

Patrons: Alan Hooley & Bruce Candy

AMC/LSI ASSOCIATION of VIC

Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry

Email: amclsivic@gmail.com



L-R: Terry Makings AM, Governor of Shrine of Remembrance.
Alan Hooley, Honorary Secretary HMAS WESTRALIA Assoc.
Hiram Ristrom, President HMAS KANIMBLA Assoc.
Graham Robinson, Vice President HMAS MANOORA Assoc.

Dear Veterans,

We know that ANZAC Day 2014 was a very sad day for you and your shipmates who served on HMAS WESTRALIA, MANOORA and KANIMBLA. It is with deep gratitude that we thank you for allowing us to join you on that occasion. In our hearts is a desire to never let go of the qualities that endear you to us. Your life, your purpose, your sacrifices, your camaraderie, your stories all have a ripple effect that will go on for generations to come. It's our humble privilege to honour, remember and learn from you. It's our job to preserve for future generations all that we can in your name. With enormous respect we wish you love and safe travels on your life journey. And, with indebtedness to your shipmates who have gone before you, we say with big hearts;

"Thank you".

Those who participated in the ANZAC Day march in Melbourne, 2014 were:

Steve Cunningham, Peter O'Connor, Harry Peers, Nevin Phillips, Harry Peers, Hiram Ristrom, Bill Tattersall and 12 descendants.

Murray Bird, Lieutenant Commander Graeme Davidson, Jim Davison, Noel Grant, Ray Prosser, Graham Robinson, Brian Wearne and 15 descendants

Bruce Candy, Alan Hooley, Keith Jones and 32 descendants.







We laid a wreath under the HMAS KANIMBLA, WESTRALIA & MANOORA Memorial Tree. 16 year old Jackson Hosking (great-grandson of Boyd Tyner & son to Mary-Beth Hosking our Vice President) played the Last Post. He later also played for the DEMS.





ONE IDEA ... AND A FEW GOOD MEN



Tim Young

In 1947 Tim Young rang Bruce Candy suggesting they hold a reunion and asked him for some names and phone numbers. It was decided to hold the first HMAS WESTRALIA reunion at Tim's parents' place in Alphington. Not everyone had telephones in those days, so they started with a list of just 10 guys. However, the night before the reunion Tim arrived home to the phone ringing hot. When he finally got off the phone he had to inform his mother, "There won't be 10 arriving tomorrow – there'll be 35 !"



Bruce Candy



Alan Hooley

That was the unofficial beginning of the HMAS Westralia Association. When Tim Young later travelled to UK, Jimmy Moreland took over the secretarial role for a marathon effort until poor health in 1994. Kevin Smith took over for a couple of years until his sudden passing. Alan Hooley who had been Assistant Secretary for many years was then thrust into the Honorary Secretary role and has carried on ever since with support from his longstanding committee member and comrade Bruce Candy who was eventually elected President in 2008.



Jimmy Moreland

Service, loyalty, commitment, faithful & bold are the threads that make the fabric of their very Being.

Further to their enduring service, Alan Hooley and Bruce Candy have kindly agreed to be our Patrons providing us priceless connection, information and insight into the spirit of *Westralia*. Tim Young, who received an OAM for service to the community, is now Contact Person for AMC/LSI S.A. Assn.

CONNECTIONS AND LINEAGE



Chris Harvey
President
AMC/LSI Vic Assn

In WWI Chris Harvey's grandfather, Edward Harvey, joined the 3rd Brigade, 12th Battalion which landed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. The Navy transported those troops on board lifeboats taken from P&O's DEVANHA. There are only 2 remaining lifeboats – one of which can be found at a new exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance. (There are no photos of Chris's Grandfather as they were all destroyed in a fire.) Chris's father, Sydney Harvey, served on HMAS WESTRALIA which was commissioned to an LSI (Landing Ship Infantry) in 1943. There's an interesting connection here: Both the *Devanha* and *Westralia* were infantry landing vessels. Chris Harvey is a 3rd generation living connection to an historical event that through its tragedy shone a light on the spirit of so many.



HMT DEVANHA
Mascot to
AMC/LSI Vic Assn

Chris is passionate about honouring and preserving the memory of those who served for our country. His extensive networking is instrumental in bringing us all together to learn, remember, honour and reconnect with a formative part of our history – which if not secured now in terms of photos, records and artefacts – will be lost forever. Four major projects the AMC/LSI Vic Assn is embarking on is the digitised archival of war photos, alongside the creation of a database starting with the crews of *Westralia*, *Kanimbla* and *Manoora*, and the creation and maintenance of a Banners Register and web page.

**Memoriam for the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea
4 May 2014
Shrine of Remembrance**



L-R: Captain Stephen Bowater, OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS, Hiram Ristrom, President of HMAS KANIMBLA Assoc, Alan Hooley, Honorary Secretary of HMAS WESTRALIA Assoc, Norm Tame, AUSTRALIA Assoc and Warrant Officer Brendan Woodsell, OAM RAN, HMAS CERBERUS' Ships Warrant Officer.

Sunday 4 May 2014 was cold, wet and windy so the service was held inside the Shrine with a very large attendance of distinguished guests, Navy personnel, R.A.N. Band and R.A.N. Recruits. The ODE was read by Hiram Ristrom and a message from President Barack Obama was read by Miss Kim Furnish Consular Chief USA.

The Battle of the Coral Sea fought between 4 May and 9 May 1942 was the defining victory that saved Australia from a Japanese invasion and established the alliance, formed on 8 December 1941 between Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia and President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the USA.

FLY the FLAG Service

Sunday 14th December 2014, 11.00 am

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 will be having a joint service with 100 recruits of the R.A.N Recruit School and our Jackson Hosking playing the Last Post. 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 10.45am and if the weather is against us, then in the Visitors' Centre inside the Shrine. The Service will commence at 11.00 am in the Cenotaph. 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 veterans:

- ❖ **Richard Keynes** – Able Seaman, HMAS WESTRALIA, Adelaide, S.A. 7 December 2013
- ❖ **Robert Gillen** – Sub-Lieutenant, HMAS WESTRALIA, Adelaide, S.A. 21 January 2014
- ❖ **Alexander Muir** – Able Seaman, HMAS WESTRALIA, Melbourne, 21 March 2014
- ❖ **Matthew Blessington** – Stoker, HMAS WESTRALIA, Bonnells Bay, 30 April 2014
- ❖ **Dennis Pecover OAM** – Able Seaman, HMAS WESTRALIA, Narrabeen, 19 May 2014
- ❖ **Keith Trezise** – Cook, HMAS KANIMBLA, Mt Martha, 5 June 2014
- ❖ **Ken O'Shea** – Able Seaman, HMAS KANIMBLA, Tasmania, 7 February 2014
- ❖ **Bill Burke** – Lieutenant, HMAS KANIMBLA, Williamstown, 26 February 2014
- ❖ **Wal McUtchen** – Coder, HMAS KANIMBLA, Berwick, 22 December 2013
- ❖ **Brian Bowles** – Stoker, HMAS KANIMBLA, Toowoomba, 29 December 2013



Congratulations and best wishes to 2014 90th Birthday marathoners:



**Alan Hooley, Brian Sullivan, Hiram Ristrom, Jack Bird, Bryan Wearne,
Murray Bird, Kevin Smibert, Hugh Sutton, Bill Tattersall.**

And, to those we may have missed, we wish you a "Very Happy Birthday".



BOOK REVIEW AND FUNDRAISER AUCTION

This 277 page book is a compilation of letters and diaries written by WWI Nursing Sister Olive Haynes who served in Gallipoli, Egypt, Lemnos and France. The letters and photos had been stored out-of-sight and out-of-mind in an old leather Red Cross satchel at the back of a linen closet. After Olive Haynes passed away in 1978, her husband handed the satchel of letters to their eldest daughter, Margaret Young who herself was a nurse. Margaret started reading the letters and realised that beyond the fascinating reading, they were a direct insight and immediate personal account into what it was really like to be in their shoes. So Margaret decided to get it into book form and had it published with all proceeds

going to Down Syndrome Association. The book was used as a source of inspiration for the ABC's miniseries **ANZAC Girls**. Extracts from book:

"15.6.15: ... Nearly seven months here and haven't had a day off yet. We are feeling as tired as 60 cats."

"30.11.15: Men from Suva coming in. Most awful frost-bitten feet. They had a terrible time. Men frozen to death standing up. Their feet are worse than any wounds. It makes you sick doing them, and they are so grateful for anything."

"... There were 92 sisters caring for 600 patients. When the wounded from Gallipoli started to arrive, the number swelled to more than 1,400."

The book, which retailed for \$35, is now out of print. Margaret (wife of Tim Young) has kindly donated her book as a fundraiser for our Association. Email us your highest bid.

Navy Descendants' Association has changed its name to **AMC/LSI ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA**. You may be wondering why you have received this newsletter and what AMC/LSI represents. The answer is simple. Originally a number of descendants of the HMAS WESTRALIA wanted to form an association to ensure the memory of relatives who served on the *Westralia*. We felt as descendants of navy personnel it would be appropriate to name the association "Navy Descendants". We then met with Terry Makings where it became apparent that we needed to reduce the scope of the ships we would be representing and thus we chose AMC/LSI Association of Victoria. AMC/LSI stands for Armed Merchant Cruisers/Landing Ship Infantry. Our association represents veterans, descendants and serving members of HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA and MANOORA. We are a not-for-profit group made up of volunteers who would welcome the input and support from others who wish to help carry and develop our aspirations in the name of those gone before us. If you would like to contribute in any way to support our endeavours, please don't hesitate to email amclsivic@gmail.com or ring Chris Harvey on 0412 390 686.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: This newsletter has been a collaboration of help and inspiration from Alan Hooley, Bruce Candy, Tim & Margaret Young, Hiram Ristrom, Murray Bird, Terry Makings, Chris Harvey, Mary-Beth Hosking and photographers: Brian Obst, Michael Formaini, Chris Harvey, Jan Lewis & Christine Rainford.



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