

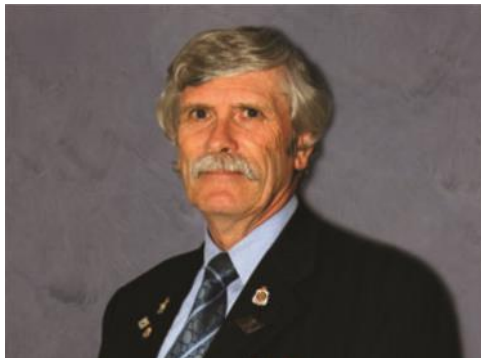


# The Listening Post

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc

Winter Issue 2022

## President's Address



### Presidents Message

As we move into 2022 things are improving on the Covid front and we can look forward to a normal Anzac Day. It is always sad to report a member's death and again I must do that.

On December 19 2021 we lost a most valuable member in John Keenan. John was the Victorian membership officer and he also looked after our web site and was National Vice President of our Association.

On a positive note you will read

about the thank you letter from the Malaysian military regarding the great work the Rifle company did at Butterworth over many years.

And even more news that finally there is to be an inquiry into recognition for those who served in the rifle company after 1966.

This is long overdue and hopefully will end with a positive outcome which is surely deserved.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary that Thomas Carr College in Victoria have held a service to honour those who served during the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

This will take place on May 3 2022 at Thomas Carr College, if

you would like to attend an invitation has been sent to all Victorian members.

I always like to read stories of events held for one of our members, this time it is for the President of South Australia/ Northern Territory, Brian Selby. Brian celebrated his 76th birthday with his family, what a great group of people.

A footnote to this as you will read sadly Brian passed away on Good Friday and more tributes are in the following pages.

Well enough from me keep well and please send me items for the next edition of Listening Post.

Owen Marshall  
National President  
NMBVAA

Merchandise available to order online [www.nmbvaa.org.au](http://www.nmbvaa.org.au)

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



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## ANZAC DAY 2022 Melbourne



Mr Owen Marshall, Victorian and National President of the Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Association with students from Thomas Carr College at the ANZAC Day March. 25 April 2022.



Students of Tomas Carr College receive Recognition certificates.



## VICTORIAN BRANCH

ANZAC / Malaya & Borneo Remembrance Service will be held at the College on May 3rd



Accepting certificate from Deputy Principal of Thomas Carr College, Lucy Angelico.



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## Oakleigh Carnegie Anzac Day Dawn Service 25 April 2022



**Doug Pendergast**, President Oakleigh Carnegie RSL.

Doug speaking to a crowd of over 2000 in Warrawee Park Oakleigh where our Cenotaph is situated, we had a Catafalque Party comprising members of the Australian Great War Association, a Piper (Scott Turner) from the local Moorabbin Pipe Band both associations train at our club and a bugler Zoe Keefe from the Oakleigh Brass Band (not pictured). The two guys standing either side of me with big smiles are from North Qld and found buried dog tags from WW 2 Army members in the Atherton

Tablelands which was a huge training area for the South Pacific and New Guinea conflicts. They researched and traced living relatives, contacted them and presented them at our Club on the Saturday prior to Anzac Day (Peter Mc Caulkin on my right and Ian "Elvis" Presley on my left ; Steve Dimopolous our local member for Oakleigh is next to Elvis.



Anzac Day Veterans Motorcade at the MCG, it was truly alive again after 84,205 fans turned out for the traditional Anzac Day AFL blockbuster between Collingwood and Essendon, and to pay tribute to our two Veterans Wes McNair & Vern Joseph.



Victoria



Contact

Owen Marshall 0414 238 698

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**S.A & N.T BRANCH**

Special Edition – APRIL 2022

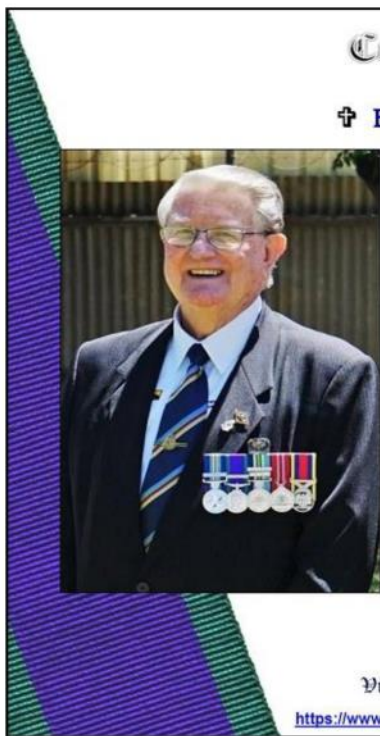
## THE OBSERVATION POST

*The official publication of the*  
**South Australia & Northern Territory Branch**  
**National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association of Australia Inc**

**National Patron: General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (ret'd)**  
**SA/NT Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia**

### Confrontation, 1962-1966

#### † Brian 'Snowy' Selby (1946-2022)



Brian Selby was born in Belmore, NSW on 21 March 1946. He first served in the Citizens' Military Forces (CMF) in Sydney in 1961-62 with 23 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

He enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 24 June 1962, and served in 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery at Holsworthy, NSW in 1962-64, attaining the rank of Bombardier.

On 25 May 1964, he embarked on HMAS *Sydney* 111 R17 and deployed to RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia, serving as an Observation Post commander until June 1966. From October 1964 to January 1965, Brian was detached to 'Bravo' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) conducting counter-insurgency patrols on the Thai-Malay Border.

Brian took his discharge on 25 June 1968, but served again as a Transport Section Commander (Sergeant) from July 1968 to August 1971.

Brian was President of the SA and NT Branch of the National Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia Inc from 2002 to 2006, and again from 2010 until his passing on 15 April 2022, aged 76.

### THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/ThanksDigger> | [ThanksDigger@gmail.com](mailto:ThanksDigger@gmail.com)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brian 'Snowy' Selby.

Brian suffered a massive heart attack at 0130h on Good Friday, 15 April 2022. We thank the SA Ambulance Service crew for their immediate response, but Brian was unable to be resuscitated.

This notice was shared on social media sites on behalf of Mrs Chris Selby, and Mr Don Cameron, Vice-President of the SA/NT Branch, National Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

Don Cameron said, "Everyone has the same reaction.... shock & disbelief that he is no longer with us, such a sad day for all".

We thank everyone for your kind responses. We have been collating these and will share them with Chris.

We have included some images in this special edition of the 'Observation Post' for your reflection.

Lest we Forget



# The Listening Post

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## **The Honourable Hieu van Le AC Former Governor of South Australia**

*I am very sorry to hear this. Brian is a great man who devoted his time and energy to ensure the sacrifice and effort of those Australian servicemen and women who were involved in the Malaya Borneo conflict will never be forgotten.*

*God bless his soul!*



## **Aaron Musk**

Formerly of No 604 Squadron, AAFC  
and Catafalque Party Commander in Kuching, 2016

*R.I.P. Brian you were an amazing man, always helping others! Going to miss you mate.*

*Sending my condolences to his family.*

## **Luke Scott**

*Sad to hear. I have two photos I took of Brian at the 75<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the end of WWII.*



## **No 604 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets**

At the 604 Squadron End of Year Parade at Hampstead Barracks on 21 November 2021, President Brian Selby and Vice-President Don Cameron presented the Commanding Officer No 604 Squadron, Flying Officer (AAFC) Kieran Wandel with an NMBVAA plaque to be the basis of a special new annual award.



## Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day Adelaide, 24 August 2019

The SA/NT Branch held its annual commemoration in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens in 2019 to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the end of the Malayan Emergency and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.



## Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day Adelaide, 24 August 2019

No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets supported the service in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens by providing a Catafalque Party armed with innocuous 7.62mm SLR rifles representative of the Confrontation era, assisted by Cadets from a variety of squadrons who provided an Honour Guard or held other important roles on the day.



## Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day Kuching, Sarawak, 29 August 2019

In 2019 the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association of Australia held a very successful reunion visit to Kuching and conducted a Service of Commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes' Memorial Park in Kuching. Pictured: Dato' Lim Kian Hock, Heritage Adviser, Sarawak Tourism Federation, and Mr Bill Russell of the Malayan Veterans Association of New Zealand.



## Sarawak, Malaysia

The ongoing friendship and support of Dato' Lim Kian Hock, Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM (Honorary Australian Consul to Sarawak, pictured) and Puan Fiona Marcus Raja (Deputy President, Sarawak Tourism Federation and Chairman, STF Heritage Development Committee) is greatly appreciated.



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## RAF 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The 70th anniversary of the RAF withdrawal from the FAR EAST was commemorated at the UK National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, on 17th October 2021.

Australian and New Zealand units were transported by, re-supplied by, supported by and evacuated by many of these RAF Squadrons during the two post WW2 undeclared wars fought on the Malayan Peninsula, the Thai-Malay Border, in Sabah and in Sarawak .....

1948 - 1960 KAMI JANGAN LUPAKAN 1962 - 1966



**War Memorial** The primary war memorial in South Australia is sited from North Terrace along the east boundary of Government House to the southern boundary of Torrens Parade Ground.

It contains engraved graphics and pavers for all conflicts Australia has been engaged in and was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of ANZAC in 2015.

A most important and sacred WW2 area was omitted for a paver during construction; the THAILAND atrocities meted out to the 1600 + Australian and allied POWs who died on the Burma - Thailand railway, by the Japanese.

Several written submissions and a face to face meeting prior to ANZAC Day 2021 have been delivered to the incumbent SA Minister for Veterans' Affairs for this paver to be belatedly added to the Memorial Walk. The "problem" has been defaulted to Veterans' SA who appear to have defaulted it to the SA Veterans' Advisory Council.... a "Post Card" notice of grievance is underway addressed to the SA Minister....

THERE ARE NO CREDIBLE ARGUMENTS TO DELAY THIS CORRECTION ANY FURTHER.

LEST WE FORGET KAMI JANGAN LUPAKAN

S.A / N.T



Contact

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Some photo's from Malaya & Borneo SA/NT 55th Anniversary Commemoration . To see the entire collection please visit

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rq2EWHnpZk2CqSqWjFtAPeYQl4ur4z5r?usp=sharing>



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## NEW SOUTH WALES / A.C.T BRANCH

### NMBVAA ACT / NSW Branch Anzac Day

The march for 2022 was a very much abbreviated version of the normal.

It was however better than the Banner Parade of 2021 under cover of Covid.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) is in the throes of a major expansion and upgrade which means that the parade ground in front of the Memorial is unable to be used until the project is completed sometime in 2024.

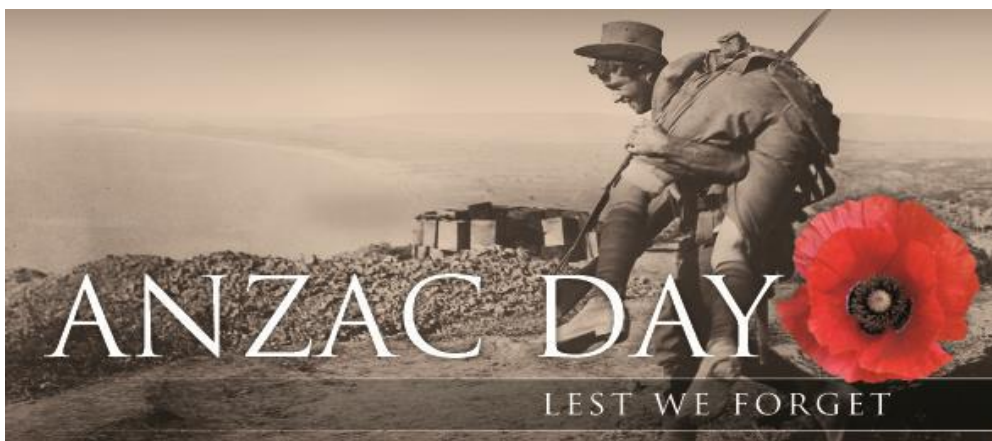
Publicity by the AWM was focussed on the Dawn Service and the Veterans March organised by the ACT RSL Branch received even less.

It was however a successful day for those who found out about the details and the march was a short 500 metre affair passing the saluting area in the western grounds where the Governor General took the salute.

The most disappointing aspect of the ceremony was the total omission of the Minutes silence, The Ode and The Last Post. Veterans were left wondering why this most important part of Anzac Day was dropped. This omission has been conveyed to the AWM as a cause of concern.



The photo shows ACT/NSW President Ian Davenport and Vice President Rodney Westbury holding the banner with our sparse representation following.



Queensland



Contact

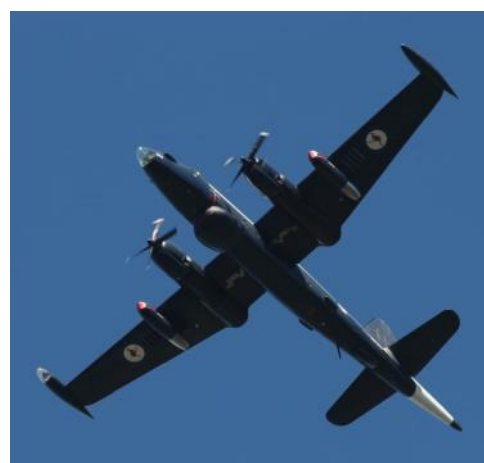
Allen Edwards (07) 3396 6705

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## Canberra RAAF flypast 2021

Photo's by Ray Zac as  
supplied to National  
Service Assn Canberra.



Ian Davenport and Rodney Westbury flying the  
banner at the AWM on Anzac Day 2021.

N.S.W / A.C.T



Contact

Ian Davenport (02) 6258 8988

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Brian Selby Celebrates 76th, The Selby clan in Adelaide, Wife Chris, daughters and sons with partners and grand children.



Rear row - daughter-in-law Belinda, son Troy, Brian Selby, wife Chris, daughter Amanda, grand-daughter Sophie, grandson Ben, daughter Kate, son James. Kneeling row - Freya and grandson Mat, grandsons, Nick, Jai and granddaughters Charlize and Milan



Rear row - son James, daughter Kate, Brian Selby, grandson Mat  
Front row - wife Chris, daughter Amanda, daughter-in-law Leanne

Be sure to order  
your skarf while stock lasts.



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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) congratulates Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) for its 50th anniversary of establishment in Malaysia.

Your presence and sacrifice here in Malaysian soil in protecting the RMAF Butterworth base during the resurgence of the communist insurgency in 1970-1989 was a remarkable contribution and had always been the highlight of your presence here in Malaysia.

Since then, the cooperation and the desire to further develop the friendly relations continue to grow, in preparing for more challenging future ahead.

May the long historical defence collaboration between MAF and Australia Defence Force will further strengthen and expand beyond the bilateral scope and more importantly under the auspices of the Five Power Defence Arrangements and the Malaysia Australia Joint Defence Program in providing a better future for the subsequent generations.



**GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SRI HJ AFFENDI BIN BUANG RMAF**  
**CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE**



**ATM**  
OFFICIAL MEDIA SOCIAL



## DHAAT inquiry into Rifle Company Butterworth service

Rifle Company Butterworth service between 1970 and 1989 is to be the subject of an inquiry by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal. In his press release on 7 April 2022 Minister Gee said: “Australian Defence Force personnel have served continuously at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth in Malaysia since 1970, when Rifle Company Butterworth was deployed at a time of unrest in Malaysia, led by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The MCP signed a peace treaty with the Government of Malaysia in 1989”.

The Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group has been campaigning on this issue since 2006, amassing thousands of primary and secondary documents to support our claim, including hundreds of Secret and Top Secret documents. Despite this the Department of Defence has dug its heels in and insisted that RCB service was “peacetime”. It has, over the years, given many reasons as to why RCB service could not be warlike. They have claimed variously that Australia would not send families into a warzone, that there was no war or emergency, that there were no curfews, that life went on as normal, that there was an emergency but it wasn’t used against communists. All these claims were refuted with evidence from the government’s own files.

Late last year a report by the Ethicos Group, which specialises in governance and ethics, was damning of the approach taken by Defence and government to RCB. It found that decisions had been based on factual errors and misleading information and found breaches of ministerial standards and the public service code of practice. A few days after this report was sent to Minister Gee in October last year the New Zealand government released a review into their troops’ service with RCB, finding that the service was not ‘peacetime’ service and upgrading their medallic recognition. The previous NZ report that found service at Butterworth to be ‘peacetime’, and which has been relied on by Australian governments to deny RCB proper recognition, has been overturned. These reports are what has prompted the Minister to initiate this inquiry.

RCB veterans now have until 21 July 2022 to make submissions to the DHAAT’s public inquiry which is due to be finalised by the end of the year.

Information about the inquiry, and how to make a submission, can be found on the Tribunal’s website: <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>.

The Minister’s press release can be found at: <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/andrew-gee/media-releases/independent-tribunal-reconsider-medallic-recognition-rifle>

**Ray Fulcher**

Chair Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group