



# THE OBSERVATION POST

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

SA/NT Branch Patron:  
Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

Volume 15, number HB25-1 – HB25 SPECIAL #1 2025



## OPERATION "HORNBILL 2025"

Soon after this year's Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Adelaide, our State President and Vice-President made a self-funded executive liaison visit to Sarawak. Their aim was to join with the Eastick family reunion, to commemorate the service of Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO ED from South Australia, who was Commander of Kuching Force at the end of World War 2.

They joined 80th Anniversary commemorative events relating to the Japanese surrender and the liberation of Batu Lintang POW Camp by troops of the 9th Australian Division, AIF.

In addition to these activities, our executive liaison party joined in several other events and met with various local officials to make preparations for a combined Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand Commemoration Service to be held in Kuching in 2026 to mark the 60th anniversary of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.



## IN THE MEDIA : HONOURING VETERANS

At our commemorative services in Adelaide and in Kuching we solemnly repeat the promise to 'Remember the Fallen'. For our 2025 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, we were privileged to have as our guest of honour the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM, who attended on this occasion as the Deputy Governor of South Australia.

This Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service was reported on widely in Sarawak and Borneo, as a prelude to the executive liaison visit to Sarawak which followed a week later.

**Aussie veterans honour S'wak defenders, to return for 80th anniversary of Japanese surrender**

By LIM HIONG PIM ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2025, 12:05

In the South Australian MMITPAKA annual service of commemoration, Iban trackers, local police and the 11 Australians who died in defense of Sarawak were honoured. Photo: Luke Scott/Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos

**RECENT POSTS**

- RM22.5 min SMK Engkhill upgrading project on track for Feb 2026 completion
- Sarawak leaders grace Mauludur Rasul Thanksgiving at State Jamek Mosque
- Sarawak's gas story is about justice, not conspiracy
- Contractor told to fix flaws in Sematai park upgrading project
- Facts, not fiction, why PETROS is Sarawak's lawful gas aggregator
- Sarawak continues as model of harmony in religious, cultural diversity – Governor
- Aussie veterans honour S'wak defenders, to return for 80th anniversary of Japanese surrender
- Sarawak Semiconductor Roadmap 2030 targets RM30 bn GDP, 3,000 jobs, RM2.5 bn investments
- Sarawak unveils Semiconductor Roadmap 2030, aiming to become Asia's 'Silicon Nerve Centre'

**'Aussie veterans honour S'wak defenders, to return for 80th anniversary of Japanese surrender'**

*Dayak Daily (Sarawak online), 5 September 2025*

<https://dayakdaily.com/aussie-veterans-honour-swak-defenders-to-return-for-80th-anniversary-of-japanese-surrender>

**Australian Malaya-Borneo veterans honour fallen comrades in Adelaide, set to return to Sarawak for 80th anniversary events**

BY LIM HIONG PIM ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2025, SATURDAY AT 8:03 AM

Borneo veteran Paul Bayliss places a special hand-made poppy wreath in honour of the fallen members of the Federation of Malay Police, North Borneo Armed Constabulary and the Sarawak Constabulary. – Photo by Luke Scott, Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos

**'Australian Malaya-Borneo veterans honour fallen comrades in Adelaide, set to return to Sarawak for 80th anniversary events'**

*Borneo Post online, 6 September 2025*

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2025/09/06/australian-malaya-borneo-veterans-honour-fallen-comrades-in-adelaide-set-to-return-to-sarawak-for-80th-anniversary-events>

**Veteran Australia hargai pengorbanan pahlawan Sarawak**

Veteran Borneo Paul Bayliss meletakkan kalungan bunga popi buatan tangan khas sebagai penghormatan kepada anggota Polis Persekutuan Melayu yang gagar, Konstabulari Bersenjata Borneo Utara dan Konstabulari Sarawak. Imej - Luke Scott, Foto Peringatan Tentara Adelaide

**'Veteran Australia hargai pengorbanan pahlawan Sarawak'**

*Suara Sarawak (online), 6 September 2025*

<https://suarasarawak.my/veteran-australia-hargai-pengorbanan-pahlawan-sarawak/>

## OPERATION "HORNBILL 2025"

6 – 18 September 2025

Each year the members of the Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association gather in Adelaide, South Australia to commemorate Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day.

In our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service on Friday 29 August 2025, we honoured comrades who served and died during the Malayan Wars, and Commonwealth naval, military, air, police and civilian forces, including Iban trackers, who served and lost their lives, particularly in defence of Sabah and Sarawak.

We noted that 11 Australians died in defence of Sarawak – eight on operational service, and three after being evacuated from Sarawak.

A week later, our President and Vice-President embarked on Operation "Hornbill 2025" – a self-funded executive liaison visit to Sarawak.

The prime purpose of this trip was to join events relating to the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sarawak from Japanese Occupation in 1945, and to honour the service of Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO ED from South Australia.

Eastick was Commander Kuching Force at the end of World War 2, and Military Governor of Sarawak from 10 September until December 1945, when the territory returned to local civilian rule.

At the same time, Paul and Don met with local officials to make preparations for a combined Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand Commemoration Service to be held in Kuching in 2026 to mark the 60th anniversary of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

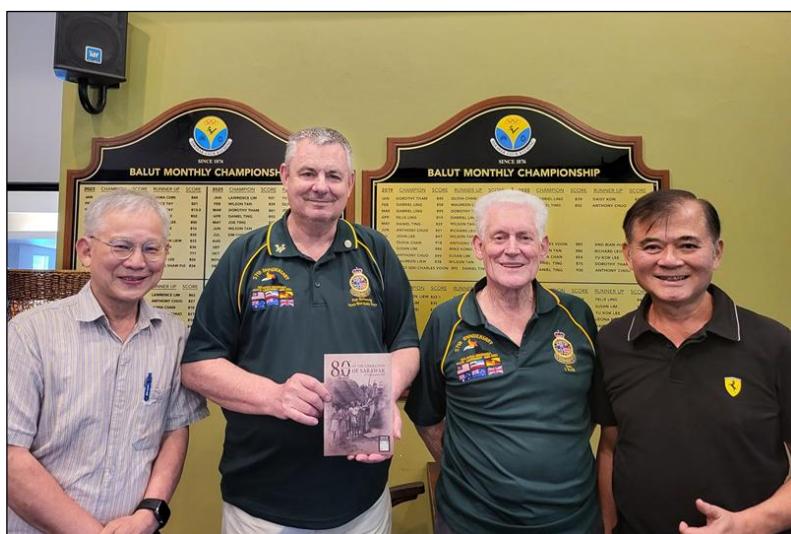


On Sunday 7 September, the party met with Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak – who is in fact Australia's longest serving honorary consul.

They were kindly hosted by Datuk Philip for lunch at the Sarawak Club, together with local historian Dr John Chew PBK MBBS (Monash) FRCA, an anaesthetist, the esteemed Chairman of Borneo Medical Centre Kuching, and a past president of the Malaysian Medical Association.



Our good friend Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak (right), welcomed the NMBVAA executive party to Kuching at the Sarawak Club, together with local historian Dr John Chew PBK MBBS (Monash) FRCA (centre).



Paul Rosenzweig OAM and Don Cameron pictured at the Sarawak Club in Kuching with Dr John Chew (left) and Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak, with an advance copy of the commemorative booklet produced by Dr Chew – "80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sarawak, 11 September 2025".

| South Australian veterans to join WWII 80th anniversary events in Kuching

BY LIN HOW PIN ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2025, SUNDAY AT 10:02 AM



MOST READ



Rosenzweig (left) and Cameron pose at Kuala Lumpur International Airport en route to Kuching

KUCHING (Sept 7): A veteran delegation from South Australia is expected to join the World War II 80th anniversary events to be held here this week.

Among them is Don Cameron, who served in military operations near Kampung Gumbang in 1965.

## IN THE MEDIA : PILGRIMAGE TO SARAWAK

The arrival of our Malaya & Borneo Veterans executive liaison party was announced in Sarawak and Borneo:

**'S'wak welcomes family of WWII commander Sir Thomas Eastick ahead of 80th liberation anniversary'**  
*Borneo Post online, 6 September 2025*

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2025/09/06/swak-welcomes-family-of-wwii-commander-sir-thomas-eastick-ahead-of-80th-liberation-anniversary/>

**'South Australian veterans to join WWII 80th anniversary events in Kuching'**  
*Borneo Post online, 7 September 2025*

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2025/09/07/south-australian-veterans-to-join-wwii-80th-anniversary-events-in-kuching/>

**'S. Australian veterans to join WWII 80th anniversary events in Kuching'**  
*The Borneo Post, 8 September 2025*



| S'wak welcomes family of WWII commander Sir Thomas Eastick ahead of 80th liberation anniversary

BY LIN HOW PIN ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, SATURDAY AT 8:24 PM



The family of Brigadier General Eastick pose for a group photo, taken during their visit to Kuching.

KUCHING (Sept 6): The Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) hosted a welcoming dinner for the family of Brigadier General Sir Thomas Eastick at Telang Usan Hotel here on Thursday, marking the start of their historical visit to Sarawak.

| S'wak welcomes family of WWII commander Sir Thomas Eastick ahead of 80th liberation anniversary

BY LIN HOW PIN ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, SATURDAY AT 8:24 PM

They will be joined next week by South Australia and Northern Territory National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association president Major (Rtd) Paul Rosenzweig and vice-president Don Cameron.

Their visit coincides with the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Sarawak from Japanese Occupation, which will be commemorated on Sept 11 with a series of events including the unveiling of the Surrender Monument at Pending Point in the morning, a re-enactment of the surrender aboard the Australian patrol boat HMAS Murray, and a commemoration ceremony at Batu Lintang POW War Memorial Square later that day.

The Australian delegation will also be taken on a tour of key tourist sites around Kuching during their stay.



**SARAWAK VETERANS  
ASSOCIATION**  
7 September 2025

On Sunday night, the executive liaison party were warmly welcomed to Kuching by Lieutenant-General Datuk Stephen Mundaw PGBK (ret'd) and Datin Jacqueline Mundaw, and Sarawak Veterans' Association members.

General Mundaw is a former Commander of the First Infantry Division based in Sarawak, and as a Lieutenant-General was Commander of Eastern Field Command.

He is a staunch believer of the Royal Ranger Regiment's battle-cry – *Agi Idup Agi Ngelaban* ("continue fighting as long as we live").

We greatly appreciate the camaraderie of the Sarawak Veterans in hosting us in their club. The NMBVAA scarf and wall plaques that we presented on previous visits are still taking pride of place above the bar.

Paul presented General Mundaw with a bound copy of the SA/NT Branch Visits to Sarawak, summarising the history of our reunion pilgrimages, and a Branch challenge coin.



*Police Superintendent (ret'd) Laven Tan, a veteran of Konfrontasi.*



*Don Cameron receives his Sarawak Veterans Association badge from Lieutenant-General Datuk Stephen Mundaw.*

On Monday 8 September, the executive liaison party members were hosted at a lunch at Telang Usan Hotel by Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM (former Heritage Adviser, Sarawak Tourism Federation) and his sons Wilfred from Singapore and Eric from Perth. They also met with Mdm Audry Wan Ullok, President of the Sarawak Tourism Federation, and local tour guide Mr Edward Mansell.

That night, the party met up again with Datuk Dr Philip Ting at The Junk restaurant, which our 2023 pilgrimage members will recall for its fine food and unique ambience. Joining them was another good friend who especially flew in from Kuala Lumpur to meet the team – Fiona Marcus Raja formerly of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee.

On Tuesday 9 September, our party travelled with the Eastick family group to the *Astana Negeri Sarawak*, the official residence of His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak.

They paid a courtesy call on Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak Tun Pehin Sri Dr Haji Wan Junaidi Jaafar and Her Excellency Toh Puan.

The Eastick family presented the Governor with an original signed Japanese Surrender document, and various other historical documents. Our President presented the Governor with an NMBVAA coin in a polished wood display case.

Following this the parties were hosted on a tour of the Sarawak State Assembly – *Dewan Undangan Negeri* (pictured right). Our party presented the *Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak* (Parliamentary Secretary) Nur Azhar bin Bujang PPB an NMBVAA Wall Plaque and a bound copy of the Record of SA/NT Branch Visits to Sarawak.

Afterwards in the DUN grounds there was a tree-planting with three trees being placed – one by the Eastick family, one by Paul and Don on behalf of the NMBVAA, and one by Dato Lim Kian Hock's party which included Audry Wan Ullok, Dr John Chew and Edward Mansell.

The trees planted were Bornean Ironwood (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*), which is known locally as *Kayu Belian*. The Bornean Ironwood was officially designated as the official tree of Sarawak in 1984.

Lunch followed at the English Tea House next to historic Fort Margherita.



*The Dewan Undangan Negeri, the Sarawak State Assembly building, and the giant Sarawak flag atop the 99-metre tall flagpole, the tallest flagpole in South East Asia, with historic Fort Margherita to the right.*





## ASTANA NEGERI SARAWAK

9 September 2025

On Tuesday 9 September, our Malaya & Borneo Veterans executives joined Eastick family members in a visit to the *Astana Negeri Sarawak* to pay a courtesy call on TYT Yang di-Pertua Negeri (His Excellency the Governor) of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Jaafar and Her Excellency Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi.



*The Eastick family and NMBVAA members with Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM at the Astana Negeri Sarawak*



*Dr John Chew PBK with our Vice-President and President, with a Royal Malaysian Police Astana Guard*



Representing the Sarawak State Government during this courtesy call was Dato Sri Abd Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, who provided much support for our past pilgrimage visits to Sarawak.

The group was joined by Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM, Mdm Audry Wan Ullok and Dr John Chew PBK.

*Left: State President Paul Rosenzweig presented on behalf of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA this gift to TYT Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak.*

## ASTANA NEGERI SARAWAK

9 September 2025



The title “Tuan Yang Terutama” (TYT) literally means ‘The Most Eminent Master’ and is used for a state governor, equivalent to ‘His Excellency’.

The title “Yang di-Pertua Negeri” (‘He who is made Leader of the Land’) is a constitutional title given to the head of state in Malaysian states without a ruler, these being Penang, Malacca, Sabah and Sarawak.



▲ 旺朱乃迪及弗兹雅（左五及左六）昨日在砂元首府接待澳洲、英国及德国代表团成员。

（古晋9日讯）砂元首敦旺朱乃迪已指示砂旅游、创意产业及表演艺术部长拿督斯里阿都卡林进行详细研究，以探讨在砂设立战争博物馆的可行性。

此提案源于砂元首与元首后杜潘弗兹雅今日在砂元首府接领历史性文件《1945年日本投降原件》。该文件由澳洲已故准将托马斯伊斯迪克的孙子麦克伊斯迪克亲自移交。

### 缅怀战士老兵平台

旺朱乃迪说，拟建的博物馆将收藏二战时期（日本占领时期）、共产主义威胁时期，以及与印尼军队对抗时期的史料。

他说，若成功设立，战争博物馆不仅应作为历史资料收藏地，更应成为缅怀与纪念本地及外国战士和老兵的平台，表彰他们在动荡时期为自由所作出牺牲与贡献。

“博物馆应展示书籍、照片、日记、军装、文件及相关史料，作为后代重要参考，并欢迎本地及国际作者贡献相关历史著作。”

据悉，《1945年日本投降原件》象征二战期间日本在婆罗洲占领的结束。当时驻古晋部队司令托马斯伊斯迪克准将在1945年9月11日正式接收日军山村将军的投降。这是一个里程碑，今年正值这历史性时刻80周年。托马斯伊斯迪克随后担任古晋军事总督6个月，直至砂和平恢复民政管理。

### 参观英殖民时期旧勋章砂旗帜

交接仪式结束后，旺朱乃迪及弗兹雅在众人陪同下，参观同期展出的英国殖民时期旧勋章和砂政府旗帜。

旺朱乃迪对来自澳洲、英国及德国的代表团表示感谢。他说，这些代表团的祖先是曾与砂人民并肩作战，为将砂从外国占领中解放出来而奋斗的战争老兵。

The call on the Governor was widely reported in newspapers including Dayak Daily, the Sarawak Tribune, the Borneo Post and Sin Chew Daily (above).

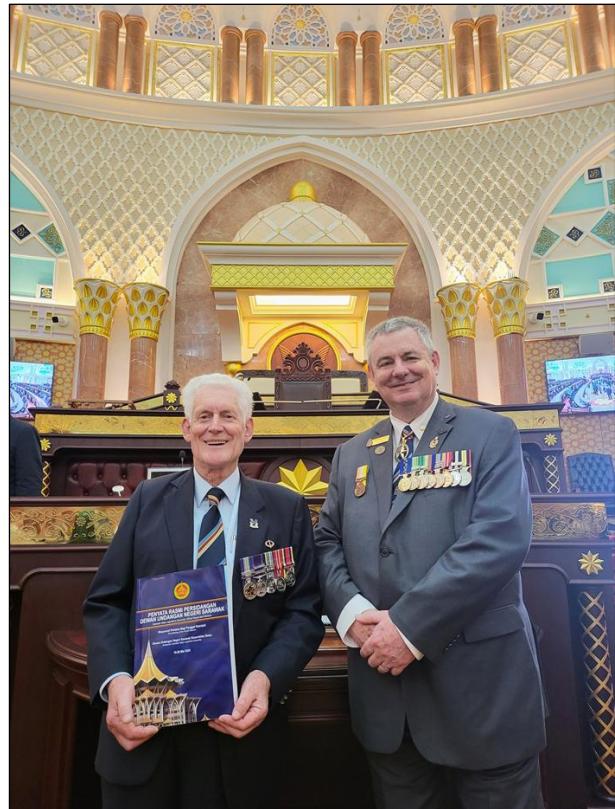
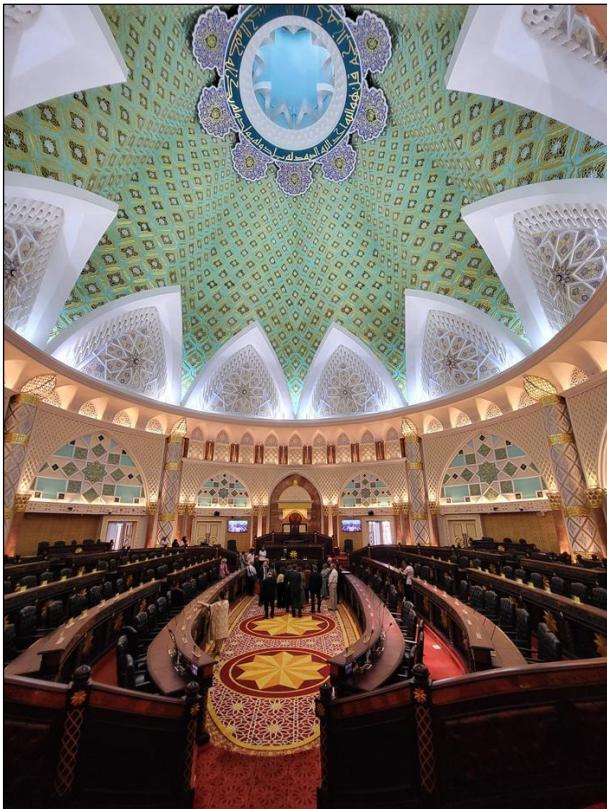




## DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

9 September 2025

The Eastick and NMBVAA parties were hosted on a tour of the Sarawak State Assembly – *Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*. Paul and Don presented the *Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak* (DUN Secretary) Nur Azhar bin Bujang PPB an NMBVAA Wall Plaque and a bound copy of the Record of SA/NT Branch Visits to Sarawak.



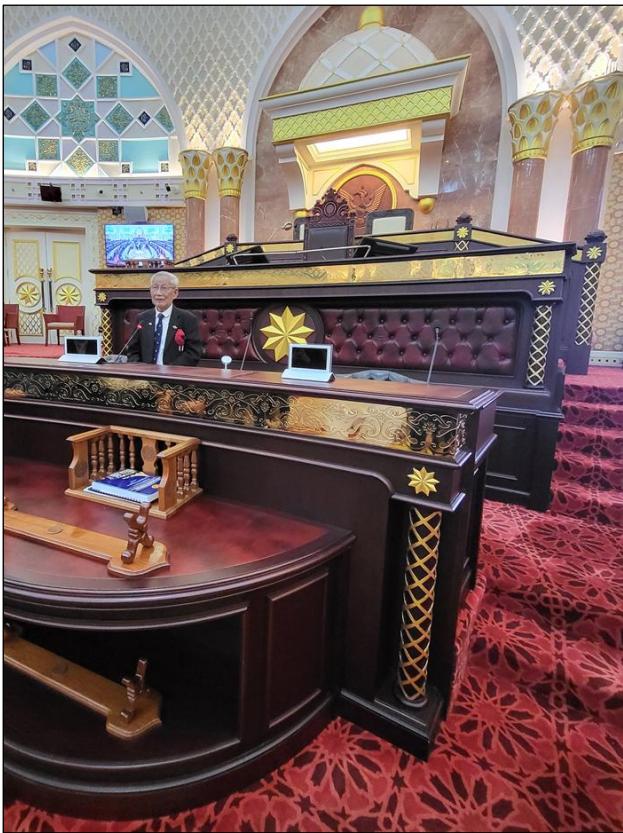
*The Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak is the legislative chamber of the unicameral legislature of Sarawak.*

*Paul and Don in the chamber of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak.*



## DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

9 September 2025



*Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM: 28 years ago Dato Lim retired from the dignified post of Chief Clerk of Council Negri.*



*Paul and Don presented Nur Azhar bin Bujang PPB an NMBVAA Wall Plaque and a bound copy of the Record of SA/NT Branch Visits to Sarawak.*



*Paul and Don supported Dato Lim by placing some Australian military items of historical interest into a time capsule, to remain sealed until the year 2030.*



*Paul and Don at the seats reserved for His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri (Governor) of Sarawak and Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan in the Sarawak State Assembly.*



## TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY 9 September 2025

Paul and Don represented the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA in a tree-planting ceremony in the grounds of the Sarawak State Assembly building. This was an initiative to advance biodiversity conservation sponsored by the Sarawak Tourism Federation and upholding the vision of Kuching North City Hall (*Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara, DBKU*).

They planted a Bornean Ironwood (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*), known locally as 'Kayu Belian', which was made the official tree of Sarawak in 1984. These trees are known to live for up to a thousand years.

The NMBVAA tree was planted in honour of Major-General Sir George Frederick Wootten KBE CB DSO\* ED (1893-1970). As the General Officer Commanding the 9th Australian Division, he accepted the Japanese surrender for British North Borneo (Sabah) on 10 September 1945 on the island of Labuan from Lieutenant-General Masao Baba, Commander of the Japanese 37th Army and Supreme Commander for Borneo. Following the Japanese surrender, Wootten commanded the British Borneo Civil Affairs Unit.



*The tree-planting ceremony was arranged by Mdm Audry Wan Ullock, President of the Sarawak Tourism Federation, and former STF Heritage Advisor Dato Lim Kian Hock.*



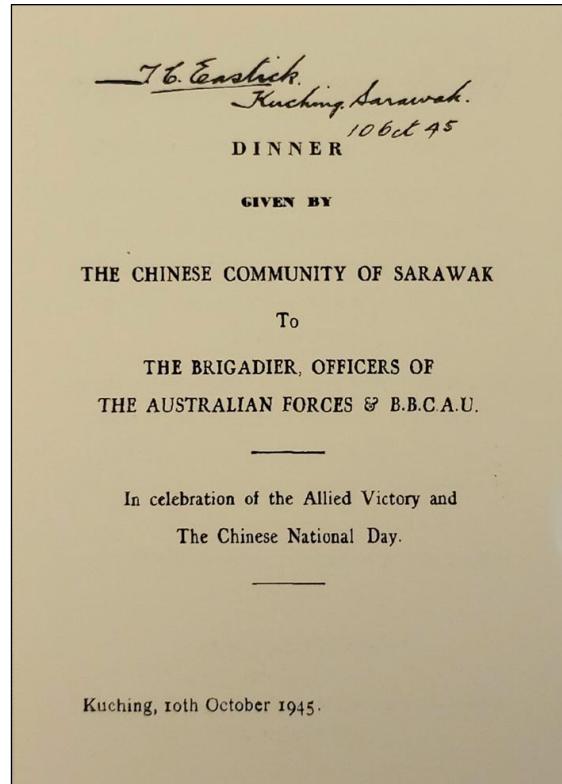
## FEDERATION OF CHINESE ASSOCIATIONS OF SARAWAK

10 September 2025

Our NMBVAA executive party joined a dinner at the Sarawak Club hosted by the President of the Federation of Chinese Associations of Sarawak, Dato Richard Wee Liang Chiat PSBS KMN PBK. It was held to mark the 80th anniversary of a dinner hosted by the Chinese Community of Sarawak on 10 October 1945 for Brigadier Tom Eastick and the officers of the Australian Forces and the British Borneo Civil Affairs Unit (the post-war military administration that operated in Borneo after the Japanese surrender, before the formal British Military Administration was fully established).



Dato Richard Wee Liang Chiat PSBS KMN PBK



Replica card from 10 October 1945





## LIBERATION OF SARAWAK

### 11 September 2025

Our executive party participated in several events relating to the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sarawak from Japanese Occupation by members of the 9th Australian Division, AIF. These included a service of commemoration, unveiling of a commemorative memorial and a wreath-laying ceremony at Pending Point jetty, and a wreath-laying ceremony at Batu Lintang WW2 Memorial Square. Paul and Don were involved, reciting the Ode of Remembrance at Pending Point (see news report below) and Batu Lintang respectively. There will be more on these events in the 'HB25 Special #2 2025' newsletter.



At Pending Point, with Dato Lim's son Wilfred



Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM

**古晉擬二戰遊覽路線**

(古晋11日讯)配合砂拉越脱离日本占领80周年纪念，古晋南市市长拿督黄鸿圣表示，古晋南市市政局将复兴二战纪念钟楼，并打造二战历史遗迹的游览路线，连接峇都林当、浮罗岸与朋岭，以确保砂拉越的战争历史得以传承，并让未来世代铭记这一段珍贵的历史。

**南市局是记忆守护者**

黄鸿圣今日在朋岭码头举行的砂拉越二战解放纪念碑揭幕仪式致词时指出，当局不仅是一个处理垃圾及维修道路等工作的地方政府，更是“记忆的守护者、身份的建构者、文化的捍卫者”。

**还原浮罗岸钟楼历史地位**

黄鸿圣特别提及位于浮罗岸的纪念钟楼，最初是为纪念二战而建，曾是花圈敬献及沉默胜于言语的纪念场所。但随着时间推移，它的象征

意义逐渐被遗忘，变成了一座“只是时钟”的建筑。

“我们将重新唤醒它原本的意义，再次赋予它纪念的力量。”

**串联史迹路线铭记牺牲**

黄鸿圣接着称，从峇都林当至浮罗岸，再延伸至朋岭的这条路线，将把重要的历史据点串

联起来，让“每一步都是一个故事，每一条路都是对牺牲的致敬”。

他说，这项举措将与市政局现有的壁画、纪念碑与文化空间互相辉映，把城市的街道变成一条条“活的历史”，不仅吸引游客，也振兴本地经济，让砂拉越的精神得以延续。

“我们要让历史不再是课本上的文字，而是能被触摸、被聆听、被感受的真实体验。”



## STATE DINNER 11 September 2025

Our executive liaison party was invited to a State Dinner hosted by YB Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts, and YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Tourism), who have generously supported recent pilgrimage visits by the SA/NT Branch.



## MALAYSIA-AUSTRALIA DEFENCE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 12 September 2025



Our executives were invited to a reception for members of the Malaysia-Australia Defence Alumni Association hosted by Colonel Corey Shillabeer, Australian Defence Advisor to Malaysia together with other members of the Defence Section at the Australian High Commission Kuala Lumpur. Paul and Don were presented these M-ADAA shirts – with the various design elements representing the strong bilateral relationship between Australia and Malaysia.



*Paul and Don are wearing traditional Bidayuh pangieh necklaces from the indigenous Dayak people of the Sarawak Highlands*

## SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN

12 September 2025

The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration: two of these aspects are 'Remember Malaysia' and 'Look to the future'. We greatly appreciate the fundraising contributions and donations from our members and friends which allow the Branch to provide ongoing financial assistance to four adopted schools (Sekolah Kebangsaan, SK) in the Bau District of Sarawak, located immediately adjacent to the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. These schools stand on or near sites where Australian military forces were deployed in 1965 and 1966 during Confrontation. Many of the schools are today still finding relics of the old military camps.

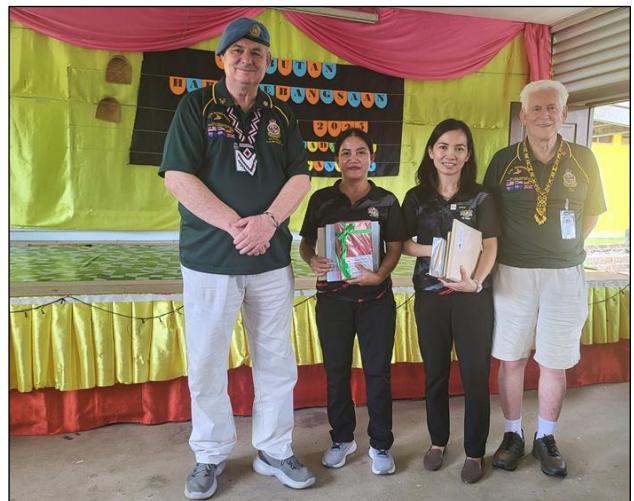


### SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN STASS

Our executives were received at SK Stass by a welcoming party of students in Bidayuh National Dress, who later gave a cultural performance.

The visit was arranged by our friend Puan Shane Anak Regok, Pre-School Teacher, Secretary of the SK Stass Parents and Teachers Association, and Secretary for the Village Development and Security Committee, JKKK – Jawankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung.

Her late father had received a JKKK commendation certificate in appreciation of his contribution to the kampung during Confrontation.



*Paul and Don passed over a financial donation and several books for the school library to Puan Jacelyn Nihar, Senior Assistant for Administration, and later planted a tree.*





## SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN SERABAK

Our executives were hosted on a visit to SK Serabak by the Headmistress Puan Julina anak Nudui, who took up this role in February this year. They were met on arrival by the students in various forms of National Dress celebrating Malaysia Day.

The visit was arranged by our friend Puan Magdelina anak Joseph Nyadi, Senior Assistant for Student Affairs.



Paul passed over a financial donation to the Headmistress (Guru Besar) Puan Julina anak Nudui. These donations to SK Stass and SK Serabak included a donation from the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA as well as personal contributions from Paul & Crisel Rosenzweig, Don & Jenny Cameron, Mrs Radha Agali Krishnamurthy (604 Squadron) and a very generous personal contribution from Datuk Dr Philip Ting.



Paul and Don passed over several books for the school library to Puan Julina anak Nudui and Puan Magdelina anak Joseph Nyadi, Senior Assistant for Student Affairs (Guru Penolong Kanan Hal Ehwal Murid), and later planted three fruit trees in the school grounds.



## KAMPUNG GUMBANG

16 September 2025

A border defensive position was established near Kampong Gumbang by a troop of 40 Royal Marine Commando in 1963, known as 'Bukit Knuckle'. It was subsequently occupied by a troop from 42 Royal Marine Commando, a rifle platoon from the 1st Green Jackets, and a rifle platoon from the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (October 1964 to March 1965). It was upgraded into a company position by 'B' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (March to July 1965), and subsequently occupied by rifle companies from the 2nd Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (July 1965 to January 1966) and the 1st Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (January to April 1966).

Our executive party was received in the Balai Raya Kampung by the Ketua Kampung ('Village Chief') Agun anak Ringot, who is a veteran of military service with the Ranger Regiment.

They also met our esteemed friend Atok anak Derop, the immediate past Ketua Kampung Gumbang who is now Temenggong Bidayuh for Kuching Division.

Paul and Don also had the chance to meet Puan Phiong Kiuk Fa, the Guru Besar (Headmistress) of SK Gumbang school – members may recall meeting her previously when she was Headmistress of SK Serabak school (2016-2024).

Don Cameron is a veteran of military service in defence of Sarawak and Kampong Gumbang in 1965. He served in three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment between 1962 and 1968.

During Confrontation, Don conducted counter-insurgency patrols from the fortified patrol base near Kampung Gumbang.

For this service, Don received imperial and Australian operational service medals, and also the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*. Besides his Army deployment in 1965, this was Don's sixth visit to Sarawak.



*Paul receives a traditional Bidayuh pangieh necklace from Temenggong Atok anak Derop.*



*Don receives a traditional Bidayuh pangieh necklace from Ketua Kampung Agun anak Ringot.*





## SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN GUMBANG

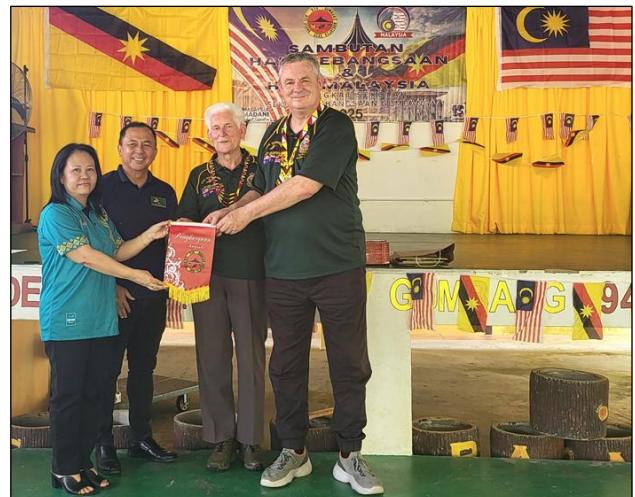
After the reception and presentations at the Balai Raya Kampung, Paul and Don were hosted on a visit to SK Gumbang school by Puan Phiong Kiuk Fa, where they met with teachers and presented the Branch donation of books for the school library.



Paul and Don presented the Headmistress with a Certificate of Affiliation and an NMBVAA wall plaque.



Paul passed over a financial donation from the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA to Headmistress Puan Phiong Kiuk Fa.





## SARAWAK VETERANS ASSOCIATION

16 September 2025

On their last night in Kuching, our executive party was farewelled by Lieutenant-General Datuk Stephen Mundaw PGBK (ret'd) and Datin Jacqueline Mundaw, and members of the Sarawak Veterans' Association, at an informal Korean BBQ dinner. We greatly appreciate the friendship of the Sarawak Veterans, and look forward to engaging with them again next year.





## OPERATION "HORNBILL 2025"



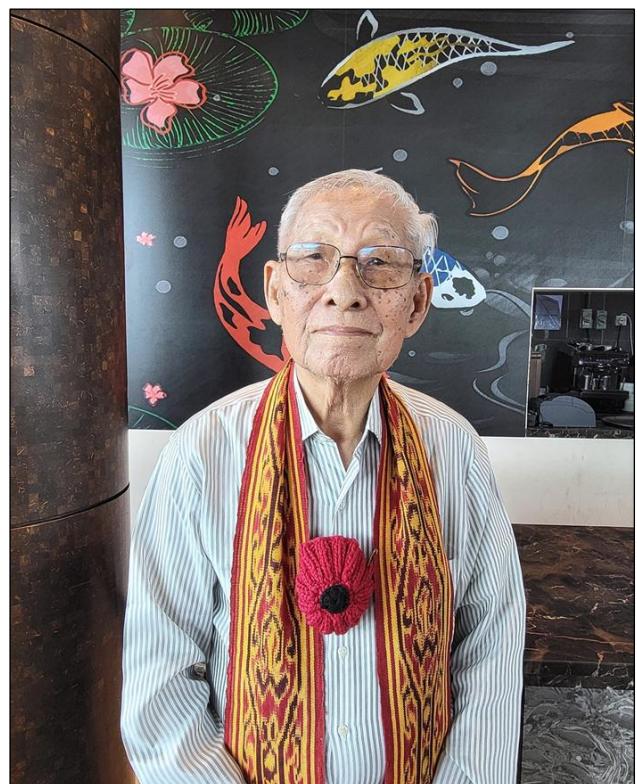
Red Carpet treatment at the Kuching Hilton



Missing all the "Bla Bla Bla"



STF planning lunch at the Sarawak Golf Club



Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM