

Patrons : Bruce Candy & Hiram Ristrom

AMC/LSI ASSOCIATION of VIC

Armed Merchant Cruisers / Landing Ships Infantry

Email : amclsivic@gmail.com

1/129 Surrey Rd

Blackburn Vic 3130



ABN: 64 106 175 155

www.amclsi.navyvic.net



Ron, Heather, Carla Salmon with Julie and Norm

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

On the 3rd May 2015 at the Shrine of Remembrance a service for the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea was held. This battle, fought between May 4th and May 9th 1942 was the defining victory that saved Australia from invasion and established the alliance, formed on December 8 1941 between Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia and the President Franklin D Roosevelt of the United States of America.



Norm Tame Julie Tame Hiram Ristrom

WHAT'S ON

Saturday 15th August 2015
70th Anniversary Victory in the Pacific (VP Day)
11am Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt

Friday 11th September 2015 Battle of BITA BAKA 11am
Wreath Laying—Forecourt at Shrine of Remembrance

Saturday 17th October 2015 ANZAC Naval
Commemorative Ball Victory Room, Etihad Stadium

Sunday 18th October 2015 Seafarers 12.30pm Wreath
Laying—Sanctuary Shrine of Remembrance

Thursday 19th November 2015 HMAS SYDNEY 12pm
Wreath Laying—Sanctuary Shrine of Remembrance

Tuesday 1st December 2015 HMAS ARMIDALE 10am
Wreath Laying—Sanctuary Shrine of Remembrance

Tuesday 15th December 2015
Fly the Flag Service HMAS Westralia, Kanimbla, Manoora,
Assault 11am Shrine of Remembrance

Mission Statement

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

ANZAC DAY 2015

ANZAC Day 2015 was a very special occasion for all who attended, marched and watched from the sidelines. The veterans and descendants of the HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA and MANOORA were out in force with a record number of attendees for the all medal march. For the three ships there were a total of 5 veterans and 72 descendants in attendance.

There were a number of descendants that were going to march with us but they joined the WWI descendants on this centenary occasion.

The march commenced in Flinders Street with veterans and descendants meeting at their designated banners. Lining up 6 abreast we proceeded up St Kilda Road. Although the weather was not optimal, that didn't stop the crowd cheering as the veterans made their way towards the Shrine of Remembrance.



Melbourne

At the Shrine we were instructed to perform an "eyes right" to show our respect and we then made our way to the HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA and MANOORA tree for the service after the march. We were delighted to have Jackson Hosking (Great Grandson of Boyd Tyner) play The Last Post.



Jackson Hosking

Hiram Ristrom and Graeme Robinson lead the service in Bruce Candy's absence. At the end of the service the group adjourned to The Gateway hotel for lunch and time to catch up on the past years activities.



Bryan Wearne

Hiram Ristrom



Melbourne

Mission Statement

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

ANZAC DAY 2015



HMAS KANIMBLA REUNION



On Friday 24th April the current members of the HMAS KANIMBLA Association held their annual reunion luncheon at the Bentleigh RSL.

Lead by Hiram Ristrom (current president) saw members of HMAS KANIMBLA, HMAS WESTRALIA and HMAS MANOORA in attendance including Bruce Candy from HMAS WESTRALIA.



Patron—Hiram Ristrom with Steve Cunningham

Patron Bruce Candy with Chris Harvey

Mission Statement

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

William Lewis (Lew) Smith

On May 5th 2014 the HMAS KANIMBLA lost one of its own with the passing of William Lewis (Lew) Smith.

Lew served on the HMAS KANIMBLA during WWII. Lew worked for the Sydney City Council and taught automotive at TAFE until he retired.

He was the Welfare Officer for Castle Hill Sub-branch until the mid 1980s.



Lew was a founding member for the Youth Rifle Association, was a Legatee for 25 years and was one of the original members of the Castle Hill RSL Club receiving lifetime membership.

In 2013 Lew was featured in the Navy Daily when two RAN members from HMAS KUTTABUL had the honour of visiting Lew on his 100th birthday in Castle Hill.

Lew was presented with a letter from the Chief of Navy and provided with some HMAS KUTTABUL memorabilia which included a ball cap which Lew wore for the remainder of the day.

Lew is remembered as a real character with a great sense of humour. He will be missed by friends and family, and from the members of the AMC/LSI Association of NSW.



18th September 1913 - 5th May 2014

What does AMC/LSI represent?

AMC/LSI is the acronym for Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry – of which HMAS WESTRALIA, MANOORA and KANIMBLA are classified by the navy.

Our association is a not-for profit group of volunteers who operate with the passion and desire to honour and preserve the memory of those gone before us. It is hoped that our intentions will benefit veterans, descendants, serving members and indeed the larger community.

We don't ask for membership fees, so with enormous thanks we acknowledge the following generous donations received since our last newsletter:

Brian Sullivan April 2015

Bruce Candy April 2015

Hiram Ristrom June 2015

We are heartened and encouraged by the positive feedback we've received from veterans, descendants and numerous navy associations. If you would like to make a Donation mail a cheque to : **AMC/LSI association Vic, 1/129 Surrey road Blackburn Vic 3130**, or Deposit directly into our Westpac Bank **Account Number : 42-2541 BSB Number : 033-070** thank you.



The Story of DEMS and her Banner

by Lee Molesworth President of DEMS Association

Dear Chris, unfortunately I am unable to clear my previous commitments for Saturday morning.

Perhaps this note will be an encouragement for your group, and you will be able to prevent Westralia from meeting the fate which nearly destroyed DEMS.

With us, the old boys slowly dwindled away until they were no more, except for one individual.

I used to take the family away for Anzac Day weekends and attend the Anzac Ceremony in Bright - a lovely weekend. One year we stayed home and I thought I would watch the march on telly. I was shocked to see that the DEMS banner was not there. I started asking questions, and found that DEMS had been absorbed onto the Minesweepers because of our few numbers. Then the Minesweepers were absorbed into the Corvettes! It was then that I learned that another DEMS descendent had also been making enquiries and had joined the Corvettes Association. That was Paul Jensen. At first no-one knew anything about the DEMS, our banner and records. Paul's good detective work found that these were last with a Minesweepers member, but he had passed away. When Paul approached the family, he found the banner in a corner of the garage and all the records had been thrown out. Probably the banner would have gone out with the next indestructible rubbish collection, as the family were a Minesweepers connection and DEMS had no meaning for them. Since then Paul and I have made sure the banner is out at Anzac Day and wherever else we can manage, to honour our fathers and their ship-mates. This visibility has attracted a few more DEMS descendants, but it is so frustrating that all our records and documented history has completely disappeared.

I can only encourage you to get organized while you still have a few interested descendants, and before your records, banner etc. are lost. If your fathers were like ours, they were forced into the Navy by the tragedy of war, but the comradeship formed over those five or six years stuck with them for the rest of their lives, and being Navy is something of which they were proud. I think our generation has a responsibility to keep the memory of them alive, even though we may struggle to do so. It is not only our generation we must think of, but the ones to come. I feel very encouraged in speaking with other ex-servicemen that their grandchildren are showing an interest which was largely lacking in their children. As you said, there is a renewed interest in the Boer War and the First World War. We need to preserve this heritage.

So if the DEMS can assist in any way I am sure we will be very happy to assist - all ten of us! Our only remaining original DEMS is ninety-five, but still keen.

P.S. Just in case some of you do not know who DEMS were, it stands for Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships. These were Naval gunners assigned to merchant ships with a variety of weapons, largely gleaned from Naval dumping grounds. They were only ever a small group, I think about 300 from Victoria, less than fifteen hundred throughout Australia. Many of these had the nasty experience of having a ship sunk under them more than once, especially on the Atlantic convoys. We have a Website at navyvic.net which has attracted a few enquiries. This would be available to you also. All the contact information is on the site.

All the best; keep up the good work. I hope to see Westralia and other LSI's on Anzac Day and other occasions for many years to come.

Lee Molesworth

Private Thomas William Richards
HMS- HMAS Kanimbla



Tribute to our Father & Grandfather

Sapper Thomas William Richards

Born : 16/10/1908 — Death : 29/1/1945

Trade : Plasterer & Contractor

Enlisted R.A.E 30/1/1942 Unit GDD.

Re- Enlisted R.A.E 18/8/1943

Unit 3rd Australian Landing Ships Detachment

Embarked for HMAS KANIMBLA 29/9/1943.

Transfers out to 5th Australian Works Coy 17/11/1944.



On the 25th April of 2015 the 100th Anniversary ANZAC DAY Sydney, I, Melissa and my Sister Fiona march for the first time on ANZAC DAY under the AMC/LSI banner of N.S.W. HMAS KANIMBLA, WESTRALIA & MANOORA to Honour our Grandfather Sapper Thomas William Richards & our Great Great Uncle Pte Archibald Francis Morris AIF 4 Battalion WW1.

It was an emotional, overwhelming but also a rewarding day to have the opportunity to march with the Diggers, Sailors and Airmen past and present that fought/fight for our country we call AUSTRALIA.

Mission Statement

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

OBITUARY

The AMC/LSI Association of Victoria would like to pass on our sincerest regards to the families of those we have lost in the past three months.

LdgSmn Con Cannon, S/3651, passed 22/5/2015

POTEL Jack Mahney, 21305, passed 20/5/2015

AB Ian Dixon, PM5418, passed 15/04/2015

AB Frank White, PM 3866

AB Peter Le Messurier PA3013, passed 04/04/2015

AB Tim Young OAM, PM7455, passed 20/2/2015

Sub Lieut Len Farrell, H1743, passed 22/6/2015

AB Joe Hepstinstall, OAM, PA5462, passed 24/5/2015

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

VALE

CPO William Lewis (Lew) Smith, passed 5/5/2014 aged 100

AB Bob Dixon PM5419 passed 20/3/2010

Ldg Tel Jack Lrvine PM2199 passed 14/01/2014

Sapper Thomas Richards N1772959 & N174429 Passed

Congratulations & best wishes to everyone who has celebrated a birthday since our last edition.

March : **Franc Byrne Danny Bolton**
Don Dykes

April : **Jack Quick Paul Figucio Hugh**
Sutton Stan Price Bob Cran
Ian Gardner Ken Ray

May : **Tom (Boyd) Clark John Turney**
Frank Birmingham Murray Bird
Kevin Brown Steve Gooch
Bruce Brown

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



Our association is growing and we are always on the look out for assistance from members. We know that time is precious and you may not want to hold a position on the committee but you may have some time to assist us with smaller tasks that need to be done. If you're interested you can contact us on our email or call Chris our president directly:

Email: amclsivic@gmail.com

If you would like to make a donation, you can either: mail a cheque to:

AMC/LSI Association Vic

1/129 Surry Rd Blackburn VIC 3130

Or

Deposit directly in to our Westpac Bank Account ;

Account Number: 42-2541

BSB Number: 033-070

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Caps for sale \$25 + postage to order call Chris 0412 390 686



HMAS WESTRALIA CAPS



HMAS WESTRALIA CAPS

TO HMAS KANIMBLA CREW

We at AMC/LSI association of Victoria would like to welcome you on board. Our association is a not-for-profit group of volunteers and descendants of all three ships KANIMBLA, WESTRALIA, MANOORA and ASSAULT. Also a very special welcome to Hiram Ristrom our new Patron along with Bruce Candy of AMC/LSI association, if you have a story to tell for our newsletter please send it to us. Once again Welcome Kanimbla

Chris Harvey President of AMC/LSI Association of Victoria



WE WANT YOU

We want to photograph WWII servicemen and women for the national archives.

Accredited professional photographers nationwide are donating their time and talent to create portraits which commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, honouring our heroes and 100 years of the ANZAC tradition. Veterans will receive a printed portrait photograph, free of charge for their participation.

Register online before July 31st for more information and to schedule a photo shoot

aipp
ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Reflections
Honouring our WWII Veterans

Register online at
aippveterans.com

Photograph by
Robert Hietle, Townsville