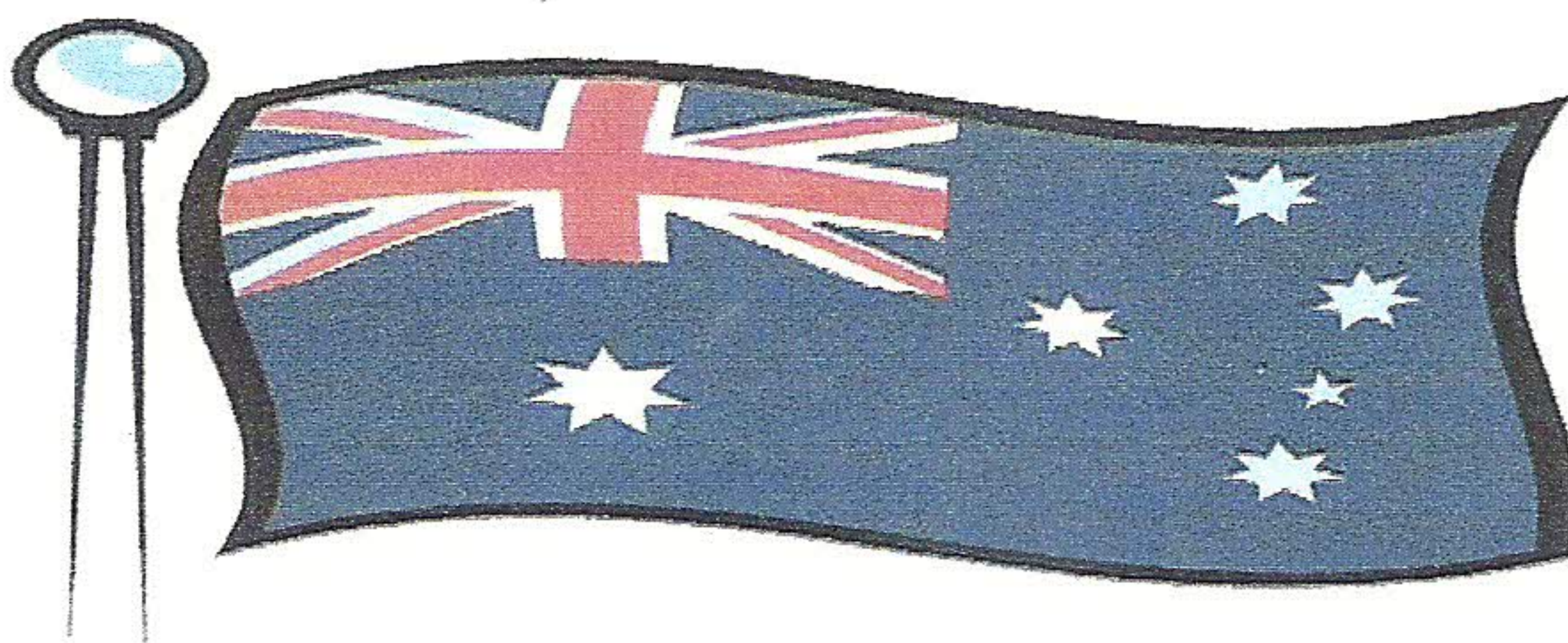




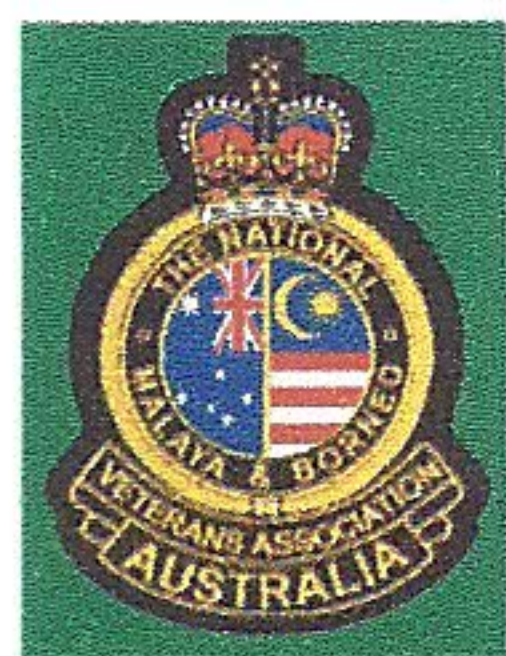
HUBUNGAN (The Contact) Issue 13

**NEWSLETTER
OF THE
QUEENSLAND AND BRISBANE BRANCH
OF THE
NMBVAA Inc.**



**Serving the Community
in times of
Conflict and Peace**

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc.



Queensland & Brisbane Branch

PO Box 86 WYNNUM 4178

President: R.A. Edwards Secretary: L.J. Edwards

Phone: 3396 6705 Fax: 33966705 Email: kody@oneseniors.com.au

Mobile: 0408 431 590



The NMBVA was officially established in 1995 and is a self-funding, non-profit association which uses only unpaid volunteers.

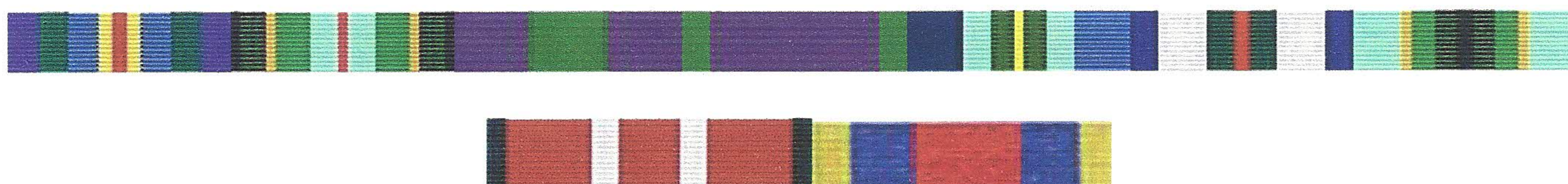
Patron: Major-General J. C. Hughes AO DSO MC

ABN 31 340 936 038

<http://www.nmbvaa.org.au/>

"The Brisbane & Queensland Branch of the N.M.&B.V.A.A. Inc. is the only Nationally & Internationally recognized & affiliated Branch in Queensland of the worldwide N.M.&B.V.A.A."

MATES HELPING MATES



President's Report for December 2012

Well members it is that time of the year again when we can all put our feet up and relax and enjoy the festive season. Our Xmas party is drawing closer and by the time you get this most of you will be seated at the table with us. To our members that may miss out on being with us due to distance or illness we will be thinking of you and hope you may join with us next year.

To all of our wonderful members that have helped to make our Branch bigger and stronger during this past year I can only say,

THANKS MATE.

To the Varnham family a special vote of thanks for the time and effort that they have given to our Branch.

To Peter and Ruth also a special vote of thanks for being there whenever we have needed help with things. Thanks for the beaut BBQ and my turn next year.

To Ron Virgen and family for the great job they did for the 31st August wreath laying Service. Also to the Reverend Bob for his help and leadership on the 31st. A committee will have to be formed to help out next year as it is getting bigger each year on the 31st August.

If interested please give your names to Laraine.

You would not be reading the "CONTACT" or this report if it was not for the fact that Dell is still doing a great job as our Editor. Members, Dell still needs lots of stories, jokes or any interesting articles to help fill the pages of our paper.

To David and Betty, I only wish I had half of your energy.

THANKS TO EVERY ONE.

If anyone is in need of help, please let Laraine know and please remember that she can't help if you don't tell her.

Enjoy the Festive Season, Stay safe and Cool.

God bless all.

Allen and Laraine

65th Anniversary of Formation of the Royal Australian Regiment

Formation of the RAR

The basis of the postwar regular army accepted in 1947 was the infantry brigade then located in Japan. When the decision was taken to withdraw two of the battalions in 1948, attention turned to the status and designation of the ARA battalions.

After consulting the commanding officers, Brigadier Hopkins sought to have the matter settled before the two battalions arrived back in Australia. Concerned that despite the unit prestige and regimental spirit developed since October 1945, it would be undesirable to have the ARA units the highest numbered, without battle honours or colours, and with precedence after militia units, he recommended the adoption of designations of CMF units that had not been raised when the CMF was re-formed. It was therefore proposed that the 65th Battalion be designated the 1st Infantry Battalion, City of Sydney's Own Regiment; the 66th Battalion, the 1st Infantry Battalion, Royal Melbourne Regiment; and the 67th Battalion, the 1st Infantry Battalion, the Oxley Regiment.

The infantry cell within the Directorate of Staff Duties (the predecessor of the Directorate of Infantry) submitted an alternative proposal. With the planned 1949 royal visit in mind it was suggested that it would be appropriate for the 65th Battalion to become the 1st Battalion, King George VI's Australian Rifle Regiment; the 66th Battalion, the 1st Battalion, Queen Elizabeth's Australian Foot-guards; and the 67th Battalion, the 1st Battalion, Princess Margaret's Australian Infantry Regiment.

Ultimately it was decided to adopt a regimental system, along the lines of the British Army, and the existing units were to be numbered sequentially as a part of one regiment. The three battalions in Japan were designated the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Australian Regiment (AR) with application made for a royal title. This redesignation was approved by the minister and took effect on 23 November 1948.

The title 'Royal', granted by His Majesty King George VI, was announced on 10 March 1949. The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) thus came into being as Australia's first regular regiment of infantry. Regimental colours were subsequently presented to the battalions and in accordance with its new status the regiment did not adopt any existing battle honours. The regiment now had the task of establishing its own traditions and was very soon to win its own honours.

Duty First, A history of the Royal Australian Regiment, Edited by David Horner & Jean Bou
Second Edition 2008 Pages: 43-44
"Second to None."

Rick Hollingdrake, OAM
Secretary

2 RAR Association, Inc
The National Association
2rarsecretary@gmail.com

(07) 3285 4197

0417 954 197

<http://www.2rar-association.com.au/>

PO Box 1097

TOOMBUL QLD 4012

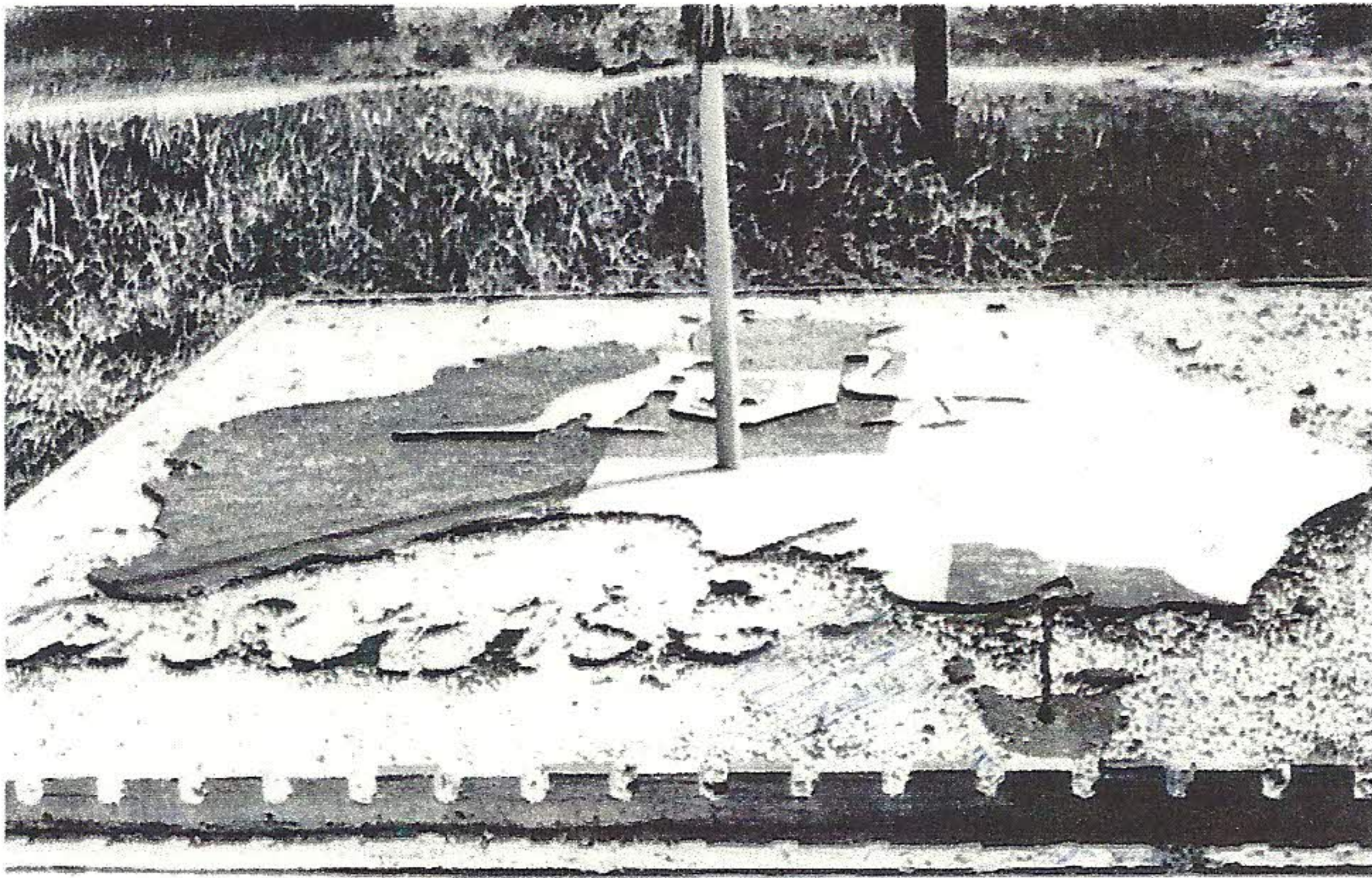
MALAYA 1955-57

Photographs and information from Mr Bryon Self

Bryon was a part of 126 Transport Platoon RAASC which in 1955 had a strength of 77 personnel.

In mid 1955, 126 platoon assembled at Puckapunyal for final training before being sent to Malaya.

Below are photographs taken during Brian's time in Malaya during the Emergency.



"A" Pl (126 Tpt Pl) Flag Pole Base



Running Repairs - Tyres had a 10 month life span.



Left: Some of 126 Platoon's 35 trucks.

Below left: Tanak Rata, Cameron Highlands - waiting for A/Escort.

Below Right: Service time. GMC 6x6 American Vehicles with rag tops.





Rear of Barracks - 1 POH Base



Re-thatching quarters



**British Officer
Checking
Bailey Bridge.**

NAKA 1957



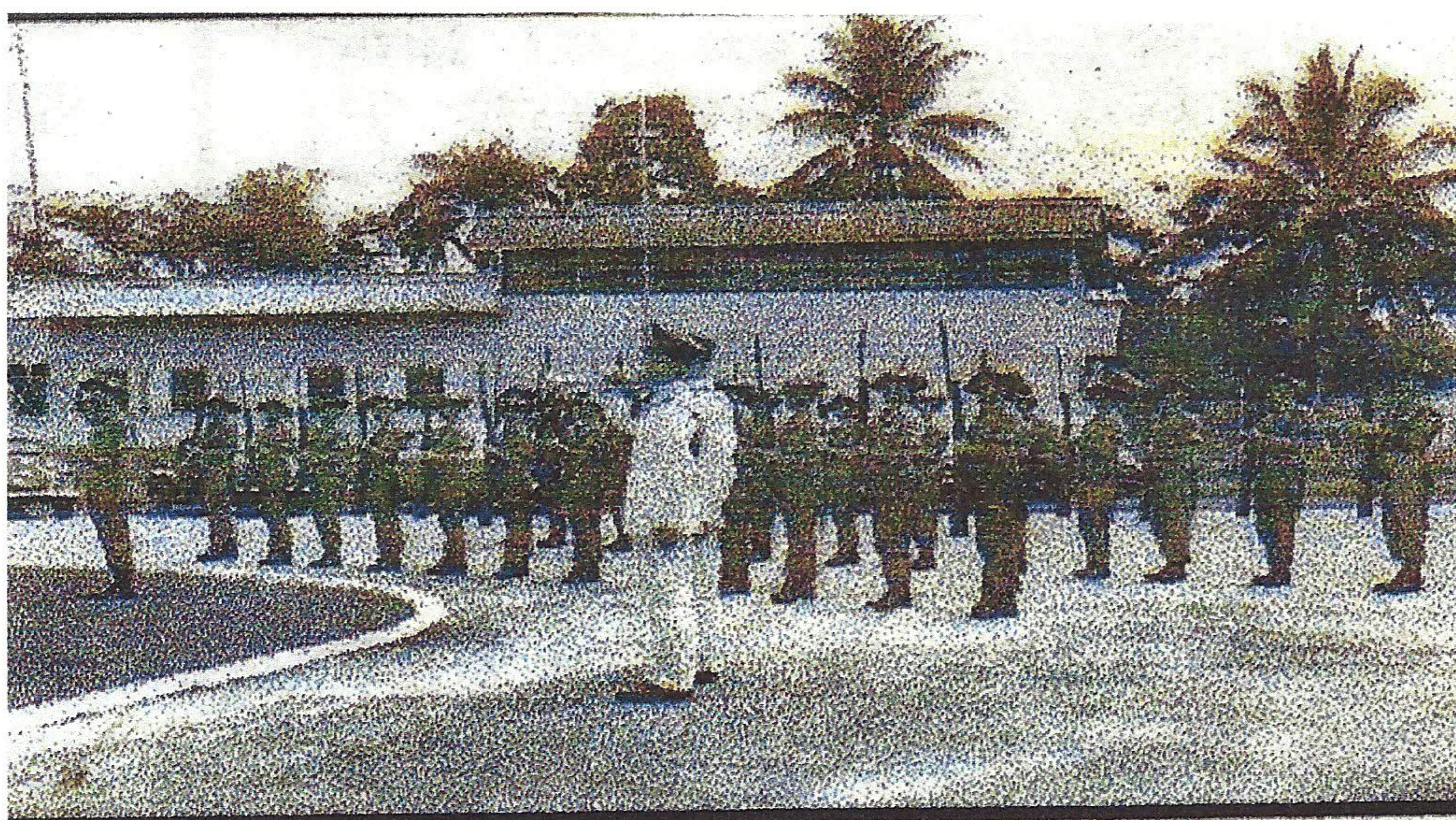
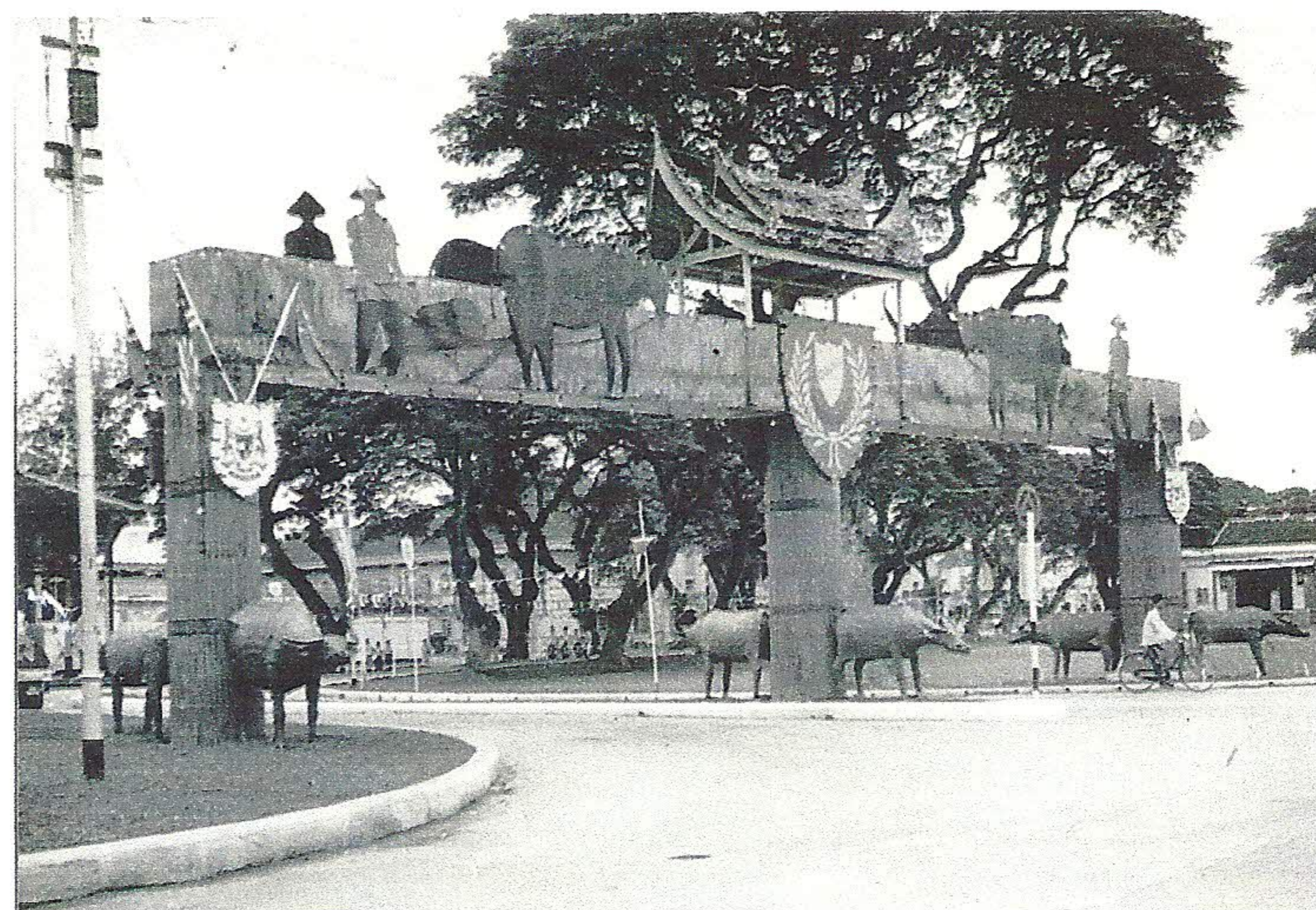
RE-SUPPLY 21/22 SAS - TANJONG MALIN 1956
Note: EBAN TRACKER (SARAWAK RANGER)



**NOT JUST "CT's to watch out for.
The lead man was almost taken out
of action by this fellow.
Weighed 420kg
NAKA 1957**



**At Left:
SNAKE TEMPLE,
PERLIS**



**Bryon Self is in the back
row, third from the right.**

**The Parade was put on
mainly for the Australian
rubber plantation owners
and the tin miners.**

**It was held at the
Memorial near Ipoh
Railway Station.**

ANZAC Day 1956

Tuesday, 11 December 2012 VA10

SUPPORTING A LASTING TRIBUTE TO OUR PEACEKEEPERS

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP) has been granted Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Tax Office, which means donations towards the construction of the memorial will be tax deductible.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said we can honour the service and sacrifice of Australia's peacekeepers by giving generously to the construction of the Peacekeepers Memorial.

"The memorial will be a reminder for all Australians of the hard work undertaken by our peacekeepers in many of the world's troubled areas, such as Rwanda, Cambodia, the Middle East, Mozambique, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan."

More than 66,000 Australians have served as peacekeepers in over 50 United Nations (UN) peace operations. This year marks 65 years since Australia's contribution to the first UN peacekeeping mission to the Netherlands East Indies, now Indonesia, in 1947.

Mr Snowdon said peacekeepers are a diverse group of men and women who are not only members of the defence force, but also the Australian Federal Police, state police agencies and civilians.

"Our peacekeepers' contribution to world peace and stability is something all Australians can be proud of and this memorial will stand as a lasting tribute to their efforts."

In 2006, the Australian Government provided \$200,000 to the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee towards the construction of the memorial.

Once built the memorial will occupy its place on Anzac Parade in Canberra alongside our other national memorials.

For more information on how to donate to the project visit the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project website at www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Information on Australian Peacekeepers and current deployments around the world is available at www.defence.gov.au/adfwc/peacekeeping/aipo.htm



Tuesday, 11 December 2012 VA101

SUPPORT TO HONOUR OUR **BOER WAR SOLDIERS**

A proposed memorial to honour the service and sacrifice of Australians who fought in the Boer War is a step closer to reality today, after being granted Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Taxation Office.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Warren Snowdon said that donations made to the National Boer War Memorial Association will be tax deductible for members of the public who wish to contribute towards the project.

The Gillard Labor Government is also contributing \$200,000 in funding towards the memorial. The design for the memorial was unveiled in March 2012.

“The Boer War marked the start of our long and proud history of military service. The men and women involved in this conflict deserve to be remembered with a lasting and fitting tribute to their service and sacrifice,” he said.

The Boer War ran from 1899 to 1902, and saw servicemen from every colony, and after 1901 from every state, fight alongside each other for the first time in a war, with contingents being sent to South Africa before and after federation.

More than 16,000 Australians volunteered to fight for Britain in the war, with some 250 being killed in action and more than 260 dying of illness. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to brave Australians for their efforts.

“I encourage all Australians to give generously to make the Boer War Memorial a reality, and see it take its place on Anzac Parade in Canberra alongside our other national memorials,” Mr Snowdon said.

For more information on the Memorial or how to donate visit the National Boer War Memorial Association website at www.bwm.org.au

For more information on Australia's contribution to the Boer War visit the Australian War Memorial website <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/boer/>

National Boer War Memorial Design Unveiled - March 2012

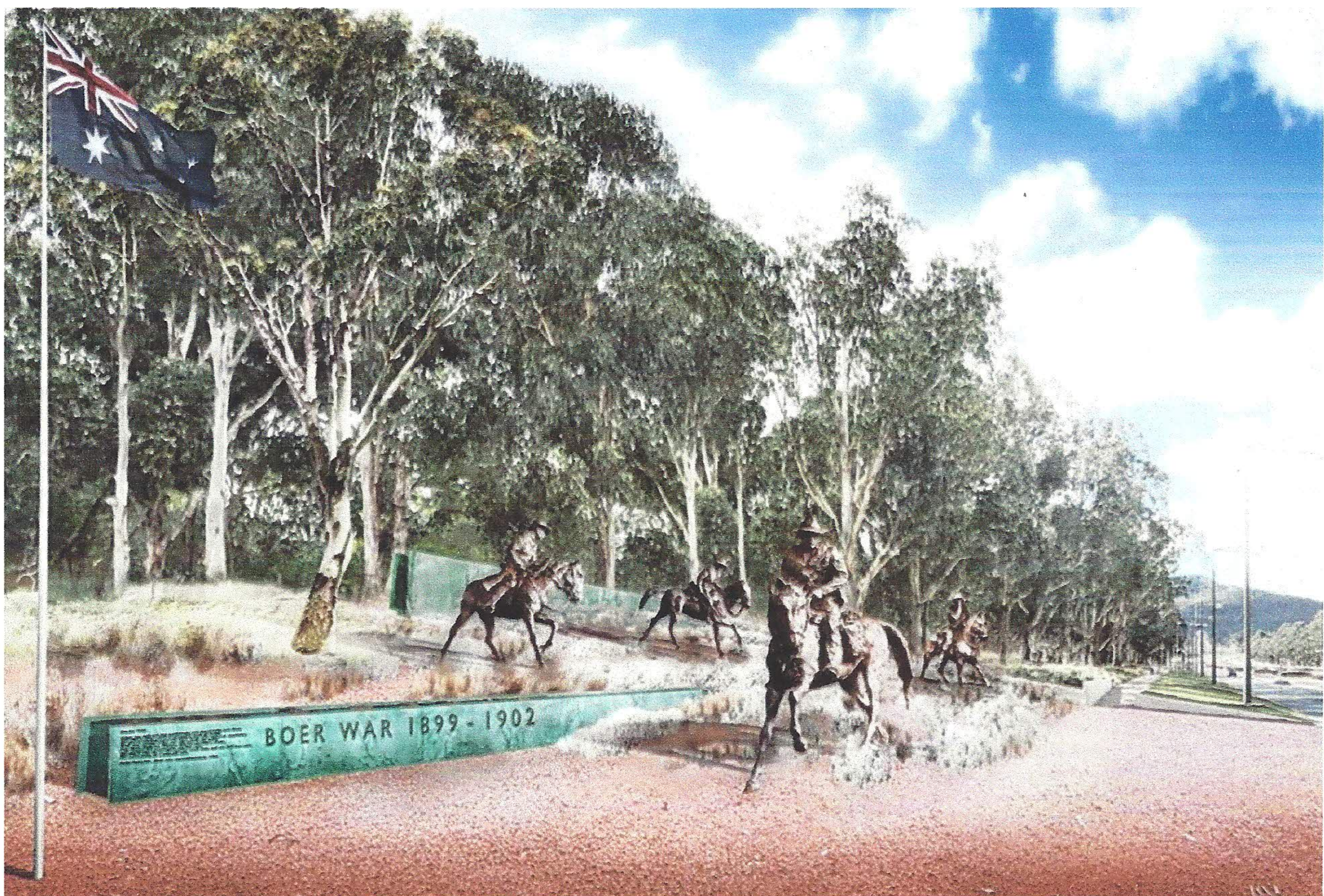
(Taken from the National Boer War Memorial Website)

On behalf of the Canberra National Memorials Committee the Hon Simon Crean MP, Minister for Regional Development, Regional Australia and Local Government, has approved the Boer War Memorial design. The memorial will be an inspired design of Australian troopers mounted on war horses breaking through the trees of ANZAC Parade Canberra.

The sculptures of a section of four horsemen are dynamic, bold and realistic; not impressionistic. The positioning and postures of the troopers create dynamism and tension. Each horse and soldier is portrayed with individual character and movement in the act of patrolling, searching and watching. The history-capturing design will bring a new note to Australia's national memorial precinct which leads to the Australian War Memorial. It will commemorate Australia's first war as a federated nation. The design embraces the horseman as the bushman folk hero of Australian culture; an independent and resourceful Australian acclimatised to a tough existence on the land. The significance of the four troopers is that they represent a four-man section, a formation for fighting and patrolling. When they went into combat, three men would dismount while the fourth would lead the horses to cover. This display of interaction and observation is reflected in the placement of the horses in the setting.

Colonel John Haynes, National President of the Boer War Memorial Association, describes the design as *"A magnificent and fitting memorial to the predecessors of today's troopers serving in the Australian Defence Force."*

The National Patron of the Boer War Memorial Association General David Hurley AC, DSC, Chief of Defence Force unveiled the design in Canberra on 1 March 2012 to an audience of Boer War Memorial Association members, the Press and Sculptor Louis Laumen whose task it will be to bring the design to life. Design was jointly by: Pod Landscape Architecture and Jane Cavanough.



BRISBANE - WW2 v NowFrom an American Archives' photo viewpoint
"Banyo, Virginia & Hedley Park."

by Roger R. Marks (Recommended to me by Richard Morse)

This small booklet of thirty-five pages has been well put together by the author. It is the 14th booklet in the series and would be of great value to local people interested in the early history of the district.

Below are a few extracts from the booklet.

US Archives (NARA) RG111SC neg # 181165



"While a decision is reached on their final disposal practice bombs and damaged helmets are stored in these sheds for protection against weather. Australia. Hedley Park Salvage and Repair Depot, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 30 April 1943."

"US Army vehicles line up at the Motor Vehicle Park of the 338th Ordnance Depot Company, Banyo, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 6 January 1945. Photo: Pvt Roger Feuereisen."



US Archives (NARA) RG111SC neg # 310194



"Guns in parking lot of the 168th Ordnance Overseas Depot, Banyo, near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 10 June 1944. Photo: Pvt Walter Drexler."

US Archives (NARA) RG111SC neg # 282901

"QM Salvage and Repair Depot in Australia. Work is done by this company on textiles, shoes and web equipment. Trailers contain their own power generating equipment for machinery and light. Tents are for tally-in and out, and the examining of materials that have to be repaired. 22nd Depot at Hedley Park, Salvage Co., Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 30 April 1943."



"An area of the Signal Depot and 338th Ordnance in Banyo, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 15 January 1945. Photo: Pvt Roger Feuereisen."



Sent in by Ken Sargent

Take control to stay safe Online

It pays to be careful with your personal information, so stay in control by keeping track of who has it is the advice from Australian Privacy Commissioner Timothy Pilgrim and Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan.

MANY government agencies and other organisations collect information about you. But Australian Privacy Commissioner Timothy Pilgrim says that if they're covered by privacy laws, they will need to tell you why they want your information, what they're going to do with it, and keep your information secure.

"When you give your information to a government agency or private sector organisation covered by the Privacy Act, check their privacy policy to make sure you know what they will do with it," Mr Pilgrim said.

"If it's unclear what's going to happen or if you're worried, talk to someone before providing any information about yourself."

Mr Pilgrim said you also have a right to see the information a government agency or private sector organisation has about you.

"If it's wrong, you can ask for the details

to be corrected or in some circumstances deleted," he said. Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan agrees that protecting personal information is an important issue for older people.

"It's important for older people to learn how to use the internet, but many are unwilling to do so because of fears and uncertainties about their privacy," she said.

Research by Scamwatch shows that some scams clearly target older people. As a result, older people have a higher incidence of falling victim to online and telephone scams. They are also targeted by door to door callers seeking payments for fake services.

"As older people become more net savvy, they must also be aware of what scams look like and find out how to protect themselves online," Mrs Ryan said.

Health information

HEALTH professionals often need a lot of information to give you the right care, and this may require it to be shared with other health practitioners for treatment purposes.

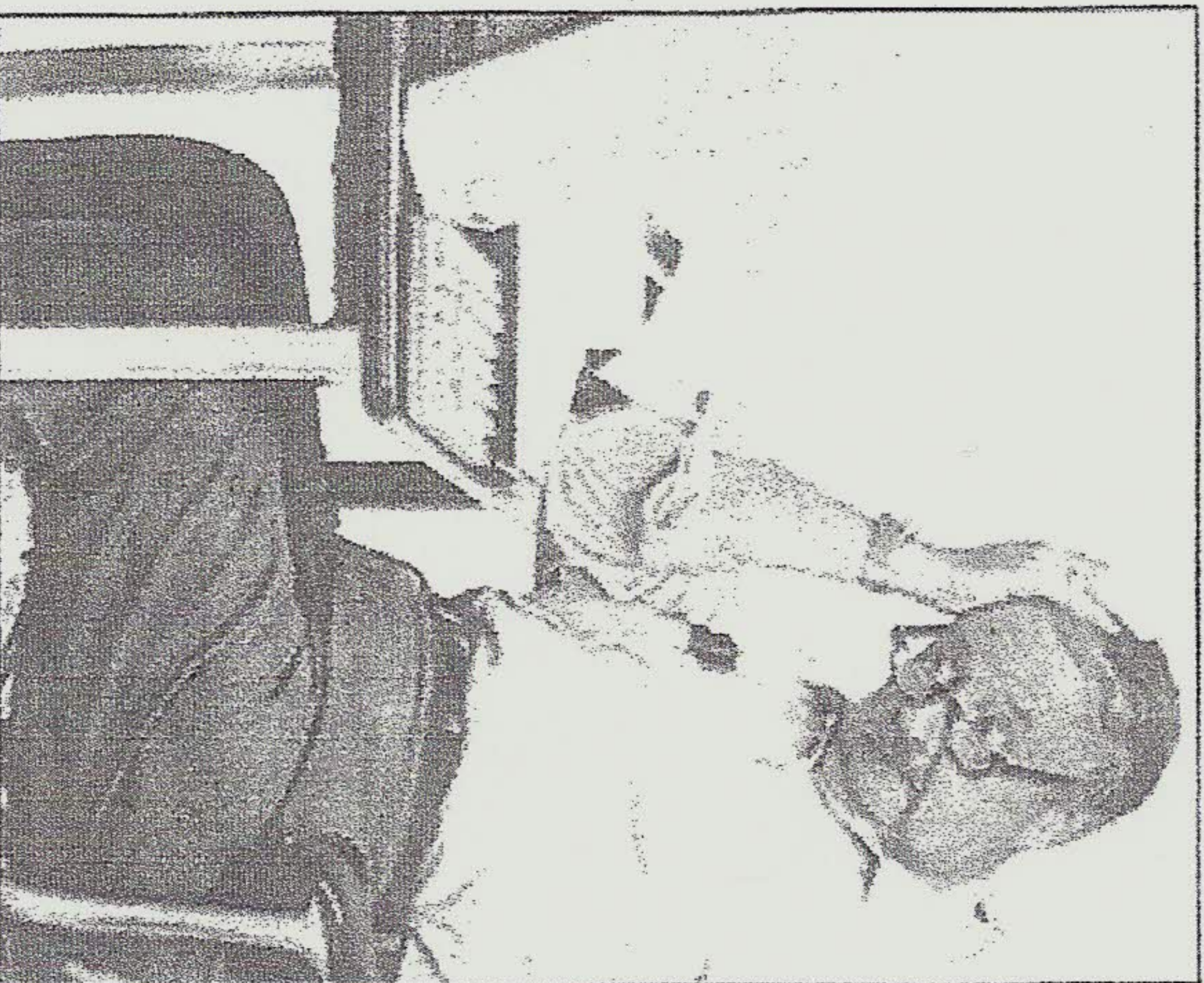
But Mr Pilgrim said you should always feel you could discuss with your medical practitioner who will have access to it.

"Ask your health professional to explain why they need particular information," he said. "You can also ask to see any information your health professionals have about you."

SCAMS: to find out about the latest scams and what you can do if you think you have been targeted by a scammer visit the Scamwatch website www.scamwatch.gov.au

YOUR MONEY: the Moneysmart website - www.moneysmart.gov.au - provides detailed information about how seniors can protect their money.

CONCERNED about your privacy? Phone the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's Enquiries Line on 1300-363-992.



WISE UP - Guard your personal information and avoid online scams.

Beware scams

WHILE the internet is a part of everyday life, everyone should be on guard against common online scams including:

- Emails asking you to send money to a friend or organisation
- Letters saying you've won a prize.
- Calls or visitors offering investment opportunities or saying your computer needs fixing or the house needs painting.

"If an offer sounds too good to be true, weird, or a stranger tries to sell you something, beware," Mrs Ryan said.

"A bank or the Australian Tax Office will never contact you to ask you to confirm your password, credit card or account details.

"So never give any information about yourself to strangers - especially on the phone, at your door or on your computer. Put the phone down, close your door or delete the email. Check with your relatives or friends if you're not sure whether something's a scam."

Guard your personal information

MOST online transactions collect personal information in some way, so take the following steps to protect your privacy and online security:

- Choose a password that is difficult for others to guess. Preferably use a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols and use a different password for each account. If you need to write them down, keep them hidden somewhere (not in your wallet, or by your phone or computer).
- Make sure you have an up-to-date security package with anti-virus software and anti-malware. Look for the padlock or similar on a webpage, which suggests it's secure.
- Emails from people you don't know can contain viruses that let others access your computer. Don't click on any links or attachments and delete the emails without responding.
- Never email personal details like your bank account or credit card number to anyone, even if you think they're a friend. You don't always know who you're dealing with online.

GRANDMA'S HANDS

(Sent in my Mr Allen Edwards)

Grandma, some Seventy- Seven plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was ok. Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time. I asked her if she was ok.

She raised her hand and looked at me and smiled. Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking, she said in a clear strong voice.

I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were ok.

Have you ever looked at your hands, she asked. I mean really looked at your hands?

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands, as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story.

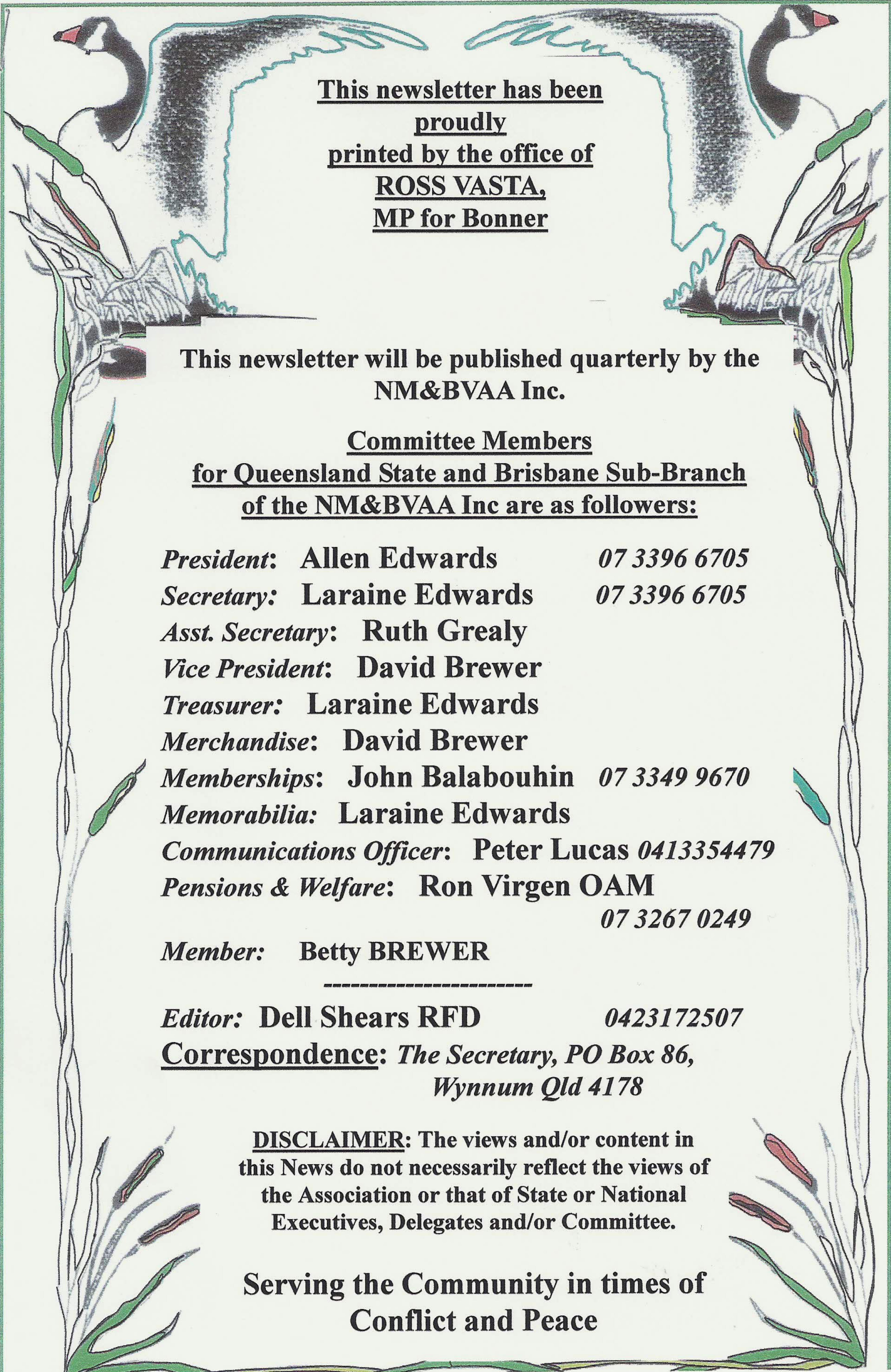
Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled shrivelled and weak have been the tools I have used all like to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They held my young husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war.

They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were firm yet gentle when I held my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They replied to the letters written home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and watched as my daughter walked down the aisle.

Yet they were strong and sure when I grabbed my child and jerked her away from danger when a car was going too fast, and they clasped my children lovingly for stitches, broken bones and measles. They have held children, consoled neighbours, and shook in anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body, and those of my family. From the day a new baby was born, to the day I washed my first love's body and prepared him for his final viewing. They have been sticky, wet, bent, broken, dried and raw.

To this day when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down and continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the richness of my life.



**This newsletter has been
proudly
printed by the office of
ROSS VASTA,
MP for Bonner**

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**Committee Members
for Queensland State and Brisbane Sub-Branch
of the NM&BVAA Inc are as follows:**

President: Allen Edwards 07 3396 6705
Secretary: Laraine Edwards 07 3396 6705
Asst. Secretary: Ruth Grealy
Vice President: David Brewer
Treasurer: Laraine Edwards
Merchandise: David Brewer
Memberships: John Balabouhin 07 3349 9670
Memorabilia: Laraine Edwards
Communications Officer: Peter Lucas 0413354479
Pensions & Welfare: Ron Virgen OAM
07 3267 0249
Member: Betty BREWER

Editor: Dell Shears RFD 0423172507
Correspondence: The Secretary, PO Box 86,
Wynnum Qld 4178

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**Serving the Community in times of
Conflict and Peace**