



THE LISTENING POST  
CHRISTMAS EDITION 2013

# THE LISTENING POST

The only official News Letter of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc.

PATRON MAJ GEN J C HUGHES AO DSO MC



## NOTICES

## 'TIS THE SEASON.....

### VALE .....

Keith Tickner Vic  
John Larkin Vic  
Henry Walters RAA  
Dr Roger Freeman OAM

### Hospital.....

Dave Kearns SA  
John Smith SA

### R A P.....

Nil Return

Hello to you all.....what a fantastic year it has been for the NMBVAA Inc. We have held, or, attended numerous events throughout 2013. The latest being organised by JOM Magazine for the Malaysian Festival in Melbourne near the casino. We had use of a marquee to display pics and details of the Association. Among the guests were the Malaysian Foreign Minister and the Consul General. The speech by the Foreign Minister paid great tribute to the contribution made by Australia's armed forces in both post WW2 conflicts. I was quite humbled to represent the NMBVAA Inc and the function was a significant benefit to the profile of the Association. I will be discussing next year's event with the organisers in due course.



On behalf of the National  
Committee.....

A very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year

to all our Members, their  
Families and Friends.

If you are travelling, take care  
and have a safe journey.

Our recruiting campaign has been very successful and the latest results via VetAffairs has seen new members in all states.

We must continue to include the younger vets in our efforts. The new Minister has "Broken the Mould" and it is noticeable that both campaigns are now mentioned in any media releases, and is a direct result of the efforts made over the decades .....it has been a long time coming.

In closing, may I leave you with these thoughts.....As Christmas approaches we think of those whose loved ones did not come home. It can be a sad time, so, if you know of someone, give them a call, or, visit to show we remember them too. To each and everyone of you have a wonderful Christmas and all the best in 2014. God Bless.....**Owen Marshall.**

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Malaysian Festival
- A&TSI Memorial
- **ANNUAL FEES ARE DUE ON 1 JANUARY 2014**
- Recommended Reads
- RAR Birthday
- Boer War

## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Christmas fast approaches, it is important for us all to take the time to reconnect with family and friends. Christmas is a time of celebration and relaxation for many, but it can also be a lonely and difficult time for many in the veteran and defence communities. We especially remember those families grieving the loss of a loved one for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

This Christmas, I encourage you to call someone that you haven't spoken to for a while, invite a neighbour over for a festive drink and most importantly, tell your

wife, partner, children and friends you love them.

For those who may be at a loss on what to do over the period, many ex-service organisations hold events that you could join in with. Importantly, if you need help, the Veterans and Veteran's Family Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours on 1800 011 046 and DVA's At Ease website <http://at-ease-dva.gov.au>

I wish all in the veteran community your families and friends, a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.....

Michael and Cate Ronaldson

**VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL  
OUR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES  
IN SA NT, QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC  
TAS AND WA**

**FROM THE  
SA & NT BRANCH PRESIDENT  
AND COMMITTEE**



## T P I NEWS

**Inoculations** for overseas travel prior to 1 August 2010 were not reimbursed by DVA, the approach was that it was a private expense. As from 1 August 2010 all Gold card holders are eligible to be covered for required vaccinations. The procedure is you attend your local GP and obtain a DVA Authority prescription and have it filled by the pharmacy of your choice. If you require more details call your local DVA VAN office to ask any questions.....

DVA

**Australian Partners of Defence** has launched a new nationwide discount website to all serving and retired military personnel and their families. These discounts are available through a membership program called APOD-Defence Discounts Online at [www.apod.com.au](http://www.apod.com.au). Products include dining, gifts, accommodation, fashion, jewellery and beverages. Browse at [www.apod.com.au/browse-defence-discounts](http://www.apod.com.au/browse-defence-discounts) for latest offers.....

**Centenary of ANZAC**

Widows of First World War veterans do not need to apply for the ballot and will be contacted by DVA regarding their interest. Secondary school students will be allocated outside the ballot by State and Territory Governments, the remaining 3000 double passes will be open to all Australians to apply. The outcome of the March 2014 ballot will be advised to allow adequate time to pay and organise travel plans.

## SA &amp; NT RSL

**RSL SA & NT** has teamed up with Soldier On to a new "Drop In" referral centre for servicemen and women who have served in recent conflicts including Iraq and also Afghanistan. The centre offers referrals to veterans who have been wounded physically, or, psychologically on contemporary war, or, on peace keeping operations. The new centre offers a range of information and referrals under one roof, so that veterans can get

the right advice. RSL SA President, Brig Tim Hanna AM, has welcomed the initiative, "The centre draws on the expertise and resources of a number of welfare and ex-service organisations in pursuit of a common goal" he said. "The RSL serves those who serve our community. Our mission crosses generations. We are here to offer independent advice and referrals and make sure that all veterans get the support they're entitled to".....

RSL SA NT

## VET AFFAIRS

**Albany WA** was the embarkation point for most of the men who were the 1st AIF..... Planning is well advanced for commemorative activities that will have a interactive interpretive centre and provide visitors with a better understanding of the departure of the ANZAC convoys from 1914. **France** has asked to be involved in the planning of commemorations for the Western Front from 2016 and will provide funds.....

## ARMY NEWSPAPER BITS

**Soldiers from 2 RAR** became the first Australians, in 27 years, to win a Gold Medal on the Cambrian Patrol in Wales. It was a recon mission to locate a training camp, in a Kosovo style stabilisation scenario with a bit of Iraq and Afghanistan thrown in.....on the way we were re-tasked to carry out river crossings, observation posts and first aid tasks. Soldiers patrolled for 48 hrs without rest. Distances were up to 18 km for a task. Penalties were given if sections arrived early !!!

**Diggers** from 3CER-based RSF deployed into the Philippines on 28 November. The work includes extensive cleanup and rebuilds in Cogon, a severely damaged area in the city of Ormoc. Within 12 hrs of arrival, troops were supporting the residents and providing disaster and humanitarian relief operations. The scale of damage caused to the Philippines by the cyclone is unprecedented in the region and it will take years to rebuild.....

**ADF Veterans** put pen to paper and paint brushes to canvas, taking part in the inaugural Veterans Corps Inc Veterans Art and Photography Exhibition at the AWM on 9 November. 15 veterans took part and the funds raised by the sale of their exhibits went to the continued support of veterans and their families. TVCI aims to provide new skills and qualifications for reintegration into the civilian community.....

## INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

UK— Owen Marshall  
Malaysia— Brian Selby  
NZ— Allen Edwards

## RECOMMENDED READING

**History of 1 Field Sqn Group**  
by

COL Brian Florence and  
COL Paddy Martin

Researched over 15 years.  
450 A4 pages Paperback  
with 250 photographs  
Order from Evan Allanson  
Ph 08 8563 3204  
[ejallanson@bigpond.com](mailto:ejallanson@bigpond.com)

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**A Magnificent ANZAC**

The untold story of LTCOL  
Maurice Wilder Neligan  
CMG, DSO and Bar, DCM,  
C de G, MID (5)

Lied about his age and  
joined the AIF as a Private.

Landed at Gallipoli on  
25 April 15 with 9 Bn AIF  
and was commissioned a  
few days later. Went on to  
command both the 9th and  
10th Battalions AIF.

Died under mysterious  
circumstances in 1923 and  
is buried on New Britain.

213 pages Hardcover  
Many maps, B&W and  
colour photographs.

By Peter Holmes and  
available from the author  
Ph 07 5593 6284

[peterholmes1@gmail.com](mailto:peterholmes1@gmail.com)*'Tis the season*

## PICS FROM THE MALAYSIAN FESTIVAL IN MELBOURNE



### A&TSI MEMORIAL

### QLD 2014

### RAR



Clive Dubois placed the Tribute for the SA&NT Branch at the unveiling of the War Memorial to A&TSI servicemen and women at Torrens Parade Ground on 10 Nov 13.

Meetings are held at Wynnum RSL

25 February

25 March

22 April

25 April ANZAC Day

27 May

24 June

22 July

26 August AGM

31 August Malaya & Borneo Day

23 September

28 October

25 November

13 December



The RAR has turned 65.....  
Formed on 23 November 1948

Congrats !!

### DID YOU KNOW.....

**Glass** takes at least a million years to decompose which means it never wears out and can be recycled endlessly

**Nine** out of ten living things live in the oceans

**When** a person dies, the last sense to go is hearing...the first is sight

**Earth** gains 100 tonnes in weight annually due to falling space dust

**Due** to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to exceed 15,000 metres

**Regardless** of how long it is used, Gold will never rust

### TROJAN'S TREK

RSL SA and RSL Care SA supported and participated in the Trojan's Trek, Walk, Run or Roll the 3 and 5 km routes around the River Torrens on 24 November. Trojan's Trek is an initiative that directly assists younger veterans in SA.

### VVCS

### BOER WAR MEMORIAL

### GHAN EXPRESS

**Veterans and Veterans' Family** Counseling service has been extended to include Border protection personnel, Australian and Overseas Disaster zone personnel, personnel involved in training accidents and submariners; partners and dependent children to the age of 26 of these groups; partners and dependent children to the age of 26 and parents of veterans killed in service-related incidents;

**VAC**

**The first** of four mounted troopers has been modelled in plasticine and will be upscaped in clay before going to the foundry to be cast in bronze. Finished size is 1.5 life size.

Sculptor is Louis Laumen.

When finished the memorial will have four mounted troopers emerging from bushland beside ANZAC Pde in Canberra. 23,000 Australians served in the war and 1000 died including one of 60 nurses who went to South Africa.

**In April 2014**, The Ghan will make a special journey from Darwin to Adelaide. The Ghan's ANZAC tribute will be a 4 day commemoration of the sacrifices made by the Australian Armed Forces.....the tour is 4 days and 3 nights and including the Dawn Service in Alice Springs, and a side trip on the Pichi Ritschi Troop Train..Enquiries and bookings to Great Southern Rail Ph 13 21 47 and [greatsouthernrail.com.au](http://greatsouthernrail.com.au)

**DID YOU SERVE with any** Australian or, Allied Armed Forces, **post WW2**, during the **Malayan Emergency** from 1948–60 or, the **Indonesian Confrontation** from 1962–66, and since then with the **RAR Rifle Company at Butterworth ?** If so, you are very welcome and you are eligible to join the NMBVAA Inc. Branch details are shown on page 4 for all your enquiries.....





# ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO ... ..

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Dennis Laverick entering Helicopter at the Jungle warfare school



A platoon group, thinly disguised as Punans of Third Division, Sarawak



"Dear Mum & Dad." ...Dec '65



FARELF



28 Brigade



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

## ASSOCIATION AIMS

**COMRADESHIP** for those who served in Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei and Timor during WW2, the MALAYAN EMERGENCY and the INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION post WW2.

**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 it's Aims.

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

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Association Public Officer

**Ian Davenport**

## PICS AND NOTES



Every ESO should have one.....  
DVA could fund them..!!??



now...THAT's a dukw !!

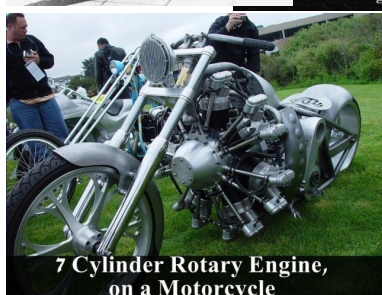


Endeavour Cockpit

Flash Gordon would be  
impressed.....



Marine CH-53E Helicopters each carrying two  
vees undergo aerial refueling from a KC-130



7 Cylinder Rotary Engine,  
on a Motorcycle



Helicopter refueling a Tank



Australian PM Harold Holt with  
BC Maj Brian Topfer visited  
111 Bty 1965 at Butterworth.



Borneo Ops