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THE OBSERVATION POST

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

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



Photo by Lisa Burns of Radio Adelaide, used with permission

INAUGURAL ORAL HISTORY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Helen Meyer, Executive Producer of 'Service Voices' on Radio Adelaide. Helen was recently announced as the winner of the History Council of South Australia's Oral History Excellence Award. This award recognises the best oral history presentation, in any format, that uses first-person interviews with individuals, encompassing unique life experiences and memories. This was the first time this award has been presented.

Helen had this to say: "*It was all thanks to the opportunities available to everyone in Community Broadcasting. Special thanks to Radio Adelaide, its many staff over a period of many years, and CBAA [Community Broadcasting Association of Australia] for both having faith in the format of Service Voices*".





VALE

Gloria Frances Matthews
24 July 1943 – 05 June 2022

RAP

Allan Davies
Bill Voyce

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Public Affairs Officer

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THANK YOU

We thank Tony Zappia MP
and the staff of his Makin
Electorate Office for their
generous assistance with
our printing needs.

BRANCH UPDATES

The SA/NT Branch can take great pride in the Oral History Excellence Award presented to Helen Meyer. Several of our members have been interviewed by Helen and her team over the years, including Brian Selby, Don Cameron, Ken Matthews, Bill Hansen, Theo Dekuyper, Beverley Dubois, Vicki Crannaford, Paul Bayliss and Paul Rosenzweig. To find our interviews, have a look online here and search 'Malaya' or 'Borneo', or by name: <https://radioadelaide.org.au/program/service-voices/>

We have been advised that the NZ Malayan Veterans Association is beginning the process of winding up its affairs, and we have written on behalf of the SA/NT Branch to the President (Dave Fenton) and Vice-President (Bill Russell) to thank them for their friendship and camaraderie (see attached).

Bill led the NZ contingent in 2019 – for the ceremony at the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park and the highly memorable lunch at the Sarawak Club. He is organising their 2023 reunion tour through the Hutt Valley (Wellington) MVA Branch, and we are planning our 2023 visit in conjunction with Bill (see our Warning Order attached). If you're interested in joining the reunion, now is the time to start planning.

This newsletter includes some general updates, an invitation for our Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day service on 26 August this year, and a Warning Order for our proposed Borneo Reunion Visit in 2023.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

'Meet the Minister': 1800h Thursday 14 July, Torrens Parade Ground. Registration is essential: <https://bit.ly/3QuOb4>

July meeting: 1100h Friday 15 July 2022, Avoca Hotel
Followed by lunch

Date of interest: End of the Malayan Emergency, 12 July (1960)

Date of interest: Thursday 11 August: End of Confrontation (1960)

SA/NT Branch AGM: 1100h Friday 19 August, Avoca Hotel
With a Guest Speaker and lunch (own expense)

Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration – to be held at 1100h on Friday 26 August in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens, Hilton

Date of interest: Wednesday 31 August: Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day

Date of interest: Sunday 11 September: Batu Lintang liberation (1945)

September meeting: 1100h Friday 19 August 2022, Avoca Hotel
Followed by lunch

October meeting: 1100h Friday 21 October 2022, Avoca Hotel
Followed by lunch



Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Bill Chappell OAM

Congratulations to Bill Chappell of the Elizabeth/Salisbury Branch of the Air Force Association (SA Division), who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours List, *"For service to veterans and their families"*.

A Royal Australian Air Force veteran (1962-82), originally from Kadina, Bill served as an instrument fitter with No 79 Squadron at RAAF Butterworth in 1965-68, and again in 1974-77. For his service during Confrontation, he was awarded the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*.

In July-September 1966, and again in October-November 1967, he served with the RAAF detachment at the Royal Thai Air Force Base at Ubon in northeastern Thailand, close to the borders of Cambodia and Laos.

The detachment supported the USAF 'Triple Nickel Squadron' during Operation 'Rolling Thunder', the aerial bombardment of North Vietnam – they flew strikes 24 hours a day with their 88 F4 Phantoms and a dozen or so Hercules gunships.

No 79 Squadron provided daytime protection for the base.



Bill Chappell OAM (left), pictured with Mr John Leahy and Mrs Lyne Leahy OAM (Secretary of the Elizabeth/Salisbury Branch) and Mrs Kay Chappell (right).

Bill recalls, *"It was a very noisy environment particularly as the RAAF barracks were about 200 metres from the launch part of the strip"*. The USAF lost dozens of F4s based at Ubon, but shot down many MiGs. Of interest – Ubon was closer to Hanoi than the air bases in South Vietnam.

Since 1992, Bill has been the Secretary/ Treasurer of the Ubon Branch of the Air Force Association (SA Division).

Bill served as a Council Member of the Air Force Association (SA Division) from 2003 to 2018, including a long term as Vice-President from 2004 to 2018. He was Editor of the Air Force Association's newsletter 'Plane Connection' from 2003 to 2022.

Bill served for 5 years at RAAF Edinburgh with the Lockheed AP-3 Orions. He was Vice-President of the Elizabeth/Salisbury Branch of the Air Force Association from 2008 to 2012, President from 2012 to 2016, and has been Vice-President again since 2016.

MALAYA-BORNEO SCARF

Our Malaya-Borneo scarf has proved to be very popular, and our first batch sold out very quickly. We placed another order, and now only have a couple of those remaining.

They are very high quality, and good value at \$33 each, plus postage if you need it mailed to you. Please contact Jenny Cameron: wildcanyon@adam.com.au



Datuk Philip Ting AM PGBK, the Australian Honorary Consul in Kuching, pictured in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens wearing our Malaya-Borneo scarf and holding Bart Morrow's medals.



July 2022, Page 4

NZ Malayan Veterans Association

From a time when New Zealand almost joined the Australian federation in 1901, through to today where we continue to enjoy a comprehensive bilateral relationship and security partnership, we have a proud tradition of joint deployments.

This began of course with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on the Gallipoli Peninsula, which established the Spirit of ANZAC.

This ANZAC partnership has stood us in good stead for over a century, and wherever our Diggers have gathered, on operations or socially, there has been an ANZAC Club or spirited competition of some sort. The memorable and entertaining lunch at the Sarawak Club during the reunion visit in 2019 (see photos to the right) springs to mind!

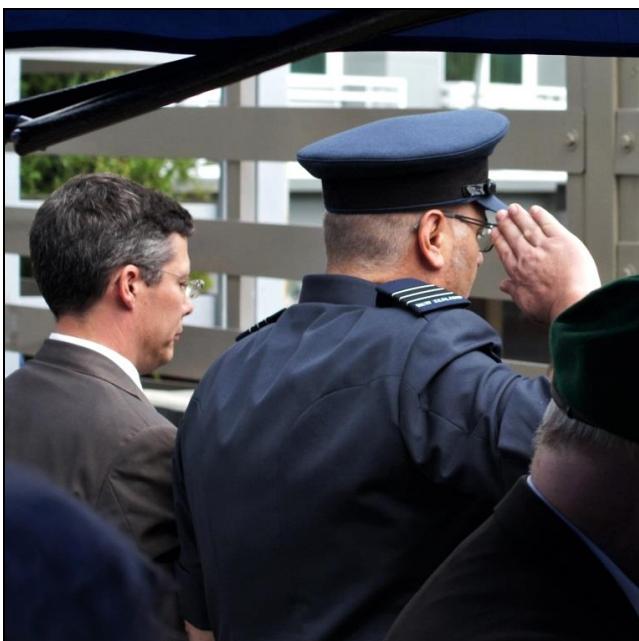
This followed on from our combined commemoration service, which was attended by the ANZAC High Commissioners to Malaysia – Mr Andrew Goledzinowski AM (Australia) and Mr Hunter Nottage (New Zealand, see below).



Kuching Memorials

It is a source of pride to us that our NMBVAA memorial plaque and the MVA plaque (see below) in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching sit beside each other – our SA/NT Branch plaque was unveiled and dedicated on 29 August 2016, and the New Zealand one on 29 August 2017.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the New Zealand veterans. We are currently planning a reunion and combined service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in August 2023.





Iban Princess

In Tawa near Wellington on Saturday 30 July, the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association is hosting a fund-raising dinner in conjunction with the NZ Malaysian Society.

The 'Iban Princess Evening' will have traditional food and cultural dancing, and in addition they will be serving 'Iban Princess' beer produced by a local craft brewery.

This was the initiative of Laura Munan, the young girl who sang for the MVA veterans in Kuching in 2017. Laura is of New Zealand origin, but has lived in Sarawak for a number of years.

A report in the *New Sarawak Tribune* recently announced:

KUCHING: A proud Sarawakian-Kiwi Laura Munan recently wowed New Zealanders with her limited-edition experimental brew, The Iban Princess.

Laura, now 22, went to school in Kuching but returned to New Zealand to complete her tertiary studies at the school of music at Victoria University in Wellington. During this time, Laura had a part-time job as a bartender – and took an interest in beer.



Folklore has it that she worked out the recipe herself, and the brewery agreed to make a trial keg.

Laura's idea was to create a beer that was personal to her – she wanted it to represent who she is, and at the same time pay homage to her Iban roots. *"I am proudly of Iban descent and have always been inspired by the idea of the Iban 'Kumang'. That is how 'The Iban Princess' was born!"*, she said.

Her Iban Princess beer incorporates local flavours such as pandan and lemongrass, giving the beer a very fresh and tangy taste.

At the beer launch party, Laura took the opportunity to become 'The Iban Princess' for a night by wearing the traditional Iban costume. The *New Sarawak Tribune* reported, *"She said it was a vision that she had in mind throughout the beer brewing process"*.

Laura said, *"I could not just create a Sarawakian beer without also looking the part. It is special to me to have the opportunity to wear my traditional dress as it brings me closer to Sarawak when I'm overseas. It makes me feel connected to my culture and family on my Sarawakian side"*.

Bill Russell, Vice-President of the MVA-NZ, heard about it and asked if they could make a keg for them to use as a fund-raiser. Cheers mates!

MALAYSIAN NIGHT

The NZ Malayan Veterans Association, in conjunction with the NZ Malaysian Society and hosted by the Tawa RSA, would like to invite you to commemorate the Malaysian campaign



July 2022, Page 6



<https://radioadelaide.org.au/program/service-voices/>

While in the studio, Paul and Don congratulated Helen who was recently announced as the winner of the History Council of South Australia's Oral History Excellence Award.

Thanks to Tim Borgas, of Radio Adelaide and a member of the Technical Advisory Group at SA Community Broadcasting Association Inc, who took this photo of Paul, Don and Helen. Thanks also to Lisa Burns for permission to use her photo of Helen on our cover page.

Congratulations again Helen from all members of the NMBVAA SA & NT Branch!

SERVICE VOICES

Our Branch President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron were interviewed recently by Helen Meyer for the Service Voices program on Radio Adelaide, 101.5 FM.

Service Voices offers news, perspectives and memories from the veteran, volunteer and Defence communities through oral history, giving a voice to a sector of our community not available elsewhere on air. Service Voices is also broadcast Australia-wide every week by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's Community Radio Network.



This image (left) shows Vice-President Don Cameron reflecting on his military service in Sarawak with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

Don served in the Australian Regular Army from 1962 to 1968, as a Corporal in three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. He served overseas at Terendak Garrison on the Malay Peninsula, on the Thai-Malay Border, and in Sarawak in northern Borneo from March to July 1965 – at a fortified rifle company patrol base near Kampung Gumbang in the Bau District, close to the border.

SERVICE VOICES

WITH HELEN MEYER, FIONA WHITE, AND NICKY PAGE.

6PM MON 27 JUN 2022: MALAYA/BORNEO VETERANS



Paul & Don: NMBVAA SA/NT Don Cameron & Paul Rosenzweig OAM talk of how the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc of Aust SA/NT rallied following the tragic death of its President Brian Selby, and how they're continuing the important work retaining close ties with the people of the Malaya and Borneo provinces that Aussies defended during the Malaya Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation. Paul and Don call on Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans and families of the era to join them in attending upcoming services commemora

▼ **MORE**

Direct link: <https://radioadelaide.org.au/program/service-voices/2022-06-27/>



\$4m hi-tech defence hub

GIUSEPPE TAURIELLO

ADVANCED engineering company Novafast has unveiled a new \$4m defence manufacturing facility after securing a contract with the \$45bn future frigates program.

The company has developed a robotic technique to manufacture composite piping and fittings for use on defence projects and in other industries.

The technology is the centrepiece of the new facility in Kilkenny, and was developed with the assistance of a \$2m grant from the federal government's Centre for Defence Industry Capability.

Novafast business manager David Figallo said the contract with the Hunter-class frigates project enabled the company to enhance its manufacturing

The Advertiser 28 June 2022, p 24

capability and support future shipbuilding programs.

"Novafast is utilising its composite pipe technology, developed internally by our research and development team, to support the representative ship blocks that are being constructed as part of the Hunter program's prototyping phase," he said. "This technology is a significant boost for the defence industry both locally and nationally.

"The facility has already created 15 highly skilled roles and is projected to have created more than 25 roles by late 2023 as the first batch of ships go into production."

Novafast employs about 60 staff, manufacturing composite pipes, tanks, vessels and other materials for the oil and gas, water and infrastructure, resources, engineering, con-

struction and defence sectors.

Mr Figallo said Novafast was the only Australian-based maker of glass-reinforced epoxy composite pipes – a high-pressure piping system – and it intended to become a global leader in the automation of composite technologies and production processes.

"At a time when Australia is facing increasing uncertainty in the region, it positions us as a key sovereign capability industry partner, and we're delighted to have the partnership of BAE Systems to undertake this work in Australia."

BAE Systems Australia – Maritime managing director Craig Lockhart said the Novafast contract was one of more than 40 awarded to Australian businesses during the early stages of the Hunter project.

NOVAFAST HOLDINGS GROUP

On 28 June, Paul Rosenzweig was a guest of Novafast Holdings Group at the commissioning ceremony for their new \$4 million Defence Composite Manufacturing Robotics Production facility in Kilkenny, SA (see above).

This follows on from Novafast securing a contract with the future frigates program – the Hunter-class frigates.

Right: Paul congratulating Mr Charles Figallo OAM, Chief Executive Officer of Novafast Holdings Group.

Charles founded Novafast Holdings in 1999 and built the company from the ground up, serving as CEO for over 20 years. Novafast Holdings is an Australian-owned business, with subsidiaries focusing on advanced engineering and construction within various sectors including Defence. Contracts such as this maximise the opportunities for Australian industry involvement in meeting Australia's defence capability needs. See more here: <https://novafastholdings.com/>





ESO CONSORTIUM NEWS

You may not be aware that our President and Vice-President represent the SA/NT Branch on the South Australian Ex-Service Organisation Consortium.

This is an informal consortium of 16 ex-service organisations who have strength through both their diversity and unity in representing matters of relevance to veterans to Government.

All indications are that the new Minister has embraced the Consortium, and recognises your right as a veteran to make a contribution to the ex-Service community in South Australia.

Together with other association leaders from the ESO Consortium, Paul will be meeting the SA Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Geoff Brock MP at Anzac House on Thursday 7 July.

You can find the Minister's profile here:

<https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/the-team/geoff-brock-mp>

On **Monday 15 August**, the ESO Consortium has been invited to conduct the dedication ceremony for the installation of the 'Thailand Paver' on the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk. All SA/NT Branch members are invited to attend.



MEET THE MINISTER

All SA/NT Branch members are invited to attend the first 'Meet the Minister' event at Anzac House, Torrens Parade Ground at 6pm on **Thursday 14 July**.

The SA Minister for Veterans' Affairs will provide an update on election commitments and matters concerning South Australian veterans and their families. This will be followed by a networking event, providing members of the veteran community an opportunity to meet the Minister and connect with other guests.

Registration is essential: <https://bit.ly/3QtuOb4>

MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – July

Honouring the sacrifice of the 45 Australians who died on operational service during the general period of the Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960.

1/3542 Private James Neville Metcalf,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
4 July 1957

O52768 Flight Lieutenant Dennis St George Greaves Oates, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
10 July 1959

A218384 Leading Aircraftman William Patrick Duffy, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
26 July 1959

A312178 Aircraftman John George Lawson,
Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
26 July 1959

2/8409 Lieutenant Clive William Bridge,
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
28 July 1961

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – July

Honouring the sacrifice of the 26 Australians who died during the general period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, 24 December 1962 to 11 August 1966.

213347 Signalman Kenneth Charles Johnson,
208th Signals Squadron (Commonwealth):
3 July 1965

342550 Corporal Peter John West,
Assault Pioneer Platoon, Support Company,
4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
2 July 1966

3411676 Sapper Reginald Nevill Bridgland,
22 Construction Squadron,
Royal Australian Engineers:
31 July 1966

Lest we Forget

