall widow of Bill, HMAS Kanimbla.

Elva McBay 103 years widow of Dave, HMAS Kanimbla.

Burial at Sea

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 CPO Anita van Der Meer (MSO) Defence Community Organisation, Locked Bag 7005, Liverpool N.S.W. 1871, or send an e-mail to LEUT Jimmy Fitzgerald Building 478 HMAS Cerberus Vic 3920, Phone 0429 770 071, email james.fitzgerald1@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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