



# The Listening Post

NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INC

PATRON MAJ GEN J C HUGHES AO DSO MC

Winter Issue 2016 - Inside this edition

## President's Address



There has been so much done within our association in the first half of the year some just quietly and other things we have been involved in that have not always gone our way.

Membership in all states continues to grow and in WA we now have a growing group of members who meet regularly as you read and see in this issue.

It is fast approaching that our SA members under the leadership of Brian Selby will be of to Sarawak to dedicate a memorial to the fallen during the Indonesion Confrontation.

This is to be commended as governments of both persuasion have neglected to do this and still made the funds for this project be raised by members, no government contribution what so ever.

Of course we are about to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ending of hostilities of the confrontation in August this year.

There will be a service in Canberra on August 11 this year at the AWM, mark that in your calendar and if you are able to attend then do so.

I will not write of individual states activities at length but of course Anzac Day 2016 is behind us but the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day on August 31 will again highlight to the public the two conflicts.

There are other activities mentioned in this issue. We were disappointed that News Corp did not include the conflicts in their 25 cent coin program but the good news is the official 50 cent coin,

one for the Malayan Emergency and one for the Indonesion Confrontation are now available.

They look very good and I suggest you consider getting one for yourself or as a reminder gift for your grandchildren.

The campaign to have a dedicated memorial for the two conflicts in Canberra is now underway and formal fund raising will commence shortly with the project to be completed by 2020. This is I believe is our last chance to see this built so get behind the project in any way you can.

I guess that is enough from me in this issue so enjoy reading Listening Post and remember keep information, stories and photos flowing to Doug Pendergast the editor of our magazine.

All the best until next time.  
Regards

Owen Marshall  
National President  
NMBVAA Inc,



Owen Marshall President NMBVAA Melbourne Branch at our Nostalgia Luncheon, Victorian Wine Centre with (owner) Sam and Robbie ( excellent staff member) after presentation of Certificate of Appreciation.





# The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2016 - Inside this edition

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

### NMBVAA members and Werribee Gurkhas at Werribee ANZAC March




The first image here shows an illustration of the various Gurkha patches. The second image shows the NMBVAA

members and Werribee Gurkhas attended the Anzac Day Service held on Sunday 24 April in Werribee, Victoria.



VICTORIA



CONTACTS

Victoria - Melbourne  
Owen Marshall (03) 5428 3623

Bendigo  
Peter Dodd (03) 5443 4803

The third image here shows veteran's the marching toward the Memorial in Werribee. The fourth image a relaxing lunch with refreshments after the march at the Werribee RSL.





## Anzac Day Melbourne Victorian Branch Participation

### Top Image:

Thomas Carr College Senior Students carry our Banner and Flags as our members march toward the Shrine of Remembrance to the tune of Waltzing Matilda on an exceptional day.

### 2nd Image:

Two very happy Victorian Branch Members, Doug Pendergast and Eric Estlin, waiting in the wings of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Prior to their drive around the MCG Oval with other Veterans before a crowd of some 82,000 on the Anzac Day AFL Football Match between Collingwood and Essendon.



## Thomas Carr College - Service of Remembrance

### Top Image:

Victorian Branch member Vernon Joseph giving an address to students, staff and veterans in the new Chapel at Thomas Carr College-Tarneit, Melbourne.

### 2nd Image:

College Captain Luke Gleeson and student with one of our oldest Veterans, John O'Regan.





## Commemorating the RAR's 50th Anniversary Service of Remembrance held Monday 9 May, 2016

A DELEGATION of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) with 35 veterans and family members including four young children visited Sarawak to commemorate the RAR's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the military operation in Sarawak during the Borneo Confrontation. The delegation consists of RAR members from various States in Australia.

The main commemoration of RAR 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was held at the WWII Heroes Graves Memorial Park, Kuching with the collaboration of the Sarawak Tourism Federation, STF Heritage Development Committee supported by the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Tourism, Australian Business Centre (ABC), Malaysian Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Kuching City North Commission (DBKU) and other government agencies.

John Burns OAM, leading the RAR delegation, in his opening remarks at the ceremony read out the ANZAC Requiem outlining the Australian first military involvement in the ridges of Gallipoli in Europe during World War I, 1915, and traced in memories of their fallen soldiers who lost their lives in France, Greece, Syria, Lebanon, Vietnam and not forgetting in the jungles of Malaya Peninsula, Sarawak, Borneo. He called the commemoration tributes to all those who perished for Australia and the Commonwealth including Sarawak.

Lt. Col. Brian Avery, who served in Sarawak during the Borneo Confrontation, then took the stand to recount the long history of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR)

and their sacrifices in combat. Avery said that from 1963 until August 1966, Malaysia via Sarawak was subjected by her neighbouring country to a campaign of military, economic and political opposition to the newly formed nation of Malaysia.

Avery recalled that 50 years ago on April 25, 1966, the main body of the Fourth Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) arrived in Kuching and immediately deployed to Bau where they remained there to protect the border until Aug 11, 1966. Avery added that besides being the anniversary of the 4RAR arrival in Kuching, April 25 is the Australia national day of remembrance, Anzac Day, in which the nation remembers those who paid the supreme sacrifice in all wars in which the country has participated,

Following that, Lim Kian Hock, Chairman of Heritage Development Committee of STF and co-ordinator of the RAR visit, expressed his appreciation to the RAR for their help together with the other commonwealth forces in defence of the birth of Malaysia against the Borneo Confrontation and to have come along a long way to have their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Borneo Reunion in Sarawak.

"We are grateful that your servicemen had sacrificed their prime lives and thus contributed peace and unity that brought development and transformation of the rural areas. You have thus demonstrated that life is a gift and blessing to humanity," said Lim.

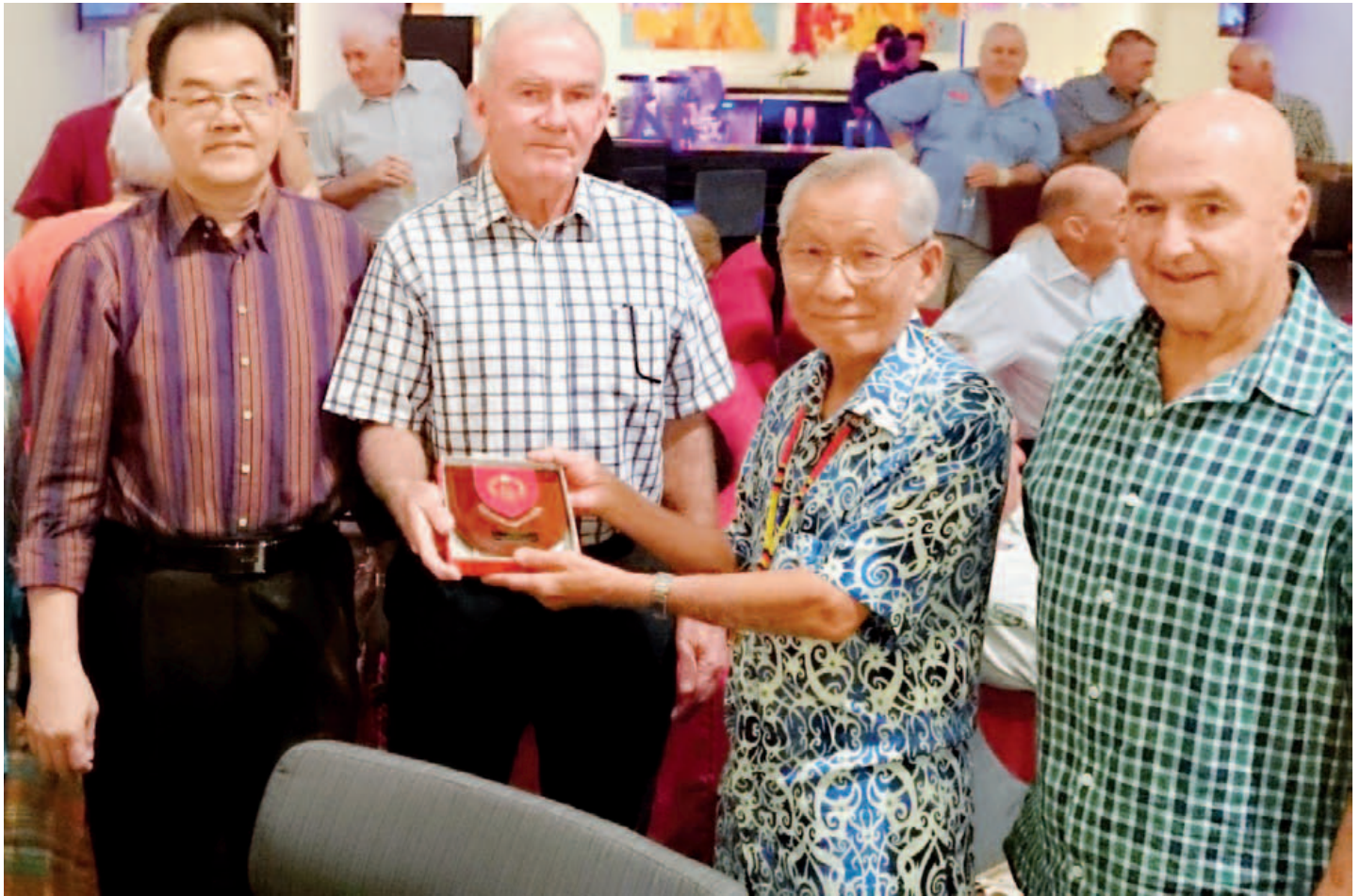
Brigadier Rod Curties, who also spoke at the ceremony said the Commemoration also specially



called to mind and paid tributes in memories of their fallen comrades during the conflict of the Borneo Confrontation namely Peter Robinson, RC (Danny) Patch, Liam M (Len) O'Carroll, John W (Taffy) Jones, Victor Richards and Peter West. Their names are engraved onto a plaque to be located next to a red leaves tree in memory of their selfless service and sacrificing of their lives.

In their memories Curties led the RAR delegation to plant a red





leaves tree on the ground of the Heores Memorial Park, in the presence of all. Curties said "May it grow staright and strong here in the soil of Sarawak in this venerable place of reflection, and proudly stand as a living memorial to our 4RAR comrades and to other Australian servicemen who died in the name of freedom and peace here in Borneo".

Rodger Chan, Director of

Australian Business Centre and co-coordinator of the RAR visit to Sarawak, said that he is very happy to be involved every year in this meaningful event for the good of Sarawak-Australia relations. He said he has spkoen to various members of the 4RAR delegation since they arrived and was impressed with the selflessness of those who fought for Sarawak in the name of peace and

freedom.

Chan added that peace and freedom are values and lessons we learnt from the war and ought to be passed on to generations to come. Chan hopes to have more of the younger generations from Australia and Sarawak involved and continue to inculcate this good universal value of peace and freedom for the betterment of humanity.



John Burns OAM presenting plaque to Lim Kian Hock, with Lt.Col.(Rtd.) Avery standing at the back.

# 4RAR Reunion

Selamat tengahari

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The attached letter and media articles are from the 4RAR sponsored tour to Kuching which was conducted to coincide with ANZAC Day...the next commemoration that I know of, is the 50th Anniversary of the Cease Fire and Declaration of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation from 24 August til 1 September, and the people of Sarawak are very pleased to have the era commemorated by former Australian armed forces members making the trip back. Terima kasih dan banyak bagus...

Ubique — Brian Selby

SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
& NORTHERN  
TERRITORY



CONTACT

Brian Selby 0416 118 843

Dear Steve Ellis,

We are glad that you are able to join us together with the happy leaders of 4RAR on site inspection (WWII Heroes Graves Memorial Park) on our supporting preparation and the Sarawak Club lunch on 23 /4/2016 prior to the commemoration of 25/4/2016. This hopefully provide us with good experience on he past success of all the Australian and British commemoration including the WWII Commandos do in Bario Highland. All these contributed towards the strengthening of the bridge of friendship and Commonwealth Brotherhood between Commonwealth and Sarawak.

We have learned the bitterness of the Indonesian Confrontation 50 years behind us. This we put our hearts together to celebrate the culture of peace and Borneo Reunion. We are but an instrument.

We are happy that this 4RAR Borneo Reunion and Commemoration is another unqualified success with sweet memories that they brought home - a new page of 4RAR history and the coming of age of RAR families. We are happy to extend to you and all friends (RN) the newspaper report and Appreciation record for sharing and leaving.

Best wishes — Lim Kian Hock



Sarawak Tourism Federation <stfsara887@gmail.com>

## 4RAR 50th Reunion Sarawak

1 message

john burns <burnham@hotmail.com.au>

30 April 2016 at 09:50

To: Sarawak Tourism Federation <stfsara887@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Lim, Thank You ever so much for your help and assistance in conducting a memorable ANZAC Day Service to mark the 50th anniversary of 4RAR commitment to the Indonesian Confrontation April to August 1966.

All of my group of veterans, wives and family have expressed their satisfaction of the ceremony and of our visit to the Governor of Sarawak official residence for lunch on the 25th April 2016. We will look forward to our next meeting and to visit The Heros' Graves site to view the tree and pay respect to our fallen.

Warm Regards, John Burns

## Anthropologist at ANU

Christine Halliwell an Anthropologist at ANU has been doing research with the Dayak People in Borneo for the past 30 years. She recently began a project with the Australian War Memorial on memories of WW2 in Borneo and one of the products of that has been the installation of a Memorial Plaque for Z Special Unit at the AWM later this year on 1 August.

Christine is trying to locate all remaining ZSU personnel in the hope they can attend; she may be contacted on her email: Christine.Helliwell@anu.edu.au or lanDavenport at maingav@bigpond.com



### ANZAC DAY 2016 - SERVICE AT THE HEROES GRAVE MEMORIAL GARDENS, KUCHING

Anzac Day 2016 was the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the main body of the Fourth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) in Kuching, Capital of the East Malaysian State of Sarawak, at the commencement of its tour of duty in the defence of Malaysia against Indonesian aggression ('Confrontation').

A party of 4RAR veterans, accompanied by some wives and children and totaling over forty, attended an Anzac Day Service held at the Heroes' Graves Memorial Gardens in Kuching, where a memorial tree was planted and a plaque listing the Battalion's six men who died in the conflict was unveiled. In total, twenty three young Australians died during Confrontation.

The general outline of activities provided the party with free time before and after the official program. On 23 April, the gathered party had a welcoming dinner at the Pullman Hotel and met those Malaysians who were to accompany us during the trip - Mr Lim from the Sarawak Tourism Federation who had been our contact with government agencies prior to the trip, and Mr Roger Chan of the Australian Business Centre, our local coordinator and contact with the local media. Both these men had wide contacts with government and business in Sarawak and opened many doors for us. Our guide, Michael, was accredited by Sarawak Tourism and a graduate of Adelaide University.

On 24 April, the party travelled by bus to the Bau District, in which 4RAR operated in 1966. The township of Bau was the location of our headquarters and the reserve company.

Following a brief stop in Bau, we then went to our forward company locations as Kampung Gumbang, Stass and Bokah. These visits were amongst the highlights of our trip.

On Anzac Day, the service at the Memorial Gardens was followed by a courtesy visit to the Istana (palace) of the State Governor (Sarawak does not have a Sultan as most of the West Malaysian states have). We then had the privilege of being the Governor's guests at a luncheon in our honour, followed by a photo session with the Governor and his wife in the Audience Hall.

Our itinerary on 26 April included a visit to the Semenggoh Nature Reserve, a large area of primary rainforest some forty five minutes' drive out of Kuching, where we were fortunate enough to see two female Orang Utans with their babies feeding and moving freely in this sanctuary.

In the afternoon, we journeyed to a resort area at Pantai (beach) Damai on the coast. Here is located the Sarawak Cultural Village, which contains a number of traditional buildings, displays of traditional crafts and a theatre where traditional dancing is performed.

#### SARAWAK TODAY

When 4RAR served in Sarawak, roads were few and far between, with rivers providing the main communications. Indigenous tribes in their tribal areas lived under rather primitive conditions, without electricity. They depended on subsistence hunting, fishing and farming, much of it using slash-and-burn methods. They suffered badly during Confrontation as it became difficult to carry out their daily activities, including cross-border trading.

Kuching was a sleepy city of some 200,000 population, very much stuck in a time warp reflecting its colonial past, when it was ruled by the white Rajahs of the Vyner-Brooke family.

Today, Kuching is a modern thriving, bustling city of about 700,000 residents. The state is the largest in area in Malaysia and has a population well in excess of 4 million. Its people are a mixture of Chinese, Malays and indigenous tribal people. Muslim Malays are in the minority, with Christian Chinese and tribal people outnumbering them, while many Chinese adhere to their Buddhist faith. The population lives in complete harmony, in spite of their varying religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Sarawak's major industries include timber, rubber, palm oil and tourism, while the state produces about ninety per cent of the world's pepper. The road network has been extended and few areas are now out of reach, although rivers remain a major means of transport. The health and education systems are as good as any in Asia and better than most.

One unusual facet of life in Sarawak is that at the time of Federation, Sarawak was able to negotiate protection for its ethnic mix by the ability to control immigration not only from other countries but also from the remainder of the Federation of Malaysia so that even people flying into Kuching from Kuala Lumpur must pass through immigration control. I found that prices in Sarawak to be remarkably cheap.

The people are friendly to visitors, sometimes to the point of embarrassment with their hospitality. Dining in Kuching is an eclectic fusion of South East Asian and European cuisines.

## VISITING THE BASES

After driving to Bau, which is about 40kms south of Kuching, we stopped briefly at the town which is the site of an old gold mine. On the outskirts of the town, the deep open cut mine has filled with water and during our time there was known as Tai Parit Lake, in which we were able to swim. It is now prohibited to swim or fish in the lake as the lake is badly polluted with toxic chemicals from treating the ore. The name has been changed, too, as the name Tai Parit was apparently a derogatory term and it is now known in Malay as Blue Lake. The site of our reserve company is now a residential area while the battalion support base and headquarters is now included in a permanent barracks of the Malaysian Army.

The indigenous people of this district are called the Bidayuh, a number of smaller tribes originally known as Land Dayaks during the colonial era. (Ibans, or Sea Dayaks as they were known, come from a district further to the east of Bau.) From Bau, we drove along a road to Kampung Gumbang, located within just a few hundred metres of the border with Kalimantan. This road was built about fifteen years ago: during 4RAR's tour, the only access was by helicopter.

Electricity reached the village only in 2011. Adjacent to the village is the 'old' position, a platoon-sized base known to 3RAR veterans as Bukit Knuckle (bukit - small hill). This position was small and very vulnerable, and had been attacked a number of times so by the time 4RAR arrived, platoon bases had been abandoned and the 'new position' established on a steep-sided defensible hill away from the village and further from the border.

Unfortunately, with the time available (and considering the age of our veterans) we were unable to visit the new position but did go to Bukit Knuckle, which although heavily overgrown, is still recognisable. Much of the barbed wire and earthworks remain.

Prior to the visit to Bukit Knuckle, the party was welcomed in the village community centre by the penghulu (mayor) and treated to refreshments and traditional dancing by the villagers. Present were some veterans, former Border Scouts and trackers.

These older men spent many hours talking to our veterans. Here we met our first taste of the incredible friendliness of the people of Sarawak. Served a light meal of typical local food and entertained, the visit kept going until well after lunch, which we also ate, although it was not programmed. We eventually left for our next call some two hours behind schedule, such was the hospitality we enjoyed.

Our next call was to Stass, again only a short distance from the border (redrawn as a result of the Peace Accord, so that the village has lost some of its farming land). The road to Stass existed when 4RAR occupied the base but it was gravel and constructed by Malaysian and Gurkha engineers just prior to our arrival. Stass is a much larger village than Gumbang and we were welcomed by almost the whole village, with a traditional band playing. Although the welcome was outdoors, a large marquee had been set up and we were again catered for with traditional local food and tuak, the local rice wine.

A stage had been set up and over the stage was an impressive banner welcoming the veterans of the Fourth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. After a welcome speech by the mayor, a number of young women in traditional dress also welcomed us by dancing, a gentle, stately dance. An audio-video presentation then provided us with an overview of Confrontation as it affected the village (which was attacked more than once) and the local security forces base in which 3RAR and 4RAR companies served. We then moved to the nearby base location which is now occupied by the village school.

While little of the base remains, we were able to identify the artillery gun positions and our small rifle range where we test-fired weapons prior to leaving on an operation. We also we taken to a typical traditional village meeting hall. Again, the friendliness and hospitality were overwhelming.

From Stass, we travelled by road back through Bau to the small village of Bokah, where we were once more welcomed by the penghulu. By now we were very late (because of the hospitality) and did not go to the actual village.

Bokah is set back further from the border and the base was quite close to the kampung. The position has now some houses built on it and while there is little visible evidence of the base, we found that one of the houses was actually constructed over the still visible artillery gun position.

After a long, hot and tiring but very enjoyable day we headed back to Kuching. All were amazed at the welcome we had received but the outstanding memory was the locals thanking us for coming to their aid during their hour of need.

## ANZAC DAY

The service was held at the Memorial Gardens just a short bus ride from the hotel. The gardens contain a number of graves, mainly members of the Sarawak Rangers, police and border scouts who died in service of their country. It had also contained the body of Captain Matthews, an Australian executed by the Japanese during the Second World War, but his remains have been re-interred in the Commonwealth War Cemetery Labuan. The Garden already contains a memorial plaque to the three members of the Australian SAS who lost their lives in Borneo. In addition to the Australians, the service was attended by a number of Malaysian Armed Forces officers, some local dignitaries and our new friends, Mr Lim and Mr Chan. The Malaysian Armed Forces provided two buglers and a flag orderly.

The service commenced with a Requiem by Mr John Burns OAM, who had organised the trip, and was followed a poem read by Mr Noel Fairley and specially written for the occasion by Brigadier George Mansford. LtCol Brian Avery (Patron 4RAR Assoc Qld and Patron NMBVA Qld) gave the keynote address which was followed the laying of wreaths. Mr Mick Carroll DCM read the Roll of Honour and Mr Gerry Astin recited the Ode. The two buglers played a most haunting rendition of the Last Post and Reveille. John Burns led the gathering in prayers and four grand-daughters of Brigadier RG Curtis AM MC led the singing of the Australian National Anthem. The Malaysian National Anthem was then played. Mr Lim gave a short speech in response and presented Mr Burns on behalf of the 4RAR Association with a fine book about Sarawak.



Following the service, the gathering moved towards the entrance. Here, a site had been prepared for a tree planting and the installation of a memorial plaque to the six fallen. After a short speech, Brigadier Curtis placed the first sod into the hole and other veterans took it in turns until the hole had been filled.

The local tree, called a red leaf tree, is completely appropriate as it is in the two colours, red for the battalion and green for the Regiment.

(Curtis was awarded his Military Cross for an action on Gunong Raya while serving at Bokah in June 1966.)

Following the service, the party travelled to the Astana (palace), a grand building originally constructed by one of the Rajahs in the nineteenth century. We were all introduced to His Excellency, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife, followed by lunch as his guest in a grand banqueting hall, during which he was presented with a signed copy of 'Our Secret War' by the author.

Afterwards, a photo session was held in the Audience Hall, and each member of the party received a framed copy of the photo plus a copy of the Governor's official biography, The Visionary Builder of Modern Sarawak.

(The Governor is of indigenous origin, hailing from Miri, a provincial coastal city, and was previously a long-serving Chief Minister of Sarawak.)

#### A SUMMARY OF THE EXPERIENCE

All members of the party came home with a profound sense of gratitude at the hospitality and friendliness shown to us by all with whom we came into contact. We enjoyed Kuching's atmosphere and particularly the warm welcome we faced in our former area of operations.

One overarching memory, however, is the genuine expression of thanks that we continually received everywhere we went for our service in Sarawak in their time of need. As professional soldiers, we had probably never thought of this perspective. I visited a Chinese primary school with Mr Chan and even here, the principal offered the same thanks (during the obligatory photo session).

At the hotel, the two Iban security men, both having served in the Royal Malaysian Navy, enquired whether I was a veteran and having confirmed that I was, both shook my hands and saluted me in thanks for my service.

**LtCol (Ret'd) Brian Avery**  
Brisbane - 1 May 2016

## QUEENSLAND



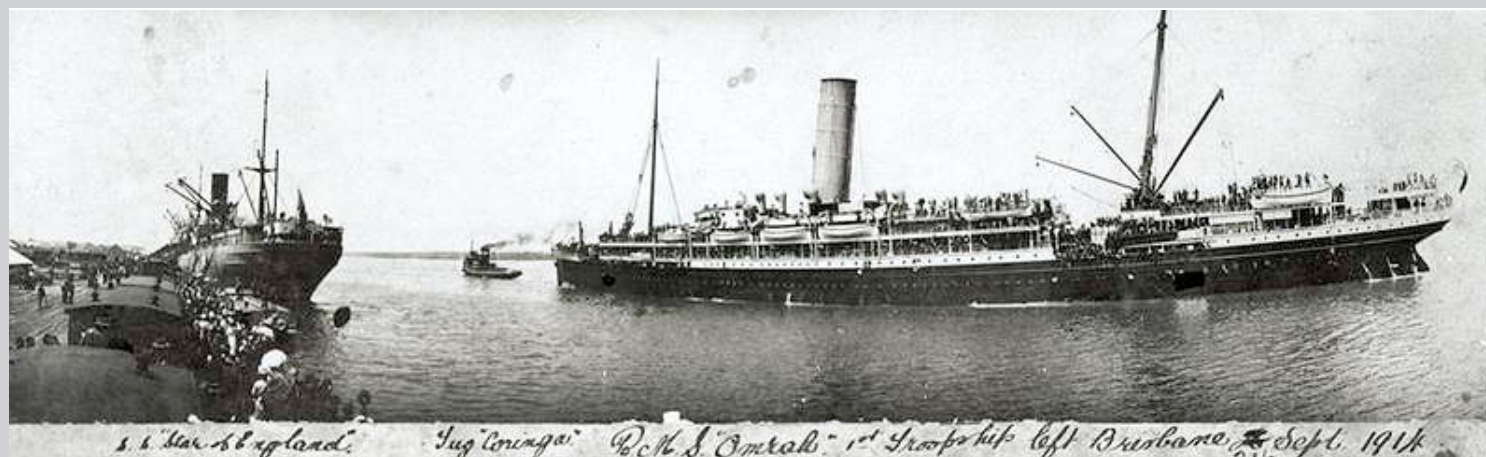
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## A Century since Australia sent troops to WW1

HMS Omrah leaving the Queensland Port of Pinkenba on 24 September 1914. Troops travelled by train to the Pinkenba Railway Station. At the wharf is the "Star of England" taking on Troops. She soon followed HMS Omrah. Both vessels travelled to Perth where they were part of the first flotilla to leave Australia for overseas ports. *Photograph from John Oxley Library Collection.*



# The Listening Post

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

### Western Australia WA NMBVAA Social Club Members Luncheon

NMBVAA Social Group Lunch got together for their 2nd organised NMBVAA Social Group Lunch, held 11 May at RAAF Club Bull Creek WA.

As per our previous get together it was a great success with all participants enjoying the time to get together and catchup.

On this occasion we arranged for a fellow NMBVAA member to attend and speak to the group (photographed standing at the head of the head of the table, Mr Peter Jones whom served as OC of Combined Anti Aircraft (Search Light) Unit during his service in the Malayan Emergency 1951-1954.

He gave a very interesting talk about his time in the Emergency in Singapore and Malaya and employment for 17 years as a civilian post emergency in Malaysia.

The next luncheon with another guest speaker is scheduled for sometime in mid August".



### NMBVAA Social Club Items of Gurkha Weapons



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



CONTACT

Owen Marshall (03) 5428 3623



# The Listening Post

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## EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2016

### VICTORIAN BRANCH

#### FEBRUARY

2nd General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

#### MARCH

1st General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

#### APRIL

5th General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

16th Sunday Service at Watton Street  
Werribee: 1350HRS  
Afterwards at Werribee RSL

21st Memorial Service at Repat Hospital  
Heidelberg: 1030HRS

25th ANZAC Day March - Melbourne  
Afterwards Reunion at Batman Hotel

#### MAY

3rd General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

9th Thomas Carr Memorial Service  
Tarneit

#### JUNE

7th General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

#### JULY

5th General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

16th Mid Year BBQ at Bunnings

#### AUGUST

2nd General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

31st Veterans Day at Shrine  
Afterwards Reunion at Batman Hotel  
Annual trip to Malaysia

#### SEPTEMBER

6th General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

#### OCTOBER

4th General Meeting - Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

Nostalgia lunch

#### NOVEMBER

1st Knox City WW1  
Commemoration Service

8th Springvale Memorial Service  
Springvale

11th Remembrance Day - Shrine  
Melbourne: 1100HRS

19th Year End BBQ at Bunnings

#### DECEMBER

6th Xmas Fair at Batman Hotel  
Melbourne: 1030HRS

### S.A./N.T BRANCH

#### FEBRUARY

19th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### MARCH

18th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### APRIL

18th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

25th ANZAC Day March Adelaide  
Commences with a Dawn Service at  
Hilton RSL.

#### MAY

20th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### JUNE

17th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### JULY

15th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### AUGUST

19th SA & NT AGM / Branch Meeting  
Naval, Military & Air Force Club,  
Adelaide 1100HRS  
Followed by lunch

#### SARAWAK TOUR

23rd August – 1st September, 2016

#### SEPTEMBER

16th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

TBC Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day

#### OCTOBER

21st Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### NOVEMBER

11th Remembrance Day Celebrations

18th Branch Meeting - Naval, Military  
& Air Force Club, Adelaide 1100HRS

#### DECEMBER

The traditional Christmas lunch for  
members, families and friends.

Throughout the year there are several  
invitations received from kindred ESOs  
which include the annual Korea  
Memorial service, the A&TSI Memorial  
service and the annual RAR SA Dinner.

### QUEENSLAND BRANCH

#### FEBRUARY

23rd Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### MARCH

22nd Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### APRIL

25th ANZAC Day March Brisbane  
Anzac Day Luncheon at New Farm  
Bowls Club  
26th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### MAY

24th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### JUNE

28th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### JULY

26th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### AUGUST

23rd Queensland AGM / Branch Meeting  
- Wynnum RSL, Wynnum: 1100HRS  
Followed by lunch  
31st Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day  
Commemoration Day

#### SEPTEMBER

27th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### OCTOBER

25th Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### NOVEMBER

11th Remembrance Day  
22nd Branch Meeting - Wynnum RSL  
Tingal Road, Wynnum: 1100HRS

#### DECEMBER

11th Xmas Party

## FEATURE STORY

### Peter Herbert Wilkins

### Lifetime of Community Service

15/11/1925 - 01/11/2015

Peter Wilkins was a member of the ACT Branch of NMBVAA Inc. for many years. Like so many members they are content to support the organisation from a distance and their story remains unknown by fellow members.

The following story paints a picture of a man who had a very interesting life. It would have been great to sit with him and talk about his many experiences. Thanks to ACT member Tom Ciesniewski for obtaining this information so it can be shared with others.

#### Ian Davenport

President - ACT/NSW Branch

Peter was born in Oxford UK. During WW2 he served as a Private in Morris Motors Home Guard Battalion (1941-42) and then as Air Mechanic (Electrical), Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm) on aircraft carriers in England, Sri Lanka and India (1942-46).

He was demobilised in March 1946. Peter returned to Morris Motors for a few months then joined the Palestine Police as B/C (British Constable) 2591 in November 1946 where he served in Jenin, returning to England in April 1947. Peter was appointed Constable (PC 33), Oxfordshire (now part of the Thames Valley) Constabulary in June 1947. After three months' basic training, he served in the Uniform Branch in Henley-on-Thames, Sandford-on-Thames and Wheatley until 1950, then Criminal Investigation Department (CID), County Police Headquarters, Oxford. Peter resigned in July 1952 to join the Colonial Police Service (which became part of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service in 1954).

Following a three-months' course for Colonial Police officer recruits at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon, London NW4, he was posted to Kampala, Uganda in November 1952, where he served first as Inspector, CID, then Instructor/Staff Officer, Police Training School and, finally, as Superintendent, Special Branch. Having trained a Ugandan officer to take over his duties, he left for England in August 1964 and, after leave, officially retired from the force in February 1965.

Peter went on contract as Deputy Superintendent, Special Branch, Royal Malaysia Police (Polis Di Raja Malaysia), Sabah State during konfrontasi (undeclared war) with Indonesia from 1965 to 1967, first in Keningau (1965-66), then Sandakan (1966-67).

A second contract (this time with the British Department of Overseas Development) took him to Belize City, British Honduras (now Belize), Central America as a civilian adviser to Police Special Branch from 1967 to 1970. Peter was appointed to a permanent position with the Federal Attorney-General's Department, Australian Public Service in May 1970 and served in Port Moresby, Territory of Papua & New Guinea from 1970 to 1974 and again (it had changed its name to Papua New Guinea in 1975) from 1977 to 1979, and in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia in 1975 and 1976 and again from 1979 until he retired in December 1986.

I accepted a Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2-year contract in May 1965 as a Deputy Superintendent in the Royal Malaysia Police (Polis Di Raja Malaysia) Special Branch in Sabah State (formerly

North Borneo). At that time, Malaysia, an independent sovereign state, was engaged in an undeclared war with Indonesia known as Konfrontasi, and experienced Special Branch officers were required in Sabah and Sarawak states to take charge of operations in the field.

I flew from London to Jesselton (now Kota Kinabalu), the capital of Sabah on 2 June 1965. After a couple of days in Jesselton meeting new colleagues, I flew to Kuala Lumpur (capital of Malaysia) for a month's course at the Royal Malaysia Police Special Branch training school then returned to Jesselton for briefings about my posting as Divisional Special Branch Officer (DSBO) of the Interior Residency (Province) that borders Kalimantan, Indonesia. My work required close liaison with the British and Malaysian military forces.

Penelope and the boys arrived by air in Jesselton on 9 August. We stayed there for a couple of nights before travelling by train to Tenom (there was no road in those days) and by car for the last few miles to Keningau, the Residency's main town.

We were allocated a pleasant house in a grassy paddock. It was in Keningau where I played my last game of rugby (aged 40) on New Year's Day 1966. The police turned out for a soccer match against the prisoners from the local gaol. But soccer soon turned to rugby and it was not long before the prisoners realised with delight that they were legally allowed to tackle (bash) the police officers. No goals or tries were scored by either side!



# The Listening Post

Summer Issue 2015 - Inside this edition

## FEATURE STORY (CONTINUED)

### Short account by Peter of his time in Sabah Malaysia

In May I was posted as DSBO to Sandakan Residency on the northeast coast. We flew there from Keningau to the main town, also named Sandakan, in a government-chartered light aircraft.

The flight took just over an hour; the alternative route took four days by car, train and boat. After living in the Sabah Hotel for a month, we found a house in Hill Road, similar in design to our Keningau house. It overlooked the Sulu Sea and we could see the southernmost islands of the Philippines from our veranda. We had some wonderful table tennis matches at home on Sundays; the local players always beat me hollow.

Because Sandakan Residency did not share a border with Kalimantan, I had little contact with the military compared with Keningau but there was certainly

more than enough work to keep occupied. From a professional point of view, my tour of service in Sabah was extremely interesting. Although asked by the Director, Special Branch, Police Headquarters, Kuala Lumpur to renew my contract for a further two years,

I knew there was no future for an expatriate in Malaysia, so decided to return to England to pursue longer-term Special Branch opportunities that existed. (The Director (a Malay) was promoted to Inspector General, Royal Malaysia Police after I left Sabah.

Sadly, he was assassinated in Kuala Lumpur by two members of the Malayan Communist Party on 7 June 1974. His death was a great shock to the police force and the country.)

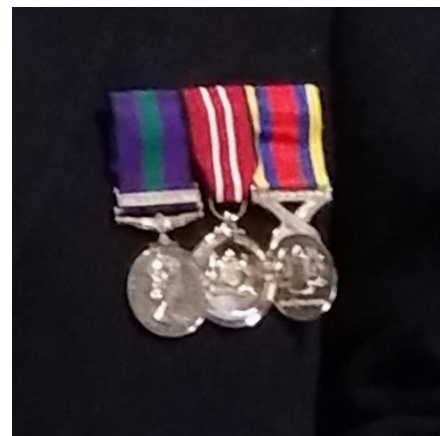
Incidentally, I was the only ex-Uganda police officer to serve in the Royal Malaysia Police who had not served previously in a Southeast Asia Colonial police force. I left Sabah with the family on 17 June 1967. I am a member of the Royal Malaysia Police Former Officers' Association United Kingdom. It produces a newsletter twice a year in Britain that keeps me up to date with news of people I know.

Peter lived in Canberra in retirement. He is survived by Penelope his wife of 53 years, his children Deborah, Philip and Richard, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

## Medal Mounting and Ribbon Bar Service

Tom Lentini whom lives in Werribee, Victoria recently retired after more than 30 years in the industry. Tom continues to demonstrate support for Veterans and ADF personnel for his service "free of charge" for his cost of labour for medal mounting. All you have to do is supply your medals and ribbons - this is a considerable cost saving.

Please contact Tom direct on (03) 9741 5269 to discuss your needs.



## Name Badge Orders

At our meeting yesterday Owen Marshall National President, has organised a Name Badge with magnetic attachment, which we hope to sell these to all members Nationally for \$20.00. Interested members should contact Ron Lee, National Merchandising Officer.

Address details:

PO Box 1446 Werribee Plaza ,3030 VIC or email rapl3677@hotmail.com for orders by giving their name they wish to have on the badge and arrangement for payment.



Proposed overall badge size: 75 x 25mm

## TASMANIA BRANCH



Tasmania - Anzac Day March-Banner Bearers from St Dominic's College"

## TASMANIA



## CONTACT

Mike Priest (03) 6228 5034

## Cherry Ricotta Muffins Recipe

Sent in with thanks to Peter Anderson

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (177 degrees C).  
Place rack in the middle of the oven.  
Line 12 muffin pans with paper liners or  
spray with a non-stick vegetable spray.

In a medium sized bowl, whisk the ricotta  
cheese and then add the eggs, one at a  
time, beating well after each addition.  
Add the buttermilk, vanilla extract, lemon  
juice, and cooled melted butter, mixing  
well. Set aside.

In another large mixing bowl, whisk  
together the flour, sugar, baking powder,  
baking soda, salt, and lemon zest.

Add the ricotta mixture to the flour mixture.  
Stir just until combined and then fold in  
the chopped cherries. Do not over mix  
this mixture or the muffins will be tough  
when baked.

Divide the batter amongst the 12 muffin  
cups using two spoons or an ice cream scoop.

Place in the oven and bake about 20  
minutes or until lightly browned and a  
toothpick inserted in the centre of a muffin  
comes out clean. (The baking time will be  
a little longer if using frozen cherries.)

Remove from oven and place on a wire  
rack to cool. When fresh cherries are out of  
season use dried cherries. Lemon Zest - the  
yellow outer rind of the lemon.



- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup (240 ml) buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 4 tablespoons (57 grams) unsalted butter,  
melted and cooled
- 2 cups (260 grams) all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (150 grams) granulated white sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 1 1/2 cup cherries (fresh or frozen),  
pitted and sliced (If using frozen cherries  
do not defrost before using).

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## Jokes...

I don't trust stairs!

"They are always up to something"

What do you get hanging off a  
Banana Tree?

"Sore arms!"

Why is Irish Whisky triple distilled?

"To be sure" To be sure" To be sure"