



Volume 12, number 7 – SEPTEMBER 2022

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



SA/NT BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

On 6 August, we held a very successful Annual Dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen Tibetan and Nepalese Restaurant in North Adelaide.

We had the traditional reserved table for our 'fallen comrades' who could not be with us. Vice-President Don Cameron recited the Ode of Remembrance, Paul Rosenzweig proposed the Loyal Toast, and Paul Bayliss proposed the toast to 'Absent Friends'.

After-dinner entertainment included the traditional sampling of the Golden Kukri, trumpeting and singing bowls – and Vice-President Don Cameron passionately trying to lead the men in the Sarawak War Cry.





NOTICES

RAP

Allan Davies
Jim Deering
Digger Digance
Ansel Mathews
Russ Rowett

COMMITTEE

Paul Rosenzweig OAM
President
Public Affairs Officer

Don Cameron
Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer

Paul Bayliss

Jenny Cameron
Treasurer

Vicki Crannaford

Di Davies

Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary

Jeff Hiscock

Chris Selby

Mal White
Merchandise Officer

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

August has been a very busy month! We held a successful Annual Dinner on 6 August, and our AGM for 2022 on 19 August, and meanwhile the Branch Committee squeezed in a meeting on Friday 12 August. Then we held our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Service of Commemoration on Friday 26 August.

Our President Paul Rosenzweig, Vice-President Don Cameron and Mal White represented the Branch at the dedication of the new 'Thailand' pavers in the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk on Monday 15 August.

And on Sunday 21 August, Paul and Don also attended the Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service at Torrens Parade Ground.

While on a private holiday in New Zealand, Paul Rosenzweig discussed with the NZ Malayan Veterans Association the plans for the 2023 combined ceremony in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park to mark the 63rd anniversary of the end of the Malayan Emergency and the 57th anniversary of the end of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

To further solidify arrangements for this visit, Paul and Crisel Rosenzweig and Don and Jenny Cameron are making a private trip to Kuching in early September.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Ceremony:</i>	<i>Sunday 4 September, 1030 to 1130h: Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemorative Service, Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk</i>
<i>Date of interest:</i>	<i>Sunday 11 September: Batu Lintang liberation (1945)</i>
September meeting:	1100h Friday 16 September 2022 Avoca Hotel, followed by lunch
October meeting:	1100h Friday 21 October 2022 Avoca Hotel, followed by lunch
<i>Date of interest:</i>	<i>Remembrance Day: Friday 11 November</i>
November meeting:	1100h Friday 18 November 2022 Avoca Hotel, followed by lunch
Christmas Lunch:	12 for 1230h Saturday 10 December 2022 Hills Room East Function Room, Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion Three-course set Christmas Lunch menu; purchase drinks from a private bar
No 604 Squadron:	Sunday 18 December End of Year Parade, Hampstead Barracks; President and VP to present certificates



Visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Annual Dinner, 6 August 2022

We held a very successful Annual Dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen restaurant in North Adelaide, with 21 members and guests enjoying a Nepalese and Tibetan banquet.

This event marked the anniversary of the reformation of the South Australian Branch of the NMBVAA in 2010. It also honoured service and sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation (particularly the fifty Australians from the Malayan wars who still remain buried overseas).



We also honoured our absent comrades and family members.

We remembered Bombardier Brian 'Snowy' Selby who served during Confrontation with 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and was President of the SA/NT Branch from 2002 to 2006, and again from 2010 until 2022.

We remembered Staff-Sergeant Clive Dubois (2017) of the Arrernte (Arunta) people of Alice Springs, who served at Terendak on the Malay Peninsula, on the Thai-Malay border with the Gurkhas, and with 'C' Company, 3RAR at the forward patrol base at Serikin in Sarawak during Confrontation.

We remembered Wing-Commander Bob Macintosh AFC OAM, Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air and Mentioned in Despatches, who served during Confrontation in 1965-66, notably flying sorties into the Malayan jungles to deploy Gurkha and Australian patrols.

And we remembered Signalman John Tassell who died on the Malay Peninsula on 4 April 1966, aged 21, who is the only casualty from Confrontation buried in South Australia.

Commemorative place-mats honoured this special occasion. We included the Sabah flag to honour the five Australians who died on operational service in the defence of Sabah, including Lance-Corporal Paul Denehey, Royal Australian Corps of Signals attached to 1 Special Air Service Squadron, who died of wounds after being gored by a rogue elephant on 2 June 1965 during a four-man reconnaissance patrol along the Sabah/Kalimantan border.

Congratulations to the winners of the various raffle prizes. The funds raised through the raffle will go towards our sponsorship of the three Sarawak schools in the Bau district. Thanks also to all who made additional donations, your contributions are all greatly appreciated.





As is our custom at such dinners, we had the traditional reserved table for those who could not be with us.

Vice-President Don Cameron recited the Ode of Remembrance, Paul Rosenzweig proposed the Loyal Toast, and Paul Bayliss proposed the toast to 'Absent Friends'



After-dinner entertainment included Don's jokes, a Tibetan trumpet, singing bowls, and the traditional sampling of the Golden Kukri.

Vice-President Don Cameron passionately tried to lead the men in the Sarawak War Cry, but the team was substantially out-performed by the ladies.





AGM, 19 August 2022

Thanks to all who attended the SA & NT Branch AGM. The Returning Officer Paul Bayliss declared all positions vacant, and advised that no further nominations had been received by the due date, so a ballot was not required.

He asked the nominees to confirm that they were prepared to accept their nomination, and all were elected or appointed unanimously.

Congratulations to the following who were elected to their respective positions, or accepted the respective roles:

Appointments:

President: Paul Rosenzweig OAM
Vice-President: Don Cameron
Secretary: Paul Rosenzweig
Treasurer: Jenny Cameron
Committee Members:
Paul Bayliss
Vicki Crannaford
Dianne Davies
Beverley Dubois
Jeff Hiscock
Chris Selby
Mal White

Roles:

Ceremonial Officer: Don Cameron
Public Affairs Officer: Paul Rosenzweig
Historian: Paul Rosenzweig
Editor: Paul Rosenzweig
Minutes Secretary: Beverley Dubois
Merchandise Officer: Mal White
Branch Auditor: Mr Ken Seymour



MERCHANDISE

Our Malaya-Borneo scarf has proved to be very popular, and our first two batches have very quickly sold out. We will order more if required.

They are very high quality, and excellent value at \$33 each, plus postage if you need it mailed to you.

We now also have stubby coolers available, in the ribbon colours of the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*, available for just \$10 each.

Plus a selection of badges and other memorabilia.

Please contact Mal White: malwhite@mail.com

Any additional contribution you may wish to make, to go towards our sponsorship of the three Sarawak schools, would also be greatly appreciated.



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

Our Branch Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, and Mr Rod Bunten were guests of honour at this year's Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service on Friday 26 August.

We thank the City of West Torrens for the substantial support they provided, No 604 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets for again providing the armed Catafalque Party and Honour Guard, and Hilton RSL for supporting our reunion and lunch.

We also thank the Royal Australian Navy Band South Australia for their support, and their provision of a Bugler.

For this ceremony we shifted the focus slightly from generic tributes to a more select group of family members honouring specific named personnel.

We thank Her Excellency and Mr Bunten, Mayor Michael Coxon, Mrs Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner SA for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Mr Tony Zappia MP who placed wreaths and tributes in memory of the 71 Australians who died on operational service during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, noting that 50 of them remain buried overseas in the soil of our neighbours – and that none of them are buried in an actual war cemetery.

Mrs Beverley Dubois and Clive's daughter Lynette Hunt placed a tribute in memory of former Branch member Clive Dubois.

Mrs Jenny Macintosh OAM placed a tribute in memory of her husband, Wing-Commander Bob MacIntosh AFC OAM.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Nathan Price placed a tribute in memory of his father, former Branch member Dennis Price.

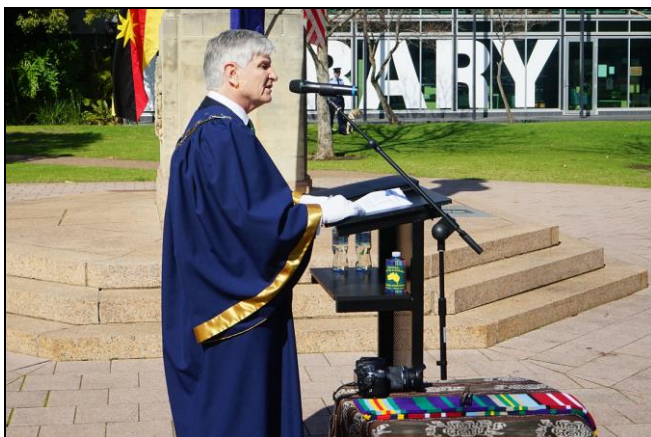
Mrs Chris Selby placed a tribute in memory of her husband Brian Selby, SA/NT Branch President 2002-06 and 2010-22.

Mrs Vicki Crannaford placed a tribute in memory of her brother Signallman John Darrell Tassell who died on 4 April 1966.

Vice-President Don Cameron placed a tribute in memory of the Iban trackers, particularly Mudah anak Jali (killed-in-action near Stass on 23 March 1965), Baling anak Ajong (died 2012) and Unchat anak Unyong (died 2021).

Mr Paul Bayliss placed a tribute in memory of all SA/NT Branch members who are no longer with us.

Members of Ex-Service Organisations and family members also placed tributes.



His Worship the Mayor of the City of West Torrens Michael Coxon kindly hosted our ceremony and gave the Acknowledgment of Country.



We thank all who honoured the service and sacrifice of Australian and Commonwealth personnel during the two undeclared Malayan wars.



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

Our 2022 service of commemoration at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens was again supported by Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron (Hampstead Barracks), supplemented with volunteers from No 601 Squadron (Keswick Barracks). The Catafalque Party used innocuous .303-inch SMLE rifles from the era of the Malayan wars.



*Leading Cadet Tegan Revolta (604 Squadron)
in the position of 'Present Arms'.*



*Leading Cadet Charlene Bhasme (601 Squadron)
in the position of 'Present Arms'.*



*Cadet Sergeant Sukhmani Kaur (604 Squadron)
in the position of 'Slope Arms'.*



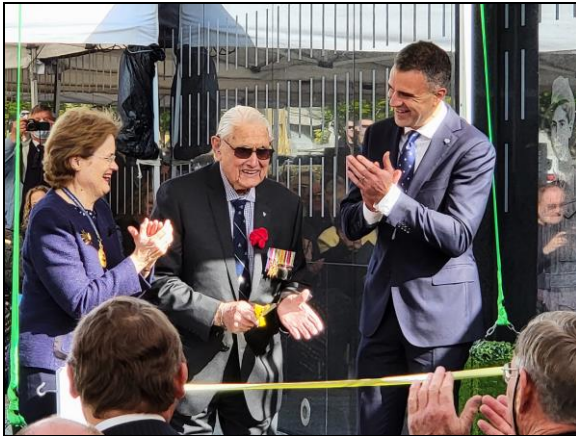
*Cadet Sergeant Jesse Isaac (604 Squadron)
in the position of 'Slope Arms'.*



*Her Excellency the Governor, our Branch Patron, kindly
stayed after the service to mix with veterans and spouses.*



*Mr Rod Bunten (left) also spent time talking
to our veterans and guests.*



RECENT EVENTS

Monday 15 August, 'Thailand' Pavers Dedication

On VP Day, the Ex-Service Organisation Consortium hosted a ceremony at the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk on Kintore Avenue at which the two new 'Thailand' pavers were dedicated. Mr Keith Fowler, aged 101, cut the ribbon – 'Chook' Fowler served in North Africa and was taken prisoner-of-war on Java while serving with the 2/3rd Machine-Gun Battalion AIF. He is believed to be the last surviving former prisoner-of-war of the Japanese in South Australia.

The pavers recognise the service and sacrifice of the POWs who worked on the Burma-Thailand Railway during World War 2, as well as RAAF veterans who served at Royal Thai Air Force Base Ubon in northeastern Thailand between 1962 and 1968.

Her Excellency the Governor, the Premier, and Ministers Blair Boyer MP and Geoff Brock MP were among the many VIPs in attendance. Many family members of POWs attended the ceremony, as well as about a dozen RAAF Ubon veterans. Paul Rosenzweig, Don Cameron and Mal White represented the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA.



Sunday 21 August, Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service

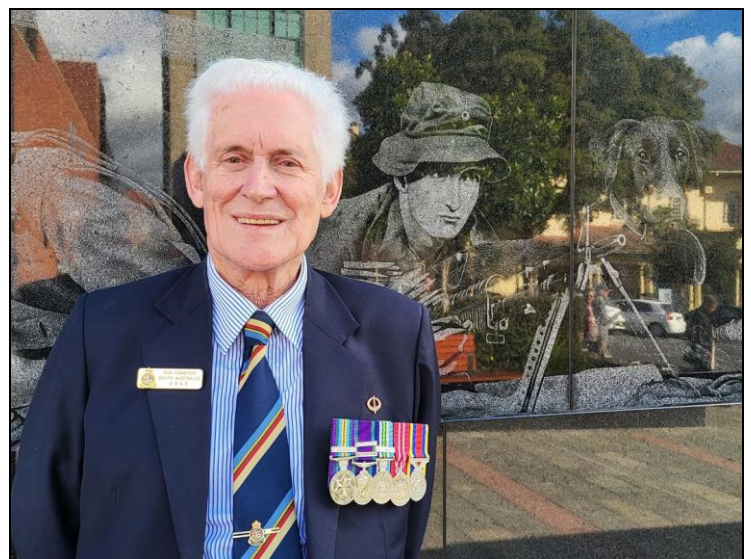
President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron represented the NMBVAA and placed a tribute at this service at the Vietnam War Memorial adjacent to Torrens Parade Ground.

The ceremony was conducted by a group of veteran organisations in partnership with the SA Vietnamese community.

It recognised the service of Australian, New Zealand and Republic of Vietnam Service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War, and particularly the 521 Australians, 37 New Zealanders and as many as 250,000 Service personnel from the Republic of Vietnam who died in the war. Nine Filipinos were also killed in the Vietnam War.



The Vietnam War Memorial includes the name of Corporal Reg Hillier, the only Serviceman from the Northern Territory to lose his life in the Vietnam War.



Don Cameron on the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk beside the image of his brother Lance-Corporal Norm Cameron, who served in South Vietnam with 7RAR from 12 April 1967 to 16 April 1968.



Janice Silby
Assistant Secretary,
Income Support Branch
Deputy Commissioner SA
Department of Veterans' Affairs

To support those who serve or have served in the defence of our nation and commemorate their service and sacrifice.



UPCOMING EVENTS

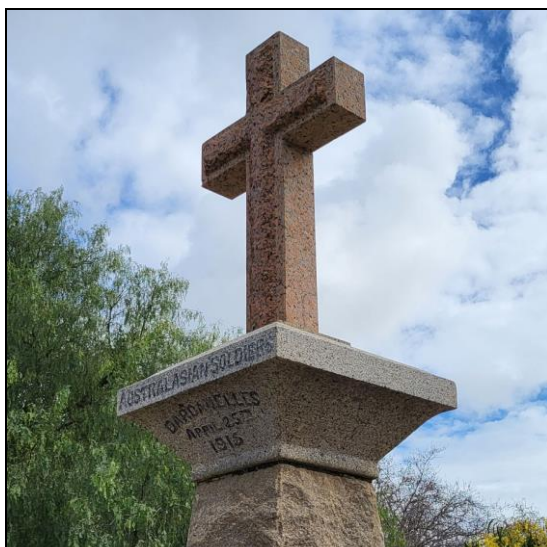
Thursday 1 September, DVA Consultative Forum 2022

On 1 September, President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron will attend the 2022 SA Deputy Commissioner's Consultative Forum. This will be hosted by Janice Silby, Assistant Secretary Income Support Branch and Deputy Commissioner SA.

Sunday 4 September, Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemoration

The Legacy Club of South Australia & Broken Hill and the Australian War Widows (SA) Inc will conduct an Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemorative Service at the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk in Adelaide on Sunday 4 September.

The Dardanelles Memorial was originally erected in the southwest parklands beside Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue, which became known as 'Wattle Grove'. It was unveiled by the Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson GCMG on Wattle Day, 7 September 1915.



The Dardanelles Memorial in Adelaide (2022)



The Dardanelles Memorial in the southwest parklands (2015)



Sarawak

One key aspect of our approach to commemoration is to 'Remember Malaysia'. The SA/NT Branch provides ongoing financial assistance to three adopted schools [Sekolah Kebangsaan, SK] in the Bau District of Sarawak.

One of these schools is **SK Suba Buan** – pictured left during our most recent visit in August 2019.

We have again collected a donation for each of the three schools, which our good friend the Honorary Australian Consul in Kuching Datuk Phillip Ting AM has very generously added to, and we are currently making arrangements to pass on to the schools.

The second school we provide financial assistance to is **SK Serabak** in Serikin – pictured right in August 2019.

In 1965, 'C' Company 3RAR occupied a patrol base at Kampung Serikin, supported by a Fire Support Base established by 29 (Corunna) Light Battery, Royal Artillery.

These fortified rifle company patrol bases had the aim of protecting Kuching by defending the approaches to Bau – "the key to the door of Kuching".

We honour the eight Australian soldiers who died on operational service in Sarawak in 1965-66, and the three who died after being evacuated from Sarawak.



We also support **SK Stass** – the image to the left is from our visit to Kampung Stass in August 2019.

Between March and June 1965, 'A' Company 3RAR occupied a patrol base near Kampung Stass, supported by a Fire Support Base established by 29 (Corunna) Light Battery, Royal Artillery. 'D' Company 3RAR was based at Stass during June and July 1965.

Between April and September 1966, 'B' Company 4RAR occupied the Stass company patrol base, supported by 'V' Battery, 6 Light Regiment Battery, Royal Artillery.

SARAWAK DEFENDERS HISTORICAL TRAIL

We have also made a commitment to support the creation of a 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail' in the Bau district of Kuching. This is being developed by the Sarawak Tourism Federation as a series of key sites near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border where Australian force elements established defensive positions in 1965-66.

The first site being developed is a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang (see right), and we have made a contribution towards the cost of creating this proposed site. More to follow in future newsletters.





Malaysian Evening in Tawa

It is a source of pride to us that our NMBVAA Confrontation memorial plaque and the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association plaque sit beside each other in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching – our Branch plaque was unveiled and dedicated on 29 August 2016, and the New Zealand MVA plaque on 29 August 2017.

Our Branch President Paul Rosenzweig took the opportunity while in New Zealand recently to attend a fund-raising ‘Malaysian Evening’ hosted by the MVA and the NZ Malaysian Society.

The guest of honour was the Malaysian High Commissioner to New Zealand, Her Excellency Nur Izzah Wong Mee Choo – it was Her Excellency’s birthday so she was surprised with a special cake.

Apart from an enjoyable night in good company with excellent makan, it was an opportunity to consolidate plans for the combined reunion visit to Sarawak and Service of Commemoration in August 2023.



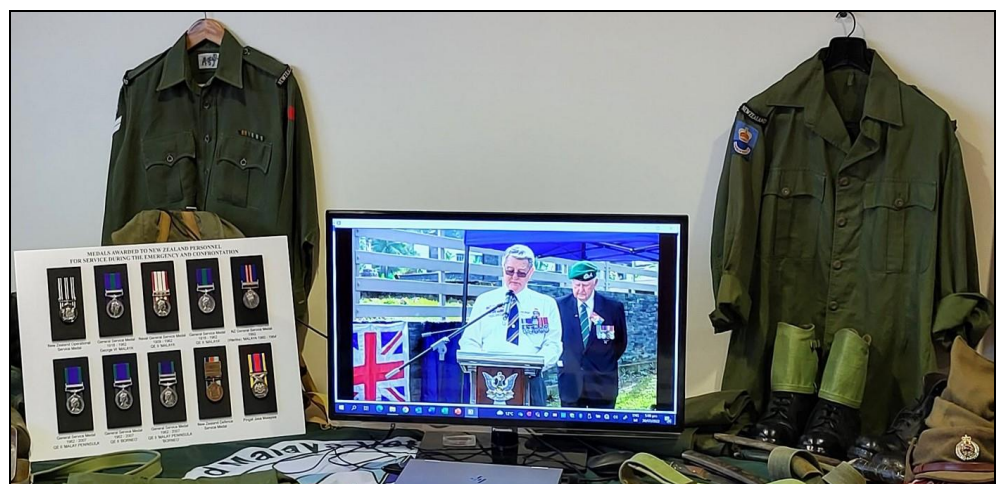
Also attending from the High Commission was the Malaysian Defence Advisor, Lieutenant-Colonel Razlan Razali, pictured with Bill Russell, Vice-President of the NZ Malayan Veterans Association and SA/NT Branch President Paul Rosenzweig.

For the raffle Bill donated a framed print of ‘Kampong New Zealand’, and Paul donated a bottle of Hardy’s Stamp of Australia Shiraz Cabernet.

The event went well – the keg of Iban Princess beer was all sold and the two raffles brought in \$450.

Among the highlights of the night was a display of New Zealand memorabilia from the Confrontation era.

A monitor displayed the video footage of the combined Australia-New Zealand commemorative ceremony which we held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching in August 2019.





Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, the consecrated Court of Honour and the Auckland Cenotaph are special places of remembrance for families and returned Service personnel who want to honour their loved ones and fallen comrades.

The Museum and Cenotaph were officially opened on 28 November 1929, and an Anzac Day ceremony was first held at the Cenotaph on 25 April 1930.

The AWMM includes a special War Memorial Gallery, which includes the Rolls of Honour for all wars and campaigns New Zealand has been involved in – including the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966).

In Adelaide, a Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service was conducted on Sunday 21 August by a group of veteran organisations in partnership with the SA Vietnamese community. This ceremony also recognised the 37 New Zealanders who died in the Vietnam War. These 37 names are also listed in the War Memorial Gallery of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira.

The Gallery also includes rolls of the fallen from contemporary operations including five who died on operations in East Timor. These include soldiers such as Private Leonard Manning who was shot dead by militiamen near the West Timor border on 24 July 2000.

In addition, two New Zealand civilians were killed in Timor – one a member of the 'Balibo five' journalists (1975) and one a student caught in the Santa Cruz massacre (1991).

MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – September

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.

A217227 Leading Aircraftman Colin John Rowe,
Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
18 September 1959

3/42616 Signalman Kevin Victor Jones,
28th Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron,
28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry
Brigade Group: 18 September 1959

Lest we Forget



CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – September

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.

2411093 Bombardier Barrington 'Barry' Algar,
111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery,
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery:
23 September 1964

O19993 Flying Officer Victor John Cowen,
No 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force:
19 September 1965

Lest we Forget