

AMC LSI Association of Vic

Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry



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ANZAC Day 2016 Melbourne

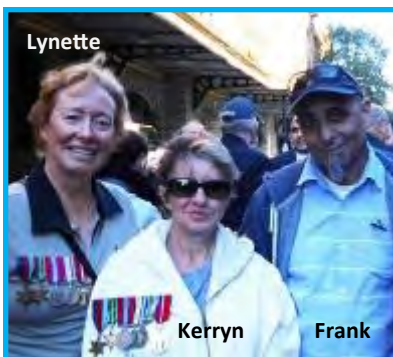
Melbourne put on perfect weather with blue skies the whole day. Our focus is always about honouring and remembering those who have served this country. We are deeply humbled and privileged to have WW2 veterans with us on this day. They are in their 90s now and we admire their quiet determination to attend such a big enduring event. Others stay closer to home and attend their local RSL services. To all our veterans: wherever you are, on this day especially, we thank you and remember you and your comrades in our hearts and minds.

Some veterans managed to travel great distances like TEL Kelvin Smibert (92 yo) who drove from South Australia and met up with his grandsons Tom and Angus. LEUT Hugh Sutton (92 yo) from Canberra arranged home renovations and his calendar to be in Melbourne with his sons, Michael and Kingsley, also from Canberra. We know some family members travelled interstate just for the day! It was a delight to



see CMDR Terry Makings, Patron of the former HMAS Assault Assoc. meet up with Carol Warren, daughter of Ron Zeuschner (dec'd) who was a founding member and long time Secretary to the former HMAS ASSAULT Assoc.







Melissa Fiona



ANZAC Day 2016 Sydney



Gordon 'Goffers' Graham

Ron Williams

Canberra



VO Paul Lyddiard
Gulf War Veteran,
with his wife & son

Words by
Sir William Deane,
Governor-General of Australia on
ANZAC Day 1999:

"ANZAC is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds."

Wagga Wagga



Steve Trood at
Wagga Wagga Memorial Gardens



LDG SMN Noel Lugsdin Grant DSM

7 October 1924—1 June 2016

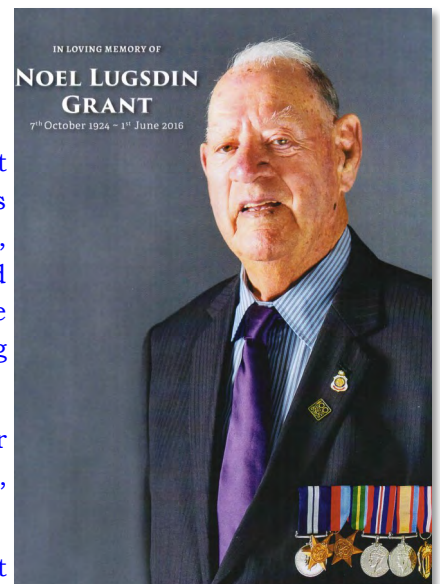
Noel was born in Gardenvale, Victoria, educated at Melbourne Boys' High School and joined the RAN as a 17 year old at Older Fleet Building, Collins Street, Melbourne. He trained at HMAS CERBERUS and ASSAULT and served on HMAS MANOORA where he became a Leading Seaman and Coxswain of landing craft M1.

He was awarded a DSM on 9th October 1945 for gallantry, outstanding skill and devotion to duty on HMAS MANOORA, during 9th Division AIF landings at Tarakan.

At the end of the war Noel just wanted to get out and get married but the Navy had other plans for him! They told him he was on draft to HMAS SHROPSHIRE and he was going to London with the Victory contingent to parade before the King and Queen of England, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 8 June 1946. So that's what Noel found himself doing. It was a great honour really, there were 250 men and women in the contingent of the Navy, Army and Airforce who served during the war. Noel was given the great honour of being chosen in the Colour Party and then the absolute honour and privilege of holding the Australian flag in the Victory March. Noel has been recognised by his local Bentleigh RSL by having a photo mounted on the wall of him parading with the Victory contingent.



Noel Grant
Victory March
London 1946



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
NOEL LUGSDIN
GRANT
7th October 1924 - 1st June 2016

Noel was again given the great honour of leading the Navy in Melbourne's ANZAC Day march 2016 in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Victory parade in London.

**Congratulations, well done and
Thank You Noel.**

Photo: Australian Women's Weekly 20 July 1946



CPO William Smith No 9937 Born 24/12/1894 WW1 & WW2

It was one of those Sydney mornings as I crossed Pyrmont Bridge for my volunteer day at the Maritime Museum. Once one of the city's main traffic arteries, it was saved from demolition in 1981 to become a wonderful pedestrian promenade. I reflect I am

following in my father's footsteps as he crossed this bridge every day of his working life ashore. For those years he was a storeman at the Royal Edwards Victualling Yard, REVY as it was known. Since converted to Defence offices and a television channel its history sadly appears lost.

Bill hailed from Devonport UK and after attending the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich he enlisted in the RN in 1913 aged 19. On entry he was humbly ranked as a probationary second class cook's mate. Serving throughout World War 1 he attained the status of Cook. Attracted by news of a 'gift fleet' for Australia he joined HMAS Stalwart. This destroyer of 1000 tons was rated at the uncomfortable speed of 36 knots.

Other vessels in the flotilla were HMAS Success, Swordsman, Tasmania and Tattoo. All these ships were built between January and April 1919. None served with the British fleet, all being commissioned as Australian warships—calling at Malta, Aden, Colombo and Singapore, arriving Australia April 1920. Later that year he met my mother and as an indication of his intention, transferred to the RAN. Unknown how many of the crew remained in service, settled ashore or returned to Britain. All five ships were laid up after a few years of service life. One account relates the HMAS Stalwart was scuttled off Sydney Heads around 1925 with a cargo of rotten onions which washed up on Sydney beaches for some weeks afterwards.

My parents were wed in 1923 enjoying idyllic days living in Jervis Bay Naval Station. Silver sands, crystal sea with high social life and all the fish you could wish. My brother and I were children of the Depression but the navy saw the family through. Bill progressed through Leading Cook, Petty Officer, and finally Chief Petty Officer. Serving on other vessels, we settled in the southern suburbs of Sydney when Bill signed off in 1935 to commence shore life and employment with REVY.

As naval reservist he was called back and assigned to HMS Kanimbla 1.12.1939. Quickly converted to an Armed Merchant Cruiser she sailed away before year's end. Long patrols between Cape Town and Japan ensued with convoys, numerous engagements and many miles sailed. Eventually the older crew members were replaced by younger personnel. After 16 months his group were landed in Bombay. They endured a five day train journey to Calcutta to join the good ship Tanda bound for home. After a tumultuous welcome and shore service in Melbourne, Brisbane and Balmoral in Sydney he was released medically unfit in 1944 and returned to his homeland. Many years later I sailed on the HMAS Westralia and marched with his comrades on ANZAC day.



The medals at my right breast are his,
the memories are mine.

By son, Roger Smith who served on HMAS WESTRALIA



Tribute to Captain Cecil Donald Dykes 27.3.1919—15.8.2015

A Mariner of the 20th Century

Donald was born in the country and had a love of the sea from a young boy. At the age of 17 he commenced his apprenticeship with the AUSN Co. In 1938 he joined HMAS CANBERRA for Naval training. The war years were spent on several ships: HMS KANIMBLA, HMAS BALLARAT, AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY III, WARRAMUNGA & TOBRUK. Post war years 1945—1958 with E & A.

In 1958 he joined the Torres Strait Pilot Service where he spent the next 30 years piloting ships through the reef. Retirement followed in 1988 and many years spent travelling by all modes of transport.

Donald spent his life doing what he loved; the call of the sea always remained, and his interest in all ships.

By daughter, Pip Gordon



BOMBING OF DARWIN

1942

Story by AB John Davey PM3481

Published 2005 in 'Darwin's Battle for Australia'

I was attached to HMAS *Platypus* for one month only, later in 1941, but most of us worked ashore at the Depot HMAS *Melville*. *Platypus* was a store, accommodation and workshop generally.

I was a Gunner (AA 9.5), bugler and marksman (sniper) among all the other seamanship duties, and particularly small boats, including taking over Japanese fishing luggers for Naval use in Northern waters.

We used small cargo ships, about 3000 tonnes, to supply Mission Stations and covert RAAF airstrips on islands and, of course, Broome.

These ships carried aircraft fuel in 44 gallon drums and supplies, hoping to miss the Jap spy planes, and avoid getting caught on the big sea tide runoff.

As a rule, we used the tide rising to toss the petrol drums overside at an island and used boats and tide to guide the drums to the beach. It worked well, they floated well. As you know, our boys supported the Aussie Commandos in East Timor with supply or relief. Some of us were attached to the Harbour Master using American whaler (diesel) boats to ferry people to the variety of ships entering or leaving Darwin's large harbour. We were also the Pilot boat for some time, before and after raids. Downed aircraft pilots were often picked up, generally deceased, a very traumatic and sad experience for many of us 18 year olds.

19th February 1942: As I recall we heard the first C-R-U-N-C-H of 500lb bombs on the Post Office and then the air raid siren was operated. I was ashore at the Depot (HMAS *Melville*) and we ran to the appointed place at ground level, laid on the dirt in our dyed uniforms, with our officers in white uniform all around us!

Perhaps some Japs did have poor eyesight. They were so close overhead I saw the observer pilot looking down plainly—it was very scary and there was not a gun within reach. There were no atheists around me that day—the real cursing and anger came an hour later, from all service personnel and civilians who were quickly leaving Darwin.

The Army had to push the Salvoes out of town—but they were back the next day, serving coffee, tea and biscuits—they stayed on, as far as I know.

After the first raid, with little to do, a couple of us headed for the wharf area. Within a 100 yards a wharfie was racing towards us yelling, "She's gonna blow". We knew who she was—the "*Neptuna*" at the wharf on fire loaded with depth charges.



Scene from HMAS *Platypus* on 19.2.1942. Smoke from the *Neptuna* explosion rises from the centre of the picture. To the right is the floating dock with HMAS *Warrnambool* on board. In the sky to the left are bursts of ack ack fire, while dust and smoke rises from bomb strikes over the town of Darwin. Photo by John Davey.

We just made it into a large shallow hole when "all hell" broke loose—hot metal flying everywhere, just missing us, but our helmets got slightly dented. The ship burned all day at least, then rolled over and kept burning with explosions. Tragic loss of lives and our wharf gone, almost!

Those of us who worked the ships had no air raid shelters. We worked, slept and ate from two huts, 50 yards from the water, our boats moored below at a makeshift wharf. Behind our huts dug into the big hill, were the large oil tanks—a potential enemy target. So, on an air raid, we could not dig in, and it was too far back to the town, so we jumped in the boat, or boats, and sped out into the harbour, hoping to make as small a target as possible. (See photo.)

Night raids were a bit hazardous, of course, everything blacked out; but the Japs seem to like the moonlight nights a lot.

I must tell you about the two Fox terriers we seemed to obtain, after their owners had gone south—Stumpy and Sandy. They were the best air raid warning we ever had in our dangerous location. At night, these dogs would "set up a howl" like a wolf, at least ten minutes or more before the siren went, or we heard any aircraft. We learned quickly of course, and we and the dogs ran for the boats.

Interesting to comment the dogs never howled at allied planes. The dogs went on rehab to Queensland in '43 via a kind civilian worker.

A few of us left Darwin on 30 April 1943 as crew of the "Gunbar" (minesweeper), which still showed signs of having been shot up by the Japs in earlier raids. The ship was slow and rough for comfort, and it took us three weeks to land in Brisbane, then to Melbourne for leave.

(By John Davey, Brother-in-Law to Hiram Ristrom)

RESPIRE AND CARER SUPPORT

DVA recognises the important role carers play in providing valuable support and help to those who are unable to care for themselves. The care many veterans and war widows and widowers provide to others is also valued by DVA. Direct support to carers is provided through the provision of Respite Services which provides a break to a carer by temporarily relieving them of their caring responsibilities. DVA's Veterans' Home Care Program (VHC Program) offers three types of Respite Care including:



♥ In-Home Respite

♥ Residential Respite

♥ Emergency Short-Term Home Relief (ESTHR)

Respite care is also available through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme or the Home and Community Care Program (in Victoria and Western Australia). The Commonwealth Home Support Programme or the Home and Community Care Program provide additional types of respite care that are not available through the VHC Program, including:

- centre-based respite
- community access respite
- host family respite

Note: These programmes are not funded directly by DVA and there may be additional costs associated with these services. For more information about respite care provided through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme or the Home and Community Care Program, you can visit the [My Aged Care website](#) or contact the My Aged Care National Contact Centre on 1800 200 422* (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm) from any location within Australia. Alternatively, you can contact the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre on 1800 052 222.*

*Free local call - calls from mobile or pay phones may incur charges.

In addition to the respite services provided through the VHC Program, DVA provides carers with information and resources.

Enjoy Sunshine



Eat Balanced Tucker



Exercise



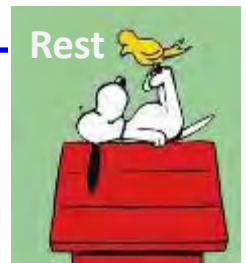
Laugh a lot



Good Medicine

For a healthy lifestyle
To be taken daily,
weather permitting!

Rest



Believe in Yourself!



Smile



Learn
Something
new



Have fun with friends & family





VALE



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

Oswald (Ozzie) Gray passed 30/5/2015 Vic

James (Jim) Rees passed 2/1/2016 Vic

Ken (Darky) Primmer passed 3/1/2016 Qld

Jim (Flash) Lyall passed 11/5/2016 Albury

John James (Jack) Quick passed 30/5/2016 Altona

Noel Grant passed 1/6/2016 Ormond

Lest We Forget

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

Notice Board

❖ **Peter Roberts** (son of Bill Roberts) is looking for photos of K13 landing craft, like the one shown here which was downloaded from the AWM. If you have any in your collection, please email us: amclsivic@gmail.com so we can forward on to Peter.



❖ **AMCLSI** is now on Facebook.

Check out all the ANZAC Day photos, events and more.



Find us on:
facebook®

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for your donations

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

- ♥ Pat Phillips
- ♥ Don Clough
- ♥ Ian Gardner
- ♥ Steve Gooch
- ♥ Danny Bolton
- ♥ Brian Sullivan
- ♥ Sue Rock in memory of her mother and father Joan & Harry Stirk.
- ♥ Jenny Van Kalken in memory of her father Gordon Munro.
- ♥ Olga Anderson OAM in memory of her husband Alan Anderson OAM.
- ♥ Elva McBay in memory of her husband David McBay.

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

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

MERCHANDISE for SALE

Cap \$25.00 + P & H

To order phone Chris 0412 390 686
or write to
1/129 Surrey Rd, Blackburn Vic 3130



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February **Bob Murdoch** was a NBC (Navy Beach Commando) We apologise for omitting his birthday last newsletter (we'd been looking at wrong navy records—consequently had his wrong birthday!)

March **Don Bath Frank Byrne John Peck Gerry Miller Danny Bolton Paul Figucio**

April **Jack Quick Hugh Sutton Ian Gardner Ken Ray Kelvin Smibert Bob Hutchieson**

May **Tom Clark (Vic) Frank Birmingham Kevin Brown Steve Gooch Bruce Brown Murray Bird**

June **Keith Overton Tom Clark (S.A.) Harry Rich Jack Wighton Ron Feben Keith Krause Brian Sullivan Hiram Ristrom Bill Galton Pat Phillips**

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

WHAT'S ON

- 11 Sept 11am** **Battle of Bita Paka** Wreath Laying Ceremony, Shrine of Remembrance—Sanctuary.
- 16 Oct 10.30am** **Navy Week Seafarer's Church Service**, St Paul's Cathedral. Open invitation - medals please.
- 19 Oct 10am** **Navy Week Victoria Seminar**, Theatre - Shrine of Remembrance. Reservations essential.
- 21 Oct** **Navy Week Victoria Golf Tournament**, Mornington Golf Club in conjunction with the Legacy Challenge
- 22 Oct** **Navy Week Geoffrey Evans Yacht Race**, Melbourne Yacht Club
- 23 Oct** **Navy Week HMAS CERBERUS Open Day**
- 11 Nov 10.30am** **Remembrance Day Service, Shrine of Remembrance** 
- 19 Nov 12pm** **HMAS SYDNEY & Vietnam Logistic Support Unit** Wreath Laying Ceremony
Shrine of Remembrance—Sanctuary
- 20 Nov** **HMAS GOORANGAI** Wreath Laying Ceremony, Queenscliff.
- 10 Dec 11am** **HMAS KANIMBLA, MANOORA, WESTRALIA & ASSAULT**
Wreath Laying Ceremony
Shrine of Remembrance—Sanctuary
Followed by:
- 10 Dec 12.30pm** **HMAS KANIMBLA, MANOORA, WESTRALIA & ASSAULT**
Xmas Lunch Get-Together Bentleigh RSL RSVP Gaye 0421 331 643 or email amclsivic@gmail.com    

SPIRIT OF ANZAC

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 travelling 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.



The following schedule is subject to change so please check <http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au>

STATE	TOWN	VENUE	SHOW DATES
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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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