



The Listening Post

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia

Summer Issue 2025

President's Address



Welcome to the Summer edition of Listening Post.

As we approach the end of the year we can reflect what a year it has been.

Many events and progress has been made.

In this edition we read about the 75th anniversary of the Malayan Emergency and in particular the Service conducted in Canberra.

There is an article written by our National Secretary Maria Seddon who attended the service.

In line with this Maria provided photos to Paul in SA who compiled the Article on Arthur Seddon Maria's Father.

Arthur was a long standing member of our Victorian Veterans, Arthur was always good for a tale of his experiences.

Further photos and article on the August 31 services and the Remembrance day service in Melbourne which I attended on Behalf of our association.

Finally great progress has been made on the memorial In Canberra and the design of which is due to be finalised in December.

I look forward to 2026 and the continued progress of our association, we continue to move with the times and unlike some other groups that have had to close we are strong and will be for many more years to come.

I wish you all the best and remember to reach out to anyone you know who might need a helping hand.

Owen Marshall
National President
NMBVAA

Merchandise is available to order online www.nmbvaa.org.au

Support your association with the purchase of Bumper Stickers, badges, caps, shirts and other items. Details online on our website.



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Annual Remembrance Service with Thomas Carr College

On **29 August 2025**, the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia held its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the **Shrine of Remembrance** in Melbourne, supported by students and staff from **Thomas Carr College**. This partnership, now over two decades strong, continues to honour those who served during the **Malayan Emergency (1948–1960)** and the **Indonesian Confrontation (1962–1966)**.

The service featured a solemn wreath-laying at the Second World War Memorial Forecourt, with veterans, students, and dignitaries standing side by side. Thomas Carr College's orchestra and choir contributed moving musical tributes, reinforcing the deep respect and connection between generations. Students also carried the Association's banner and flags, symbolising their commitment to preserving the memory of those who served.

This enduring relationship between the College and the Veterans' Association remains unique in Australia, fostering understanding and gratitude among young Australians for the sacrifices made in Southeast Asia.



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Victorian State Remembrance Day Service – 11 November 2025

The Victorian community came together at the Shrine of Remembrance to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who served our nation. The State Remembrance Day Service was a solemn occasion of reflection and gratitude, bringing together veterans, families, and the wider community to pay tribute to all who have served and continue to serve.

Photography by Robert Blackburn during the Service.



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75th anniversary of Australian service in the

Malayan Emergency




Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Anzac Portal
anzacportal.dva.gov.au

AWM DUN/55/0824/EC, AWM HOB/56/0495/MC, AWM FEAF1030, AWM 304874/02.

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MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY

Canberra, Friday 29 August 2025

Our National Secretary Maria Seddon attended the National Commemorative Service at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra on Sunday 31 August which marked the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency. In her Report to the NMBVAA AGM on 7 October 2025, Maria reflected:

It was an absolute privilege to represent Dad (Arthur Seddon) and fly the flag for Victoria at the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony in Canberra recently. It was quite a difficult environment to take photos but I managed to sneak a couple.

It was a balmy 5 degrees where I was watching the service. Lake Burley Griffin was a fitting foreground with its perfect stillness. Blankets were in demand and the frosty temperature meant my red beanie was not taken off until the flight home.

The service was very moving. Excellent and engaging contributions from veterans from each of the armed forces. The round of applause for all veterans on arrival raised the roof and so well deserved. The military band wowed with their renditions of "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Danny Boy". Ian Davenport [National Treasurer] did a great job with the Ode and it was nice to put a face to a name. The service was broadcast live on the ABC and the feedback I received on it was overwhelmingly positive.

After the ceremony, I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by Emily from Sarawak who had driven up to Canberra the night before with her husband and little ones in tow! It was time for some photos before we all headed our separate ways for the long trip home.

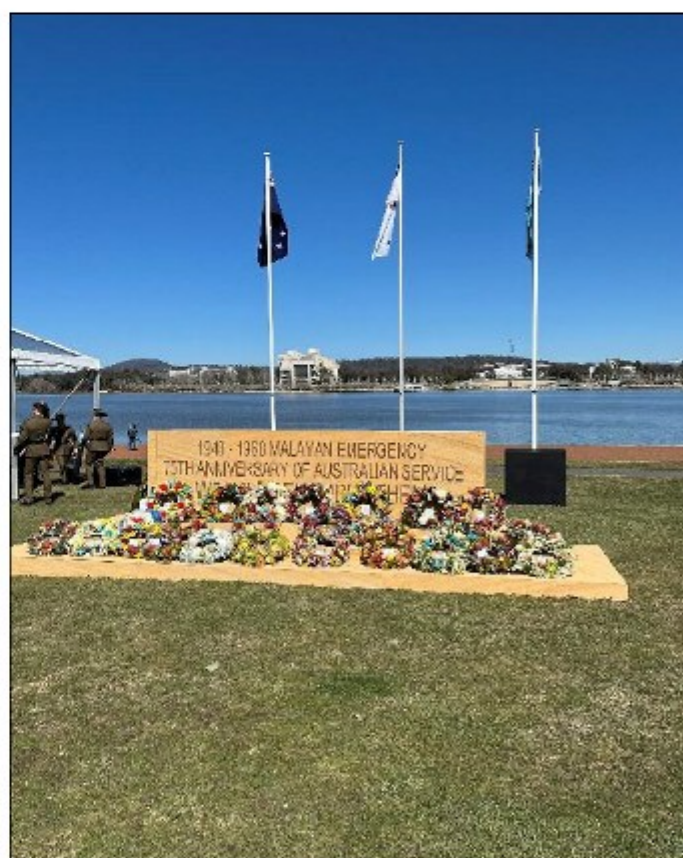
Also attending the Service, representing the late Bombardier Barry Algar, was his widow Jan and daughter Vicki Tiegs OAM and her husband Ross Farrell. There is a profile of Barry in our September 'Observation Post' and also in our September (MBV Special) newsletter.

During, Lance-Bombardier Barrington Fish served during the Malayan Emergency with 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery. On 11 November 1962, Barry changed his surname by Deed Poll to 'Algar'. On 24 May 1964 during Confrontation, he deployed with 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA to serve at RAAF Base Butterworth.

Bombardier Algar was injured in a motor vehicle accident on 23 September 1964 during a crew changeover, and died in Penang General Hospital on the same day, aged 26.



Bombardier Algar's name is honoured in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching



Maria provided this image of the Malayan Emergency memorial at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra

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IN MEMORIAM

Arthur Seddon (1935-2016)

At the National Commemorative Service in Canberra on Sunday 31 August, marking the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency, our NMBVAA National Secretary Maria Seddon honoured her father, the late Arthur Seddon.

Arthur was born in Liverpool, Lancashire on 10 July 1935. He did his National Service in 1956 and 1957 with the 1st Battalion, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), which had its regimental depot at Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed in 1881 with two battalions, the first being created from the former 47th (Lancashire) Regiment of Foot, and the second from the former 81st (Loyal Lincoln Volunteers). During World War 1 the regiment expanded to a total strength of 21 battalions, and during World War it comprised 10 battalions.

Arthur deployed with the 1st Battalion to the northern Malay Peninsula during the Malayan Emergency to conduct anti-communist operations, stationed in Ipoh in heavy jungle terrain. Maria recalls: *"He had many memorable encounters with the jungle inhabitants including natives, tigers and cobras, never mind communist insurgents"*.

Maria recalls that her father lost a couple of mates during his active service. The Loyal Regiment lost seven men: one is buried at Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore, one is buried at Cheras Road Christian Cemetery in Kuala Lumpur, and four are buried in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak (formerly known as the Penang Road Civil Cemetery).

After completing his national service, Arthur married Jean Hewitt in 1960. They emigrated to Australia in 1968 with four children (Michael Karl, born 1960; Nicholas Paul, 1962; Jonathan Peter, 1964; Catherine Louise, 1965). The family travelled per RMHS *Ellinis* under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, departing Southampton on 31 October 1968. In Australia, Arthur and Jean had two more children (Maria is number five).

Arthur was an active member of the Loyal Regiment, North Lancashire Branch until his passing in Frankston, Victoria in 2016, aged 81.

Lest we Forget



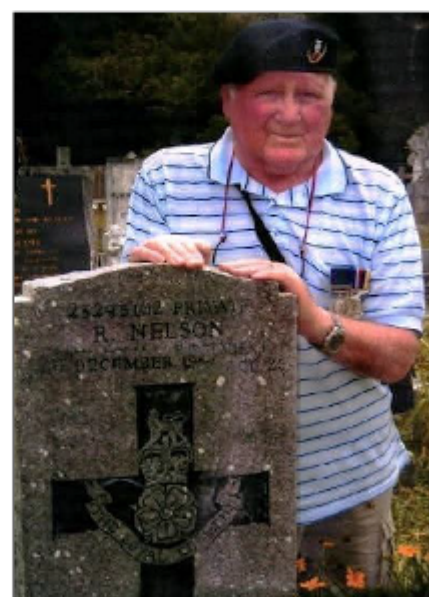
"Dad was tasked with communications as part of his role. Quite challenging in the jungle environment! He later described hiding behind trees sending messages to HQ whilst being shot at".



**THE LOYAL REGIMENT
(NORTH LANCASHIRE)
(47th and 81st of Foot)**

Amalgamated in 1970 with The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) to form The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

In 2006, amalgamated with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the King's Regiment to form the present-day Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.



Arthur successfully campaigned for posthumous medals to be awarded to his best mate Bob Nelson who died in Malaya, pictured here at Bob's grave in the Taiping Christian Cemetery.

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75th Anniversary of Australia's Involvement in the Malayan Emergency

On **31 August 2025**, Australia marked a significant milestone: the **75th anniversary of its involvement in the Malayan Emergency**, a conflict that shaped our nation's military history and strengthened ties with Southeast Asia.

Background

The Malayan Emergency began on **16 June 1948**, when the Federation of Malaya declared a state of emergency following escalating violence by communist insurgents of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The MCP sought to overthrow British colonial rule and establish a communist state. The conflict was officially termed an "emergency" rather than a "war" to ensure insurance coverage for plantation losses.

Australia entered the conflict in **June 1950**, responding to British requests for assistance during the Cold War era. Initially, the Royal

Australian Air Force deployed **No. 38 Squadron Dakota transports** and **No. 1 Squadron Lincoln bombers**. In **1955**, Australia expanded its commitment by joining the **Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR)** alongside Britain and New Zealand, sending Army battalions, artillery, and Royal Australian Navy ships to Malaya.

Australia's Contribution

- **Personnel:** Over **7,000 Australians** served during the Emergency (1950–1960), with an additional **2,000** involved in post-emergency operations along the Thai-Malay border until 1966.
- **Casualties:** The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour records **39 Australians** who died during the Emergency and **2** during Thai-Malay border operations.
- **Operations:** Australian forces became experts in jungle warfare, lessons later applied in Vietnam. They provided air support, naval patrols, and ground operations that helped defeat the insurgency and secure Malaya's independence in **1957**.

Commemoration

To honour this service, a **National Commemorative Service** was held at **Rond Terrace, Canberra**, on **Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day (31 August)**. Veterans, families, and dignitaries gathered to reflect on the sacrifices made. The ceremony included a catafalque party, wreath-laying, and addresses by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and veterans who served in Malaya. The service was broadcast nationally by the ABC and remains available on **ABC iview** and the **DVA YouTube channel**.

Legacy

The Malayan Emergency was Australia's **longest continuous military commitment** at the time, lasting 13 years. It reinforced Australia's role in regional security during the Cold War and laid the foundation for enduring defence cooperation with Malaysia. Today, we remember those who served and those who paid the ultimate price.

Lest we forget.

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Honouring Legacy, Building Connection: A Poignant Year for Malaya & Borneo Veterans

2025 has been a year of heartfelt remembrance and renewed connection for members of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA). Across the country and overseas, veterans, families, and supporters have gathered to honour the legacy of those who served during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

In Adelaide, a moving commemorative service brought together veterans and community members to pay tribute to fallen comrades. Special recognition was given to the Iban trackers—local allies whose bravery and loyalty remain etched in the memories of those who served alongside them. Paul Bayliss, a veteran of the British Army, laid a handmade poppy wreath in honour of the Federation of Malaya Police and Sarawak Constabulary, while Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (Ret'd) reminded attendees: “Their sacrifice was not in vain. We will remember them. Lest we forget.” [theborneopost.com]



In Canberra, the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency was marked with a National Commemorative Service at Rond Terrace. Broadcast nationally by the ABC, the event allowed Australians everywhere to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of over 7,000 service members who served in Malaya and on the Thai-Malay border. [dva.gov.au]

Meanwhile, the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch held a local tribute in West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, where surviving veterans were honoured in person. The event was supported by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, with Deputy Commissioner Janice Silby placing a tribute and acknowledging the enduring legacy of those who served. [nmbvaa.org.au]



Earlier this year, members of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA) travelled to Sarawak to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Batu Lintang Camp, where Brigadier Tom Eastick accepted the Japanese surrender in 1945. The moving ceremony honoured the memory of Australian and Commonwealth POWs and celebrated enduring ties between Australia and Malaysia. The reunion also included tributes to the Iban trackers and a symbolic reconnection with the Eastick family, reinforcing the shared history and friendship across generations.

These events remind us that remembrance is not just about the past—it's about connection, community, and continuity. Whether through wreath-laying ceremonies, shared stories, or reunions abroad, the spirit of camaraderie lives on.