



# THE LISTENING POST

Incorporating the SA & NT Branch news letter "THE OBSERVATION POST"...

THE ONLY OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NMBVAA INC.....



2014, 50th

Anniversary of  
Embarkation

**COURAGE**

**MATESHIP**

**PRIDE**

NATIONAL PATRON MAJ GEN J C HUGHES AO DSO MC  
SA & NT BRANCH PATRON DR ANDREW SOUTHCOTT MP

APRIL - MAY 2014



## Notices

### VALE

Mrs Jan Hughes (RAR)  
Ron Zwar OAM (POW)  
Trevor Taylor RAN  
John Franklin RAN  
LtCol Mike Dennis MBE

### HOSPITAL

RSM Noel Smith RAR  
Nick Mason-Jones RAA  
Allan Davies JP RAA

### CONGRATULATIONS

Jenny & Don Cameron  
Marian & Joe Kelly  
Clive Dubois

for the excellent result  
with the inaugural BBQ  
at Bunning's Modbury.

23 April BBQ at  
Modbury with Clive,  
Barb & Peter Taylor,  
Sharon & Ansel  
Mathews Jenny & Don  
Cameron and Brian  
Selby was a huge fund  
raiser result. Results to  
date are over  
\$1000.00 banked.....

## MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Selamat pagi All,  
We are now well into the New  
Year with of course, the most  
important event of the year,  
ANZAC Day now behind us.  
It is worth to know that our mer-  
chandise officer, Ron Lees, has  
berets that can be purchased;  
they look good when worn at  
functions. If you want one let Ron  
know. We now look forward to  
our day on 29 August.  
As we move through the year, we  
need to seek out those members  
who could be members, talk to

your local RSL to see if there are  
any members who served in  
Malaya in the 60s, 70s and 80s.  
A lot do not know they could be  
members and some being  
younger, will enable the NMBVAA  
Inc to move into the future with a  
stable membership.  
If we do not do this, history will  
take it's course over the next 20  
years, or so. I find that younger  
Australians want to know more  
about our military history and  
they like to talk to veterans, so,  
let us all try to build our numbers.

This year, some of you may have  
attended the 50th Anniversary of  
Embarkation in Sydney . A very  
significant event.  
For those going to Malaysia later  
this year — enjoy the trip.

We are still looking for items to be  
displayed in the Shrine of Remem-  
brance in Melbourne, in particular,  
the Indonesian Confrontation.  
Please contact me if you have any-  
thing you are willing to loan for a  
two year period.  
All the best.

Owen Marshall

## Annual Werribee pre-ANZAC Day Commemoration



Ben Thurlow Ron Lee  
Lawrie Wilson



A fine body of Troops  
represented Victoria at the  
annual Werribee march



Bruce Lovett Trevor Kellett  
Doug Patterson

## CONDOLENCES

### VALE

Members are advised of the passing of Mrs Jan Hughes after a long battle  
with illness.

Sympathy and condolences are extended to Maj Gen Jim Hughes AO DSO MC  
and family.

NMBVAA Inc

## Points of Interest...

- Rejoining the Branch?
- General Info Details
- RAAF Butterworth  
Closure advice
- "Mostly Unsung" .....
- Veterans' SA
- ANZAC Day pics

**"MOSTLY UNSUNG"****LONG TAN**

**LTCOL Neil Smith AM (Ret)** is the author of many publications that are specific to Australian military engagements, including the two **undeclared post WW2 Malayan Wars**. Members are able to order copies of these books directly in single, or, multiples and they are a definitive record of the places and times which are still clouded and hardly known by other than the personnel there. Neil was an officer with 8RAR in Viet Nam,

and his book *"Nothing Short of War"* is a full account of the tour and deployment to Sarawak during the Indonesian Confrontation including many pics and the nominal rolls for \$40.00. To order your copies, write to; LTCOL Neil Smith AM  
LPO Gardenvale  
Box 7020  
BRIGHTON VIC 3186  
Ph: 03 9555 5401  
E: [milhis@alphalink.com.au](mailto:milhis@alphalink.com.au)

**UPDATE.....the recent pics** that appeared on the internet of the complete removal of the acres of rubber trees surrounding the Long Tan Cross site caused a lot of angst. The actual reason for the removal has been clarified by the owner of the plantation. The trees were very old and had been damaged by storms over time, so, a renewal program with new trees is in progress that will rejuvenate the whole site.....

**DEPT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS****WHY?**

**Senator**, the Hon Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, has announced the establishment of a new PMAC i.e. Prime Ministerial Advisory Council, with a renewed focus on veteran mental health. VADM Russ Crane AO CSC RAN (Ret) is the Chairman. Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG is the Vice Chair. PMAC was established in 2008 and has evolved today to focus on issues of former service personnel, post 1975, and their families and including currently serving members.

The new PMAC will consist of expert mental health practitioners, ADF members, the veteran community and industry members. *The Government is determined to prioritise the mental health care of veterans and their families, now and into the future.* The Prime Minister and Senator Ronaldson welcome the incoming PMAC members and thank the outgoing members for their contributions to the veteran community. Further inquiries can be made to Brad Rowsell by phone at 02 6277 7820. **DVA**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY**

The identifying title for Artillery units was redefined by Defence a couple of years ago; the previous terms of "Field", "Medium" were removed and Artillery Batterys are now simply called Batterys e.g. 8/12 Medium Regt is now 8/12 Regiment. Other Regiments are now 1 Regiment, 4 Regiment and 16 Air Land Regiment. Former Field Batterys are Batterys. 102 (Coral) Bty has relocated to Darwin after having settled in at Edinburgh SA only about two years ago..... **AMOS**

**DVA****SA LEGAL ADVICE****??!!****PENSION RATES****Commencing on 3 April, 2014**

the new fortnightly rates for DVA benefits will be as follows:

Single Service Pen	\$ 842.80
Couples Service Pen	\$1270.60
War Widows	\$ 856.20
Income Support	\$ 252.40
TPI Special Rate	\$1293.20
Intermediate Rate	\$ 877.80
EDA	\$ 714.20
General Rate 100%	\$ 459.60

All enquiries should be directed to your local DVA office.... **DVA**

**Members requiring legal advice**, or, representation for any matters of personal, commercial and criminal instances will receive the first 30 minutes of any consult *Free of Charge*. You should have the problem (s) sorted logically and ready for discussion to get the most out of the consult and then decide the next course of action. Kris Hanna is a Barrister and Solicitor with years of legal experience, including as the Independent Member for Mitchell till 2010. Ph: 08 8410 7878 and email to [khannalegal@gmail.com](mailto:khannalegal@gmail.com)

**"Abandon ship".....!!!?"****Whatcha makin'?****SA & NT MEMBERSHIP**

In addition to **Ordinary Membership**, our Branch includes..

**Associate Membership** for Family and friends over 18 years of age.

**Social Membership** for those interested in joining and helping us, and also **Junior Membership** for family and friends under 18 years of age.

**Ordinary membership** is for ex-service personnel, and those currently serving in the ADF, who have served in the prescribed areas during WW2, the 1948-1960 Malayan Emergency, the 1962-1966 Indonesian Confrontation, all service post 1966 to the present day, and **RIFLE Coy Butterworth**  
**Annual fees are:**  
**\$20.00** Ordinary, Associate and Social.  
**\$15.00** RAR subs.  
**\$5.00** Junior members.

Those already members of the RAR Association do not pay the above subs of **\$15.00**, nor do Juniors. Everyone is very welcome to join us and enjoy the functions..... **Ed.**

Don't bring a bat to a Gun Fight ... **MW**

**Witnessed late** one night in Sai Gon....  
**"Gimme five son"** and that's when it was **too late** to barter.... **KH**

## FORMER SA & NT MEMBERS.....

At this time, the rumours that some former members wish to rejoin the SA & NT Branch of the NMBVAA Inc are yet to be confirmed. There has been no direct contact to the SA & NT President, and the consensus reached by the SA & NT Executive is that any former member is welcome to apply to rejoin, subject to the NMBVAA Inc Constitution, 2nd Edition, Rule 11. The final decision for any acceptance is that of the Executive members.

## DIARY DATE

The 2014 Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day service in SA will be conducted on **Friday, 29 August**, in the War Memorial Gardens at Hilton and the After the Service function at Hilton RSL, as is our tradition. 604 Sqn AAF will provide the Catafalque Party and this year, Dave Kearns will be the OIC with the assistance of the RAR SA. Dave can be contacted at 08 8252 2819 and email daveandberyk@hotmail.com

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

The detail included for the 50th Anniversary Tour to The Peninsula and Sarawak is almost the last chance to join the party. We have excellent contacts at the Sarawak Tourism Board and received confirmation that our wishes to visit Bau and Stass, as well as other sites, will be ok. The tour party will arrive in Kuching on 2 Sep from KL and be staying at the Kuching Hilton till 8 Sep. Some will be going to Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu as well. Contact Sharon at *helloworld* travel to book your passage; 08 8358 1949... Formerly Harvey World Travel....

## 50th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Former members of 3RAR, 4RAR and 111 Bty RAA are advised that **the cut off date** for responding to the tour to the Peninsula and Sarawak in August-September is set as **Friday, 11 July 2014.**

The broad itinerary, travel and accommodation details have been sent to all Branches.

There are three elements to the tour; early trip to Penang, the Ipoh-Taiping stay and the Kuching reunion with former Iban Trackers and Royal Malay Ranger soldiers who worked with 3 RAR and 4 RAR.

Those making the tour will be able to visit Batu Caves, Cameron Highlands, Bau, Stass, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu as some ideas.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, 24 May, 2014, at 1100 hrs, the 50th anniversary of the embarkation by 111 LAA Bty RAA, 7 Field Sqn RAE, 42 Tpt Pl RAASC & 5 Sqn RAAF on board HMAS Sydney 111 R17 was commemorated at HMAS Kuttubul, Garden Island, near where HMAS Sydney was tied up. The ceremony was hosted by the RAN, including the RAN Band and Chaplain. ARMY provided the Catafalque Party from

145 Signals Sqn RASignals. VIP's included Chief of Navy, VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC, MAJGEN Mike Slater AO DSC CSC, GPCAPT Carl Newman RAAF, Sen the Hon. Michael Ronaldson Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Malaysian Head of Post Sydney, and Defence Advisers from Canberra. The after the service refreshments were at the City of Sydney RSL.

The Meet n Greet was also at the City of Sydney RSL on Friday evening and during this function, the ABC interviewed several members and wives at both sites. The Commemoration Dinner was held at Rose Bay RSL on Sunday evening. Presentations were made to Capt J P Stevenson, the Sydney skipper and to the HMAS Sydney Association.



Bac Son Valley, Viet Nam



Terraced rice fields, China

## SA & NT Notes

The first Branch meeting for 2014 was held on 21 Feb at Hilton RSL. Minutes of the meeting are published on the Association website in the SA & NT sub-menu. The members present were clearly in favour of the return to Hilton RSL and appreciate the use of the club kitchen and bar facilities. The after meeting lunch venue at West Adelaide Football Club has been booked for those members who wish to have lunch. The menu is very well priced and has a good

choice of items to select from. Parking is not problem with off street facilities well placed. Members not able to attend meetings, but, able to join the mob for lunch are very welcome. The lunch booking is in the name of the SA & NT Branch for 1.00 PM on the third Friday of each month, except public holidays. Also, if members are unable to attend meetings and have something for discussion, send it to Brian Selby asap.....

Members are asked to put a few hours aside to help with the major fund raising in place for the Branch. The first of the bbq's was a great success. Thank you to Joe and Marian Kelly, Clive Dubois and Jenny and Don Cameron for your efforts. Nett profit was over \$300.00. Unused drinks will reduce the outlay needed for the next bbq on 19 April.....*Bagusla*.....



Don, Joe Kelly and Jenny at the inaugural fund raiser bbq at Bunning's Modbury. Joe cooked all day and has now taken the title of **"Chief Bait Layer."** .....Terima kasih..





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All original pics and documents will be returned to the sender.....  
**Ed.**

**NOTICE**

The closure of the former RAAF Base Butterworth, now RMAF, has been advised. The site will be redeveloped as a housing and resort complex by a Malaysian conglomerate.



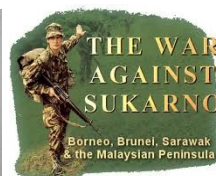
"Stand To"



Bukit Knuckle base



Poster boy..



Fire Base "Senam"

**ASSOCIATION AIMS**

**COMRADESHIP** for those who served in Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei, the MALAYAN EMERGENCY, the INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION.

**To ASSIST** members in times of need.

**To REMEMBER** with Pride, Respect and Gratitude, those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the line of duty and to ensure those who fell are represented on ANZAC Day in Australia and Remembrance Day abroad.

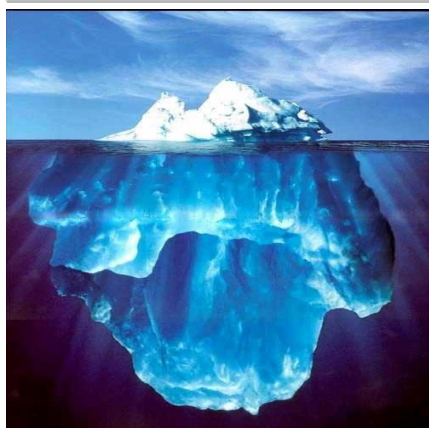
**To PROMOTE** the Association and its Aims.

**To STRENGTHEN TIES** with Malaysia and Singapore.

**To Hold** a Annual Reunion.

**THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

**NOTES AND PICS**



This pic was taken off the coast of New Foundland where the 'bergs are so large that they have to be towed away due to the probability of smashing into oil rigs. The estimated weight is 3,000,000 tons. The conditions that allowed this pic to be taken are extremely rare...calm sea, clear sky and full overhead sun.....**DS**

**Did you know....?**

Bureaucrats have created some of the most incredibly unnecessary double speak dialogue in recorded history

E.g.

Pythagoras' Theorem is 26 words..

The Gettysburg Address is 286 words..

The Lord's Prayer is 66 words..

Archimedes' Principle is 67 words..

The 10 Commandments are 179 words..

**EU Regulations** on the Sale of CABBAGES is 26,911 words !!

**Fido**

**SA & NT Members** note that the lunches after the Branch meetings are booked for 1.00pm at West Adelaide Football Club...



Back in '67....

Ed Keane, "Legs" Denman & Dick Tester at Cameron Highlands  
Photo courtesy Ed and Dickie

Printed with Best Wishes from Dr Andrew Southcott MP  
Federal Member for Boothby and SA & NT Branch Patron



**Sign for burglars.....**

**THE OWNER IS A VETERAN, HAS A GUN, AND, REFUSES TO TAKE HIS MEDICATION.....**

**And the dog is a maniac too..**

**Try if you must fool.**