



# The LISTENING POST

Volume 1 Issue 1

December '09 and  
New Year 2010

## CHRISTMAS SEASON 2009

The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia  
Inc.

Patron Maj Gen J C Hughes AO DSO MC

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### Special points of interest:

- \* AGM and SGM Meeting outline.
- \* DVA Update.
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This time of year is a time when we can look back on the past or look forward to what is to come. I see no point in looking backwards, the future is the most important for us all. The coming year will see the fund raising of the FESR memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra gather momentum and I urge you all to become involved in this endeavour. It will not be easy but most things that are worthwhile don't come easily, as the school of life has taught us all. Keeping in touch with the members is not always as easy as we would hope even in these days of

multiple means of comms. I encourage all members who are computer savvy to keep an eye on the NMBVAA web site and, if you feel so inclined, prepare a story, yarn, recipe or even a poem and send it to us so that this can be shared with many other interested parties on the web. The Richard Webber Trophy was forgotten in the hurly burly of '09 I think it was the turn of the UK to host it but anyway, it will be back on the agenda for 2010 so start getting a story together. Your memories are incredibly valuable as they are memories of our nation



T'was the night before  
Christmas and all around....

and need to be recorded for those who will only read of our exploits. Christmas and New Year are a time when we get together with family, friends and mates to celebrate and remember those no longer able to be near us. I wish all members and their families a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.  
Ian Davenport.

## National Annual General Meeting 2009

Reg Poole and the Victoria Branch hosted the AGM at the Stella Maris Mariner's Centre this year. The meeting opened at 1030 hrs and closed at 1250 hrs, those in attendance enjoyed a light luncheon afterwards. Thank you Reg,

and the Victorian members for your hospitality. After lunch, a Special General Meeting was held and several issues were discussed, the delegates from NSW and TAS were moved to walk out, and a report is available on

request, from NHQ, by email, post or, your Branch  
N.B. The AGM and SGM Minutes have been provided to all NMBVAA Inc Branches for distribution to financial members for their information and comments.

## Sandakan—Ranau Death March

The Australian Govt is spending \$40,000 to protect the new memorial site of the last camp on the Death March Route. It is where the last 15 of the POW's were murdered by the Japs, 12 days *after* the end of WW2. The memorial was dedicated on 27Aug09 as "The Last Camp" and is situated in the newly created



Lest We Forget

Memorial Park on land donated by Dr Othman Minudin, "to ensure this land is protected and preserved for many years to come". There were 2 Death Marches, and 2 POW's escaped from the first, and 4 from the second.

The courage and determination of these men in the face of the most severe and brutal adversity is inspirational

None of those 6 men are now alive.

The Japs murdered 1600 Australian and approximately 800 British POWs knowing full well that the war was over.

The memorials cared for in Sandakan by the locals are well worth visiting if the chance arises. The town is not yet commercialised and can be arrived at by air from KL, Singapore and Kota Kinabalu and road from KK. Sandakan airport has a huge stained glass mural. KK was formerly Jesselton.

## National Committee Members and Patron 2009—2010

### ***Patron:***

Maj Gen J C Hughes AO DSO MC

### ***National President:***

Ian Davenport ACT Branch

### ***National Vice President:***

Bill Adamson WA Branch

### ***National Secretary:***

Maureen Davenport ACT Branch

### ***National Treasurer:***

Terry O'Brien ACT Branch

### ***National Committee:***

Allen Edwards Qld/Brisbane Branch

Christine Selby ACT Branch

Brian Selby ACT Branch

Steve Toon SA Branch

### ***Letters to the Editor, send to:***

[brian.selby@virginbroadband.com.au](mailto:brian.selby@virginbroadband.com.au)

Members elected for the 2010 year.

## Remembrance Day 2009

11 November 2009, marked the 91st anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to end World War 1. This year the remains of 400 Diggers found in a mass grave at Fromelles have been re-interred in the AWG at last. The ceremonies in France at Villers-Bretonneux had special meaning for the families of the 11,000 Diggers with no known grave, and was attended by the Minister for

Defence, ADF personnel and groups from various schools, along with the winners of the SA State Premier's schools competition. NMBVAA Inc Branches in Brisbane and Perth attended official State services. Other Branches may have, however, at the time of writing, no official advice was available. All Australian troops who served in Iraq are now home. Our troops serving in Afghanistan, are



Ubique

In Harm's Way,  
every minute, of  
every day.

Andai  
Nya Kita  
Terlupa.

## Malaysia WAR MEMORIAL FUND RAISING

The first fund raising effort for the proposed War Memorial, dedicated to post WW2 Malaysia, has been undertaken in Victoria by members of FESR(RAN). The success is gauged by the \$12,000 raised, and future on-goings of \$225.00 per month, over a 2day period at Ringwood with IGA/Ritchie Community Benefit Cards. "We were not requesting donations, but such was the interest, and impact our presence had, dressed in ANZAC Day rig, that many, who could not take one of our cards, because of other current commitments,

made cash donations ".

The NMBVAA Inc is represented by Ian Davenport in ACT. Those members with fund raising ideas can fwd them to Ian directly for input to FESR. The memorial project is estimated to cost around \$3 million and will be sited near the other major memorials. As with all such



Christmas Wishes

projects, there are a lot of promises made.....

If you are genuine, and want it to happen—get the lead out and do something to assist the overall vision. The memorial will represent all members of the Australian Armed Forces who served in the prescribed areas of conflict.

## NMBVAA Inc State Contacts

### A C T Branch Secretary

02 6258 8988 Maureen Davenport

### QLD/Brisbane Branch Secretary

07 3396 6705 Laraine Edwards

### VICTORIA Branch Secretary

03 5952 1794 Ben Thurlow

### Melbourne Branch Secretary

03 9764 8051 Lawrie Wilson

### Bendigo Branch Secretary

03 5443 4803 Greta Basillie

### Gippsland Branch Secretary

03 5145 5461 John Larkin

### TAS/Hobart Branch Secretary

03 6229 6500 Lyn Miller

### S A Branch Secretary

08 8381 7488 Peter Doherty

### WA Branch Secretary

08 9295 5354

Bill Adamson

### NSW

02 6258 8988

Maureen Davenport

### N T

08 8381 7488

Peter Doherty

Local  
enquiries  
to your  
State  
Branch

## Letters to the Editor

As you all know, news of interest to associations, groups etc, is greatly enhanced when the members take the time, and contribute to the overall end result of the publication.

Articles can embrace any subject and are very welcome. They may include photos where possible, and may also be as topical as you wish.



Surprise !

We have to draw the line at anything that will be considered derogatory, malicious and, or, blasphemous. That does not necessarily include political correctness—there is a difference and, of course, the NMBVAA Inc is not responsible for such comments when/if, published. The plan is for 6 "Listening Posts" per calendar year. Your annual subs incorporate a \$5.00 portion for postage. Ed.

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We are on the Web

[www.nmbvaa.com](http://www.nmbvaa.com)



The NMBVAA Inc was established in Australia in June '95. There are Branches Australia-wide. All enquiries can be made to the National HQ in ACT. ORDINARY membership is open to former and currently serving Armed Forces personnel who have served in Malaya, Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, Singapore, East Timor, Timor/Leste, and with aligned Government departments or Ancillary services. ASSOCIATE membership is open to widows and family members of former, and currently serving personnel, as described above. The NMBVAA Inc is a fully accredited ESO with DVA and the RSL. Assistance is available at most Branches for DVA enquiries regarding Pensions and Welfare. All membership and assistance enquiries are welcome.

Andai Nya Kita Terlupa

## DVA Notes

DVA is undertaking some down sizing by consolidating services to central points in Sydney and Melbourne. No reductions in services are anticipated. These changes have been brought about, due in part, to the reduction in enquiries/needs in most states. The Federal Govt is continuing to provide the promised indexing of Service, TPI, EDA, War Widow/er and Carer Payments increases.

The Minister makes himself very clear and has overseen many projects, both in Australia and in Europe for new, and the refurbishing of existing Memorials.

If you have concerns about a member, or, acquaintance, the Dept has contact points in all Capital Cities and Regional areas. Your local NMBVAA Inc Branch is also able to assist.

## New Arrivals

Congratulations to Laraine and Allen Edwards in Brisbane on the recent arrival of another Great Grandchild, albeit, in Port Pirie, SA. The little one was only 3 weeks old when the 2 weeks of heat-waves blistered SA in November. Tough as.. like her great grand Pa !



G'day mate.

## Malaysia

Off the beaten track, in Perak state, there is a Christian Cemetery in Taiping, on Kamunting Road. The town is the site of a former BMH till handover to the Malaysian public system. In 2008, a letter from Mrs Lee-Ann Hayes in Perth re her uncle who was with 2RAR and KIA near there in 1955, saw a simple service in 2008 progress to a proper memorial service in '09 and the OAWG has been very quick to refurbish the graves there. The site also contains the graves of NZ and UK servicemen, and those of some dependents, from the Malayan Emergency. The parents of WA member, Arnold Fernandez, are buried there. It is hoped that a annual service can be held, and by reports, this may be achieved. The assistance from the Malaysian and Australian Armed Forces is much appreciated.