

# REMEMBERING HMAS ARMIDALE

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ASSOCIATION INC.

**COUNTING DOWN TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022 FOR  
THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN ARMIDALE, NSW 2350**

**PRESIDENT:**

Angus Callander - [jcallander3@bigpond.com](mailto:jcallander3@bigpond.com)  
0417 913 467

**GENERAL SECRETARY:**

Peter Savill - [peterjune@bigpond.com](mailto:peterjune@bigpond.com)  
0407 387 401

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## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc Newsletter.

Yes, it has been some time since we last contacted you all, however, I wish to report there has been much progress developing the Association. It is with great pleasure that I announce the Association is now an incorporated body, under the title 'Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Incorporated'. The inaugural Association Meeting was held last September to elect Office Bearers for the 2019/20 year.

The Committee elected at the Inaugural Meeting includes Peter Savill as General Secretary, John Savill as Treasurer, Maree Bujdegan, Tim Choules and June Savill as Committee representatives. I was given the great honour of being elected inaugural President. Since the Inaugural Meeting, Basia Lamb has joined the committee.

A highlight of the past six months was the ceremony held at HMAS Stirling Western Australia to commemorate the 77th Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Armidale. It is with much gratitude that I thank the Royal Australian Navy for their assistance and, in particular, Andrew Bujdegan, Public Affairs Officer on the base, for his support throughout the event. There is a report on this memorable day included within this newsletter.

The Association has decided to call for Life Members and for a one-off fee, you will become connected to the HMAS Armidale via the Newsletter and various events planned into the future. There are more details in the Application Form attached to this newsletter.

The Association is currently looking to appoint a Patron and as a Committee we have identified a few people, who we believe could admirably fill this position and provide the Association with the prominence it so richly deserves. We hope to be making an announcement in the near future.

In this edition of the Newsletter, the Association is attempting to identify the State, City, Town, or Suburb for each of the people who were on the HMAS Armidale on December 1. The purpose behind this initiative is to provide the Town or Suburb with the knowledge that one of their sons served on HMAS Armidale and to introduce these municipalities to the Association. The Association would be grateful to hear from you if you know the place of birth or where the men on the Armidale lived prior being called to service.

This project also extends to the Netherlands East Indies soldiers and officers. Identifying where they originated from, in what is now called Indonesia, will be a challenging task, but nevertheless these men are as equally as important.



The Remembrance Tree on Lovekin Drive: STKR Arthur P. Knight and PO Stoker Robert Quayle.

Planning is underway to commemorate December 1 2020 and more information will be made available in the ensuing few months. We plan to hold the 78th Anniversary Service in Kings Park Perth, at the Remembrance Tree on Lovekin Drive, for two HMAS Armidale servicemen: STKR Arthur P. Knight and PO Stoker Robert Quayle.

Please enjoy this edition of the Newsletter and complete the application form to become a member of this Association. The Committee would be honoured to have you as a Life Member.

## RAY LEONARD: THE LAST SURVIVING SERVICEMAN

The Committee of the Remembering the HMAS Armidale Association Inc. recently reached out to the children of Ray Leonard to provide some thoughts about their father and an insight into his life.

Carol Reid told the Association “Dad’s integrity, loyalty, resilience and love of family and country were a constant presence during our youthful years. I remember well dad saying how vital it was to always be honest. Surely a wonderful quality to impress upon young minds and older ones too!

Dad used to call me ‘Blossom’ and I have happy memories of awaiting his coming home from work where he would allow us to ride on his back while he crawled around the living room floor, pretending to be some sort of large animal while we shrieked with excitement.

Every single year Dad marched on Anzac Day and we were just so very proud of him. Striding along, medals shining and thoughts no doubt filled with memories that we could not have even imagined.

This Anzac Day was honoured with equal reverence. Candles in the driveway, services watched on T.V., poppies on our jumpers, Anzac cookies on our plates and undoubtedly once again, unwavering memories in Dad’s thoughts.

This coming June 6<sup>th</sup> Dad will be celebrating 76 years of marriage to his wonderful and cherished wife Beryl who continues to be by his side in sickness and in health. Shortly after on June 28<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating dad’s 97th birthday.”

Mark Leonard shared his thoughts of his father “grit and determination to overcome challenges, forged from his ordeal as a castaway from the sinking of the Armidale, was demonstrated in his post-war life as an extraordinarily hard-working university student, and later through his career as a focused and disciplined professional. On a sub-conscious level, I witnessed this work ethic, particularly through my adolescent life, and found myself adopting the same attitude towards study and work.

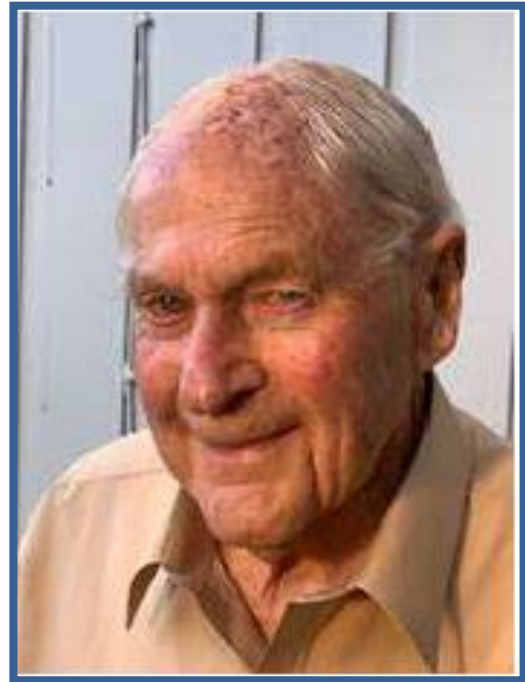
His love of the sea was another area that influenced my formative years.

After countless family days at the beach, I have found myself living much of my adult life near the ocean.

Luckily, I inherited his sea legs, which has served me well over the years with my various travels on turbulent oceans, making seasickness a non-issue. On such trips, I find myself outside on the deck, staring across the waves towards the horizon, and losing myself in the moment.

I cannot help but feel this affinity with the sea stems from Ray’s naval years.”

Paul Leonard shared with the Association “When I was young, Dad didn't talk about the war. I knew he had served on 3 warships, but it just wasn't discussed, and I instinctively knew why.



Ex Serviceman Ray Leonard, Age 96.

However, his skills as a Mariner became evident when he bought the family a very long wooden surfboard. This could aptly be called the Queen Mary of surfboards. It could accommodate the whole family; however, it would sink just below the surface, so it doubled as a submarine. With all the weight, it would roll over, throwing us into the water, so we just had to start climbing back on again laughing hysterically. We affectionately called our vessel 'The Plank'.

For many family trips to Port Phillip Bay, it brought us immense joy and fun and this is only one story of life with Ray Leonard.

In subsequent years, and with Frank Walker's book HMAS Armidale - 'The ship that had to die', there was much discussion and I grew to understand the depth of what Dad went through in WW2."

The Association would like to thank the Family Members of Ray Leonard for their contributions.

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## HMAS ARMIDALE DAY: A REPORT



Participants of the HMAS Armidale Day Service, at HMAS Stirling Chapel, Garden Island on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2019.

The day started with approximately 40 guests arriving at 1pm at HMAS Stirling Pass Office at the entrance to Garden Island Western Australia after receiving a positive response to initial expressions of interest for this, the inaugural Remembering HMAS Armidale service.

After signing in and each person given a pass, we were escorted onto the base by Public Affairs Officer, Mr Andrew Bujdegan. We drove in convoy to HMAS Stirling Chapel where we were met by Chaplain Kelvin Harris and special guest Commander Darren White, CO Collins Class Submarine HMAS Sheean.

The Chapel service was very moving. Various people read prayers, verses, and Bible readings as well as the names of the forty men who lost their lives on those fateful 2 days in December. The haunting sound of a Bugler standing at the back of the chapel playing the Last Post followed by, after one minute's silence, Reveille, brought home to all present, the solemnness of the occasion.



The Bugler during the Minute Silence, HMAS Armidale Day at HMAS Stirling Chapel.

After the service, guests walked to the HMAS Stirling Museum and were able to view the different historical items on display before making their way to Sir James Stirling Mess. The Mess overlooks Cockburn sound which is a view not many people outside the Navy get to see.

Afternoon tea was provided by Mess staff. There was plenty of food and a few speeches including one by President Angus Callander highlighting our Association Charter. Guests were then able to mingle, meet new friends, and reminisce about their ties with those onboard the HMAS Armidale.

The afternoon finished at approximately 5pm with everyone saying how pleased they had been to attend the service. It was an encouraging and positive day with much interest in establishing the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association.

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## 2022 PLANNING: THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HMAS ARMIDALE IN NSW

We are already investigating the requirements for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HMAS Armidale Commemorative Service to be held in Armidale New South Wales. The Association is reaching out to various organisations such as the City of Armidale (NSW), the Returned Service League (RSL), the Navy Association, and the local Member for Armidale (NSW) to provide the opportunity for a combined approach to organising this event.

The memories of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held in 1992 whereby 17 survivors were in attendance in a memorable and moving reunion, was an occasion that many cherish now.

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## LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Association at its most recent meeting has decided to call for members and in doing so have decided to set a fee of \$25 per person for membership for life thereby avoiding the annual process of issuing invoices and receipting funds. For this price, Members will receive a Membership Badge to the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association, and proceeds' will be used to fund the purchase of a Model of HMAS Armidale (1) to be donated to the Museum at HMAS Stirling. Funds from membership also assist the generation of Newsletters, Annual General Meetings and of course hosting Armidale Day to be held annually on December 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

Attached please find an Application Form to become a Life Member and we as an Association look forward to you or your acquaintances becoming Life Members.

To date we have a number of people, who have already joined, and the Association looks forward to having a number of people registered as Life Members to ensure the Association remains relevant and active. We look forward to having you as part of the Association.

## LIST OF HMAS ARMIDALE (I) PERSONNEL

The Association is in the process of establishing the State Birthplace for each person ,who served on HMAS Armidale and doing so the Association seeks assistance/information from relatives and friends of men ,who were on the Armidale on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 so this project can be completed. Once this project is completed a following project will be to establish which City, Town, or Suburb these men came from to provide not only each State but also each municipality with a connection to these brave men.

A further project will be also be initiated to establish where the Netherlands East Indies men came from and to investigate if any relatives of these men can be located.

Please email Peter Savill at [peterjune@bigpond.com](mailto:peterjune@bigpond.com) with any information you may be able to provide the Association

<b>HMAS ARMIDALE (I) ROLL CALL</b>	
<b>When HMAS Armidale sank, there were onboard:</b>	
Ship's Company	83
AIF	3
Dutch Army Officers	2
Dutch Native Troops	61
<b>TOTAL ON BOARD</b>	<b>149</b>

<b>KILLED IN ACTION, OR MISSING - BELIEVED KILLED</b>		
Name	Rank/Title	State Birthplace
<b>Officers</b>		
Buckland, James Reginald	Sub-Lieutenant, RANVR	
Jenkyn, Harry Ferrer Merrychurch	Engineer Lieutenant, RANR(S)	
<b>Petty Officers and Men</b>		
Anderson, William Robert	Telegraphist	
Axford, Stanley Don	Ordinary Seaman	
Baker, Bertram Henry	Assistant Steward	
Beard, Leslie Irwin	Able Seaman	WA
Beech, William Ralph	Able Seaman	
Burgess, Ernest	Stoker Petty Officer	
Coldwell, Donald	Signalman	
Currie, Joseph	Engine Room Artificer	
Evans, Alfred Grant	Stoker	

ENSURING THE LEGACY LEFT BY THOSE WHO FELL, IS REMEMBERED BY THOSE WHO ROSE AFTER THEM

Gay, Bernard Alford	Ordinary Seaman	
Gould, Raymond Arthur	Steward	
Harcourt, James Frank	Leading Stoker	
Hippisley, David Eric	Ordinary Seaman	
Holden, Denis	Engine Room Artificer	
Hopkins, Norman Frank	Ordinary Seaman	
Jensen, William	Telegraphist	
Kibble, Charles James	Leading Supply Assistant	
Knight, Arthur Peter	Stoker	
Luckman, William	Stoker	
MacVicar, James	Stoker	
Malone, Ernest Anthony	Stoker	
Meredith, Wilfred Bickford	Supply Assistant	
Mitchell, Keighley John	Ordinary Seaman	
McGarrigle, Ronald John	Stoker	
McMennemin, Raymond Edmund	Cook	
Paterson, Donald Howie	Ordinary Seaman	
Piesse, Edward Stanfield	Ordinary Seaman	
Quayle, Robert Allanson	Stoker Petty Officer	
Quigley, Maxwell Timothy	Able Seaman	
Reid, Harry Allan	Leading Stoker	
Rudland, Harry Eric	Ordinary Seaman	
Sanson, William Edwin	Ordinary Seaman	
Schrader, Harold Reginald	Able Seaman	
Sheean, Edward	Ordinary Seaman	TAS
Smith, Frederick Francis	Ordinary Seaman	
Trenbath, Keith William	Stoker	
Turner, Albert Benjamin	Ordinary Seaman	
Williams, William Brettingham	Leading Cook	

<b>SURVIVORS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank/Title</b>	<b>Birthplace/Residence</b>
<b>Motorboat</b>		
Richards, David Herbert	Lieutenant-Commander, RANR(S)	
Whitting, William George	Lieutenant, RANR(S)	
Maddox, Richard Donovan	Engine Room Artificer	
Higgins, Leslie Ingram	Motor Mechanic	WA
Davis, Raymond James	Petty Officer	
Lansbury, Arthur	Leading Signalman	
Nicholas, William Thomas Trew	Leading Stoker	
McKellar, William David	Able Seaman	
Duckworth, Jack	Able Seaman	
Cleland, Roy David	Able Seaman	
Barnes, Ronald	Able Seaman	
Williamson, Maxwell Joseph	Sick Berth Attendant	
Puckeridge, Charles Robert	Ordinary Seaman	
Morley, Edward George	Ordinary Seaman	
Lyndon, Louis Roy	Ordinary Seaman	
Millhouse, Eric Abbott	Able Seaman	
Cairns, Robert	Stoker	
<b>Whaler</b>		
Palmer, Lloyd George	Lieutenant, RANR	
Bool, Leigh Henry	Leading Seaman	
Pankhurst, Charles Henry	Leading Seaman	
Lamb, Douglas Hatton	Engine Room Artificer	
McKoy, Kenneth Leo	Leading Stoker	
Osborn, Phillip George	Stoker	
Arndell, Reginald Clarence	Stoker	
Raymond, Ray Beresford	Stoker	
Davies, David Roger Roland	Stoker	
Sanderson, Geoffrey Clive	Assistant Cook	
Robers, John Michael Dennis	Telegraphist	
Reedman, Denis Victor	Telegraphist	
Devlin, George Richardson	Signalman	

ENSURING THE LEGACY LEFT BY THOSE WHO FELL, IS REMEMBERED BY THOSE WHO ROSE AFTER THEM



Lamshed, William Noel	Wireman	
Pellet, Edward Keith	Able Seaman	
Prett, James Thomas	Able Seaman	
Caro, Russel Martin	Ordinary Seaman	
Parker, John Percival	Ordinary Seaman	
Leonard, Victor Raymond	Ordinary Seaman	
Lawson, Donald Raymond	Ordinary Seaman	
Madigan, Colin Frederick	Ordinary Seaman	
Read, William James	Ordinary Seaman	
Sim, Leonard Keith	Ordinary Seaman	
Webster, David Aburn	Ordinary Seaman	
Pullen, Donald Rex	Ordinary Seaman	TAS
Wilson, Ronald Charles	Ordinary Seaman	
Callander, Jack Warwick	Lance Corporal, AIF	VIC
Clarke, Lionel	Corporal, AIF	
Telley, Matthew	Corporal, AIF	VIC

## LIST OF NETHERLANDS EAST INDIA PERSONNEL

Nominal Roll (Surnames) of Dutch KNIL servicemen lost in HMAS <i>Armidale</i> (I)			
Amatkasmiri	Katas	Roeslan	Soewondo
Amatparodji	Keijser	Rossum, van	Soplanit
Amelaman	Kojongian	Sabar	Stoll
Anschütz	Kroedoek	Sadoen	Tamijs
Atmowirono	Lijtsman Piernbaum	Sajoeti	Teljeur
Bartman	Margés	Salamin	Toekiman
Bodel Bienfait	Mariman	Saleh	Towikromo
Dawoed	Marsidjan	Samoeedi	Tulenam
Dimjadi	Marsoekoet	Sardi	Verseput
Diran	Moeralin	Sarkoem	Vries, de
Djalil	Ngadeni	Sengkeij	Wagsakrama
Emping	Ngalimin	Soebardi	Wantania
Frank	Ngatidjo	Soekir	Wiriotijsso
Geurts	Pardjan	Soeratman	Wongsodinomo
Karmin	Pesaserun	Soeriredja	
Kasdi	Ranamedja	Soeroso	

LEST WE FORGET

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**LIFE MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION FORM  
FOR THE  
REMEMBERING HMAS ARMIDALE  
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

Name of Applicant:

Address of Applicant:

Postal address of Applicant:

Phone:	Fax:	Mobile:
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Email:

**Describe the nature of your interest in the Association and the historical ties you may hold to the HMAS Armidale.**  
(Please note that this information is for Association use only and will not be disclosed without your authorisation. This information will enable us to tailor your experience with the Association and provide the Committee with the context of your application.)

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**ASSOCIATION FEES**

Current Life-time Membership Subscription	\$25.00	Payable to: Account Name: Remembering HMAS Armidale Association BSB: 066-162 Account No.: 10796532 <b>Please use your Full Name as a Reference to ensure that your payment is easily identifiable</b>
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**DECLARATION**

Upon submission of this form and the Associations receipt of payment for Membership of the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc., I hereby authorise Remembering HMAS Armidale Association to enter my name in the Register of Members and promise faithfully to abide by the Rules of the Association.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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**A complimentary Membership Badge will be sent on approval of this membership application.**

Return of this Membership Form can be done via email at [jcallander3@bigpond.com](mailto:jcallander3@bigpond.com) or via post addressed to Angus Callander at:  
 PO Box 1605  
 Fremantle WA 6959



