



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6

THE LISTENING POST

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

PATRON MAJ GEN JC HUGHES AO DSO MC

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The NMBVAA Inc National AGM was held in Brisbane on 11 September 2010, hosted by the Queensland Branch. The meeting included Skype comms with Tasmania and the SA & NT Branch. The debate regarding the review of the Constitution was deferred to allow further input from the Branches. The Minutes of the National AGM have been sent to all State Branches for members to read.

President's Report

NMC Meeting 16 Oct 2010 .

At the recent AGM in Brisbane, I concluded my address with the following words, "let's forget about the past, learn from our experiences and move on into a happier time". That is still how I see it and I am adamant that we will not rehash the past just to satisfy the ego or pedantic retribution demon-

strated by any individuals. Life is too short for such indulgences. We have many tasks to focus on including those on the agenda for this meeting. Let's get on with it. The Constitution Review was circulated and some proposed amendments were received. These were incorporated and circulated just prior to the AGM. It was agreed there was insufficient time to get the document into shape so it was not tabled at the AGM. We now need feedback from ALL of the states as soon as possible. Please do not send generalized comments, instead, if you have a particular section for alteration, rewrite it and submit it for consideration. The new admin instructions were also circulated and there have been no comments returned to my recollection. These were replace-

ments for the Bye-Laws and need to cover how we operate as a organized body. If you have an idea or process to add, please submit it. A late agenda item will cover the need to provide some funding for the Malayan War Memorial FESR admin costs. I commend this to you and hope that each State Branch will support National to raise \$1000.00 for this cause. We must come up with a way to ensure Army units are more involved with FESR and the NMBVAA Inc is seen as the Army representation in the project. Reg Poole, Victoria Branch President is the driver for this with support from all of us. With so many time zones it is impossible to set meeting times to suit everyone. Early agendas will be established to allow written input by those unable to attend hook-ups.

Ian Davenport.

MEET 'N' GREET MALAYSIAN CONSUL REMEMBRANCE DAY NEXT EDITION

The Malaysian Consul to SA, Mr Hassan Salleh, was a gracious Guest of Honour at a function held in the Combined Mess at ANZAC House on 23 Sep 2010. Other invited VIP guests, and the SA NT members in attendance, were able to meet the Consul and discuss some of the events in which they were personally involved with in Malaysia. *Ed.*

All Branches were actively involved with the 2010 Remembrance Day Services.

This year marks the 92nd anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to end WW1.



The November-December news letter will be published earlier than usual. If you have any items, messages etc to pass on, fwd them to the editor before the 15th December 2010 via your Branch.

MALAYSIAN REMEMBRANCES 2011

Some members may not be aware of the annual Multi-Remembrance Services held, usually in June, in Malaysia at Batu Gajah, Syed Putra and Taiping. These services have been held for many years, except for Taiping which is a recent addition, under the stewardship of the MPOA, the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, and with much support from the Malaysian Police and Armed Forces, the High

Commissions from Australia, NZ, India, Nepal and the UK. The NMBVAA Inc has always had representation and is a welcome member of the over-all services. Social activities include dining and free time during the traditional 5 days of events. The NMBVA Malaysia members host the NMBVAA Inc members and much appreciation goes to Yunus Ali and Fathol Bukhari both of whom are retired Malaysian Ranger officers.

Members are advised that the arrangements for the 2011 visit are being made and **as an indicator of your intent, forward your details to Maureen Davenport in HQ**, there will be a RSVP by date around end of April 2011 and contact details are shown on Page 4. Accommodation is first class at the Syuen Hotel in Ipoh, or, the Royal Ipoh Club for old world style. Rates and charges are very attractive for members. *Ian Davenport.*



NATIONAL LIAISON DUTIES

Malaysia & UK—

Ian Davenport.

NZ—Brian Selby.

FESR—Reg Poole.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AFGHANISTAN INJUSTICE

It has been decided to allow additional membership categories to be implemented in the NMBVAA Inc. The membership types are: **Social** and **Junior**. The changes are believed to be unique to the NMBVAA Inc and cutting edge for the ongoing good of all State Branches and State Sub-Branchees. There will be no voting rights with these categories. Annual subs can be set at Branch level. This is the opportunity for the younger generations to learn more.

The Australian Military Justice System is being vigorously examined for all present and future members of the Australian Military Forces. The decision to charge three soldiers for an incident in February 2009 has the potential to convince serving members to walk when the time comes, and secondly, deter hundreds of potential recruits from signing on. The report to move Military hearings to

a civilian court, with a civilian judge only, no jury, would also have never dreamt of effects on the way soldiers conduct peacetime and wartime conditions. It has already been said "We observe rules of engagement and are subject to rigorous scrutiny, the enemy is not, and is guilty of atrocities that are never resolved". There is a petition you can sign.

Go to: www.gopetition.com

WEB SITE DESIGN

Our web Master, Dave Barton, has commenced the task of reconfirming the NMBVAA Inc as the official ESO for the prescribed areas of service post WW2 and is delivering a very professional product that will remove any confusion caused by the fragments of information being touted as genuine by the lookalikes in some states. **Members are asked to contribute to the overall result by submitting ideas via your Branch asap.** Don't be shy !!

NATIONAL AND STATE AGM RESULTS 2010

The National and State Committees for 2011 are:

NHQ

President Ian Davenport

Vice Pres Reg Poole

Sec Maureen Davenport

Treasurer Terry O'Brien

Committee Ken Miller

and Branch Presidents

ACT

President Ian Davenport

Sec Maureen Davenport

Treasurer Rex French

Committee Brian Hughes

Queensland

President Allan Edwards

Vice Pres David Brewer

Sec Lorraine Edwards

Treasurer Judith Barham

Committee John Balabouhin

Ron Virgen Peter Lucas

Victoria

President Reg Poole

Vice Pres Peter Dodd

Sec Ben Thurlow

Treasurer Frank Marett

Committee John Larkin

Des Oldis

Tasmania

President Vern McTye

Vice Pres Ken Miller

Sec Lyn Miller

Treasurer Barb Challenger

Committee Marg Hughes

Roger Carter

SA & NT

President Brian Selby

Vice Pres Don Cameron

Sec Leonie Hughes

Treasurer Jenny Cameron

Committee Deidre Nelmes

Bob Nelmes

Vern McTye

Ken Miller

Lyn Miller

Barb Challenger

Marg Hughes

Brian Selby

Don Cameron

Leonie Hughes

Jenny Cameron

Deidre Nelmes

Andy Buckingham

Western Australia

President Bill Adamson

Vice Pres Graeme Woodford

Sec Bill Adamson

Treasurer Terry Deecke

Committee Hugh Ritchie

Gary Burgoyne Michael Kelly

NSW is administered by ACT.

Page 4 lists Branch contact details.

OLD JUNGLE SOLDIER AND THE SAKAI

In the year 2008, I attended a pre-surgery medical exam. The two doctors carrying out the examination were from Malaya. I asked them if they knew the town of Ipoh in the state of Perak, to which the reply was "Yes, we have relatives there". I told them of my military service there during the Malayan Emergency. The reason for describing it as an "emergency" was purely

financial because Lloyds of London would meet claims of civil commotion but not acts of War. The conflict would go on for 12 years. During the conversation, I asked about the Sakai and the answer was "Oh yes, there are very few of them now, they are being forced out of the jungle and civilized". I found this remark to be very irritating, and that these professional men

should make such an audacious remark about these indigenous people.

The Sakai, the true jungle dwellers of Malaya, consist of scattered aboriginal tribes, have their own language, are hunter gatherers, grow some crops and have done so for centuries. These indigenous people were terrorized by the CT's, or killed, if they did not supply food to the CT's.



MERDEKA MONUMENT
KUALA LUMPUR

AND THE SAKAI CONTINUED ...

The Security Forces then had the job to protect these tribes people, a task carried out mainly by the SAS, and through the Hearts and Minds strategy, were able to win over the Sakai.....and in return, given priceless intelligence about the CT's. They were also recruited as trackers and were a valuable asset in the fight against the terrorists. It is a shame to hear what is happening to these indigenous people and how much their habitat

is being logged, cleared and cultivated with palm oil plantations.

And these dwindling tribes will eventually disappear.

Arthur Seddon, Melbourne.



MALAYA VETS

Did you serve with Australian or Allied Armed Forces between 1948–1960 in the Malayan Emergency, or 1962–1966 in the Indonesian Confrontation or post 1966 on the Peninsular ?
Sign On Now
by contacting your nearest Branch. Details on pg 4.

EXPERIENCE DOES IT

The rumour mill was almost correct regarding the housing of illegal's in Army billets. The announcements placing these illegal's in Inverbrackie SA, and in WA at Northam, have created heated responses from locals in Woodside, SA, township. 16 AD Regt RAA is adjacent to Inverbrackie which was the Army married quarters precinct. Fix cost is hundreds of thousands of \$.

A massive Container ship had been stranded in a rarely frequented northern hemisphere port for days due to the engines failing to start. A venerable old sailor was located who may be able to fix the problem. He did. After careful examination of the fuel system he used a small hammer to tap a particular fuel line and the engines started. The bill was \$2.95 for his time..... and \$9,997.05 for knowing where to tap !!

Chee Woh

WEB SITE

Members are advised that the lookalike web site , www.nmbvaa.com is no longer a valid web site.

A completely new site has been established for the NMBVAA Inc .
www.nmbvaa.org.au

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL WEB SITE FOR OUR ASSOCIATION

Banyak bagus !!

Ian Davenport



**ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO**

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**THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO
VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED
ESTABLISHED JUNE 1995**



WHEN are you going to let us
know if you are going to NZ for
ANZAC Day 2011 ?

Contact your Branch for the
official pro-forma to register your
details.



Ok.....slight problem here !
Dyslexia is possible ?

State Secretaries :

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Foot Note: We gratefully
acknowledge the office of
Dr Andrew SOUTHCOTT MP
for printing this National
News Letter. Terima kasih.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DID YOU KNOW that 86% of
Australia's electricity (needs)
is provided by burning coal ?
On a per capita basis, we,
Australia, are the world's
greatest polluter for electric-
ity usage/production.
The argument against using
solar, wind and wave power,
particularly solar power, is
not feasible any longer. We
have some of the best tech-
nology, the largest areas for
research and utilization of
solar power on the planet.
Germany in spite of the
weather patterns of Europe,
is the leader for solar usage
in the world. **TPI News**

On the other hand, **Canada**
has the world's largest re-
serves of oil sands which
contain more oil reserves
than Saudi Arabia. The only
problem(s) is that the pollu-
tion created to produce a
single barrel of oil by this
method has catapulted
Canada onto the top of the
wazza as the world's worst
nation for polluting, and
habitat destruction ! The
area destroyed so far equals
the size of Spain. The wast-
age of clean water with this
refining is in the millions of
litres per day... back into the
Canadian landscape !!

Australia is grappling with
the concept and implemen-
tation of an Emissions Trad-
ing Scheme, the **ETS**. We've
all heard and seen the false
starts so far, the accord in
Stockholm was a farce, now
the government is to-ing and
fro-ing every day. We are no
closer to a decision than we
were 5 years ago. Across the
ditch, the **Kiwis** are well
advanced, they've bitten the
bullet and know that costs
will increase. They are imple-
menting some carbon offset
prices, particularly in the
livestock grazing areas and
are breeding sheep accord-
ingly. **Science Today**



The NZ projects are aiming
to breed a new strain/line of
sheep that will reduce meth-
ane emissions by up to 20 %
per animal which will trans-
late into thousands of tonnes
of "gas" per year not rising.
Where are WE at ?