

The LISTENING POST.....

DECEMBER 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER OF THE NMBVAA INC



VALE.....

HOSPITAL ...

Aileen Ryan
Di Davies
Bill Hanson

R A P...

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Nelmes

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From HEADQUARTERS

Selamat datang , apa kabah?

It is now two months since I accepted the honour of being elected as the National President and I have spent that time familiarizing myself with what has happened in the past and getting to know various people in the Association.

I thought in my first message to members I thought it would be appropriate to let you know what I intend to try and achieve in the year ahead.

There is of course, much to do, however, five main tasks are paramount in my head, and they are;

- To seek public awareness of the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation. These campaigns were not only of significant historical military importance, but, a telling story of mateship, courage and sacrifice by so many personnel.

- To support the recruitment of more members to the Association, in particular, the younger generation of veterans who are eligible to join. If we do not encourage this, the association over time, will be the loser.

- To seek corporate support to enable more benefits to be provided to our members.

- To work to a common bond between all veterans of the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation eras.

- To do what I can to assist with the raising of funds towards the Memorial in Canberra.

To do this we need to cover the following:
Who we are
What we did
What we want
How business can help.

Put it all in a Corporate folder and sell it to big business.

What I also want is to seek out ideas from you, the members of the NMBVAA Inc.

What you expect from the National Committee and how we can go from strength to strength?

Well, enough of business for now.....

I want to take this opportunity from the National Committee to wish you, your families and friends,

Merry Christmas
And a
Happy New Year in 2012

Terima kasih.
Regards,

Owen Marshall

Senator Michael Ronaldson.....

Senator Ronaldson is the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs. He has been conducting face to face Veterans Forums in all States and Territories to find out first hand, just what is not happening for ESOs, former ex-service personnel and their families, including widows. There is a major cut to DVA and BEST Funding commencing now which will have a detrimental effect to the training of ESO volunteers to become Welfare Officers and Pensions Officers. ESOs can also expect

to not have grant approvals agreed to and the number of funding rounds has been reduced to only two per year now. The reasons given by the Labor govt are less than satisfactory and in light of the wastage being exposed in many Govt depts, smacks of hypocrisy all over. The debacle being played out over indexation for DFRBD is high on the list of things to be fixed when the Government is changed.....the stopping of the agreed amendments to DFRBD, and turncoat damage

done by the Greens and the Independents, in particular Senator Xenophon, will be overturned.

Senator David Fawcett SA, and Senator Ronaldson, have committed to ensuring this long standing injustice will be fixed. The Harmer Report is now considered to be a debacle. It is not too hard to say "We told you so".....

VCBS is undertaking a massive review of the services provided to all veterans and families.....

Continued next page.....



VICTORY PARADE
3Bn RAR
Colour Party
Kuala Lumpur
August 1960



VICTORY PARADE
39 Field Ambulance RAMC
Kuala Lumpur
August 1960

Members are requested to fwd any pics with a description regarding their service during the Emergency and the Confrontation. All originals will be returned.



From the Branches

In Victoria, a set of 4 brass Memorial plaques to commemorate the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation is being dedicated and mounted on the Memorial Wall at Briagolong RSL. The RSL has assisted with funds to complete the task.
Well done. *L..Wilson*

The SA NT Branch Ceremonial Padre's Stole was Consecrated by the SA NT Padre, Capt Quentin Castle on Sunday, 4 Dec at the Salvation Army Greenwith.

It's official. All former British Forces personnel eligible to wear the PJM may now have it mounted to wear amongst the other campaign medals issued for service in the Indonesian Confrontation. It has been accepted as a legitimate foreign award by the British MoD, finally. *MoD UK —*

SA NT Branch end of year Meeting and BBQ is at TPI House on 9 Dec. Stephanie Key MP representing the SA Minister for Vet Affairs attending. TPI members are the "bait layers" on the day. Merry Christmas to all.

Leonie Hughes, Don Cameron and Brian Selby attended the SA DVA Christmas drinks function on 5th Dec at Blackburn House. The Guest of Honour was Maj Gen Michael Kelly, Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs.

Deano Ryan has retired as the TIP Co-ordinator for DVA SA. His replacement is John Cadd. He had a *Letter to The Editor* published in The Advertiser on Mon 5/12/11 which pulled no punches regarding the hypocrisy shown to DFRBD, TPI, Service pensions and Labors "We can't afford it".



continued...Senator Ronaldson.....Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Amongst the services under review is that of the ridiculous After Hours, read that as 1700 hrs, lack of direct professional assistance to the TIP trained members who are dealing with a person under some mental trauma. At present, the only alternative is to use (a) local hospital facilities, which in most (all) cases cannot handle the veteran community needs. At this time, VVCS cannot speak directly to the person in need of support, it must be through a third party, due to the absurd Privacy Act rules !!

Other items on the agenda for changing include; The removal of any doubt about the future of DVA. It seems that "some one" has suggested that, cop this, CentreLink could take over from DVA.....wont happen amigo!!

Access to ex-service personal records by parties other than family has been abused, and in some cases used in a malicious endeavour to discredit former service personnel. A new regime will require those persons wanting information to declare intentions and be subject to legal liability if breached.

The ANZAC Centenary board has proposed a plan to spend < >\$20mil on a "Peace and Harmony Centre" in Albany WA, as a memorial to the First AIF. There is already a \$multi million facility there specifically for the purpose of WW1 embarkations. The growing objections have let it be known that the \$20mil would be better used to build Memorials around Australia, in the places where none exists, and to refurbish those that are in need of such work. And to extend that further, build gardens to enhance the existing sites. In all practicality, how many people would, or, can visit Albany ?

Inside Story Headline

Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day has now been established as the 31st August annually to be observed with similar services around Australia. Grants are available through DVA to aid with defraying of the costs associated with holding the event. A suggestion has been put by Reg Poole that a theme, e.g. "*Operation Termite*" could be considered as the focus of the main address for 2012. The idea is open for comment. Another suggestion is that there needs to be two themes to ensure that both the

Malayan Emergency and The Indonesian Confrontation are spoken about on the day.

Other possible topics are; "*The Pipeline Ambush*" from the Emergency and "*Operation Claret*" from the Confrontation.

It is also not out of the question for unit deployments to be added to the mix on the day, to add a touch of actuality and focus. The 2012 New Year is not far away.....it wont be long before ANZAC Day is here and all of a sudden, 31 August has got into the picture....PPPPPP applies to make it happen smoothly.

Some suggestions to get a lot of things signed off are;
VIP invitations and replies...
Seating and overhead cover...
PA system...
Speech content....
Order of Service...
Catafalque Party...
Wreath and Tribute directive..
Music...live or recorded...
Refreshments for After...
Venue for After the Service...
Costs associated with... and
Funding amounts from DVA and sponsors....
There are many other points that need to be covered, not the least being delegation of tasks and responsibilities....
Bagus.

MEMBERSHIP

In addition to the **ORDINARY** category, there are others that cater to the eligibility of non-service persons who wish to be part of the NMBVAA Inc.

ASSOCIATE membership is for family members over 18 years of age.

SOCIAL membership is for those interested in joining and helping us.

JUNIOR membership is for Family and Friends of members under 18 years of age.

ORDINARY membership is for ex-service personnel, and those currently serving, who have served in the prescribed areas during WW2, the 1948-1960 Malayan Emergency, the 1962-1966 Indonesian Confrontation and all service, post 1966, on the Malayan Peninsula, to the present.

ANNUAL FEES for all categories are set at Branch level and are payable on joining, then annually on 1 January.

In South Australia, the fees include membership of the RAR Association of SA.

In Victoria there are sub-Branches in Melbourne, Bendigo and Gippsland.

There are regular Branch meetings held at various venues in each state. Social activities include bbqs, some travel/tours and several other formal functions.

Membership enquiries can be made to the listed details on Page 4 of this news letter.

Lateral thinking.....

Talk about "Out of the Square". Christmas and New Year in the Western world sees the amount of personal funds expended on presents and catering, go through the roof in a manner of speaking. The great majority of the money is used to purchase items that have been manufactured overseas due to the closure of businesses in Australia....we all know that, and the chain of profit no longer remains in Australia. It is also true that in some cases, the quality of these goods is excellent and good

value for money.

A very thought provoking idea has been launched, aimed at the type of gifts given to adults, which in some cases may not be liked, or, wanted. It has been proposed that, instead of spending your money on gifts that have no long term benefit to Australia, have a think about giving a Gift Voucher to Mum for a *House Spring Clean* from a professional cleaning company, or, give Dad a voucher for a *Car Detailing service*. There are many types of "Vouchers" these days for this sort

of unexpected, and very practical thing. Other ideas include *Garden Cleanups*, a *Dinner and Show*, *Concert tickets*, *Magazine subscriptions*, *Beauty treatment*... The great thing about these, and the idea overall, is that the money stays here and helps to keep local businesses going with employment, and other goods and services in the supply chain. It is time we took stock of what has been lost and looked after our own pockets for a change. Any other

RSL Notes

A **major controversy** has now commenced due to the apparent lack of consultation, by the National RSL executives, for the RSL to be partners in supporting, and signing off on a MoU agreement. A "Memorandum Of Understanding" between Australia and Viet Nam. The MoU would be signed by the former Viet Cong and NVA members and other Australian groups, including the RSL. The unprecedented backlash from ESOs, the VVA and the VVF, has

included calling for the resignation of the National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan. There is no precedent for such a move... however, could you imagine signing a like document with the Taliban at a later date? Some RSL members have threatened to relinquish their membership over the issue. Our only surviving VC recipient from SVN, Keith Payne VC, is at the head of the **NO** move. Another red hot article suggests *ALL RSL Presidents* should resign.

Christmas Care Package donations have been agreed to for despatch to ADF personnel serving o'seas. This has come about after enquiries from the general public and community based organisations made it known that there was a desire to make items available to the troops. All details necessary to send parcels are available at; defence.gov.au/christmas/mail

LtCol Rosenberger



ON THIS DAY.....DECEMBER

BRANCH CONTACTS

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Pictures for inclusion should be emailed in
jpg format. Original pics will be returned.

- 1 1942** HMAS *Armidale* sunk near Timor.
- 1 1951** 775qn RAAF engage 50 Mig 15s at Sunchon.
- 2 1914** First Australian aircraft deployed to Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and later captured at the fall of Kut in 1916.
- 3 1914** 1st AIF arrives in Egypt.
- 4 1990** RAN assigned to the first Gulf war.
- 5 1950** Evacuation of Chinnampo, Korea begins.
- 7-20 1915** Evacuation of Gallipoli begins without loss.
- 7-8 1941** Japs attack Pearl Harbour Hawaii.
- 7 1941** Japs invade Thailand, Malaya and Penang.
- 8 1941** Australia declares war on Japs. In the next 3 years, 8000 Australian PoWs died in Japanese hands.
- 9 1917** Desert Mounted Corps occupies Jerusalem.
- 9 1997** Ted Matthews, the last Australian survivor of the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 died.
- 10 1941** HM Ships *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* sunk.
- 11 1941** Germany and Italy declare war on the US.
- 11 1944** 9Bn AIF capture "Arty Hill" Bouganville.
- 21 1916** Aust Light Horse capture El Arish.
- 24 1941** Benghazi recaptured.
- 26 1941** Japs capture Hong Kong.
- 27 1943** 7 Div AIF capture "Shaggy Ridge" New Guinea.

ADELAIDE...

Don Cameron
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BRISBANE...

Laraine Edwards
07 3396 6705

CANBERRA...

Maureen Davenport
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HOBART...

Lyn Miller
03 6229 6500

MELBOURNE...

Ben Thurlow
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PERTH and SYDNEY...

Owen Marshall
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NHQ

Owen Marshall
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ASSOCIATION AIMS

COMRADESHIP for those who served in Malaya, Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Ubon, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei and Timor during WW2, the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and since those campaigns.

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 overseas.

To PROMOTE the association and its Aims.

To STRENGTHEN ties with Malaysia and Singapore.

CONFUCIUS said.....

Smile at your foes.

It will drive them to
distraction !!

AROUND THE GUNS.....AND OP's.....

Duty of Care is a pillar of the rules of engagement for all civilian jobs. How can it be that this fundamental right is totally ignored in the ADF? If you do not already know, listen up. There are Australian soldiers who have had more than 5 tours of duty in Afghanistan. In some cases, some have spent 5 years on deployment !! By any measure, this is *beyond* the call of duty. The nature of the war in Afghanistan is nothing like any post WW2 engagement Australia has been committed to, from Korea, Malaya and Borneo, SVN, Somalia, the Gulf, Timor to Iraq. The brass must realize that this methodology cannot be continued, it is a IED waiting to explode.

It is now official....SAB Miller, the largest brewer in South Africa has taken over Fosters for a reported AUD \$12 billion. Why did this happen? Spend your hard earned on Coopers mate.

China now has some of the biggest and fastest things in the world.....
The fastest and largest computer...
The fastest trains, over the longest network of railways...
The fastest growing economy...
Built and sold 18 million motor vehicles in 2010/11...
Consumes more natural resources than India...
Has control of 3/4 of the worlds Rare Earths... and
Has one only political party...



One direct hit from this and it's all over Digger !!! What the....was that?!!

Why is it that.....when you try to catch something falling off a table, you manage to knock something else over ?

If electricity comes from electrons, what does morality come from?

How do you know when you are out of invisible ink ?

The Listening Post.....