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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



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY

On Friday 26 August, we held a very successful Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration, with a slight shift in focus to have a select group of family members honouring specific named personnel.

It was pleasing to see so many veterans in attendance.

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 the Honour Guard, and Hilton RSL for supporting our reunion and lunch. We also thank the Royal Australian Navy Band SA and Bugler Able Seaman Sergey Grynchuk for their support.





NOTICES

WELCOME

Dr Robert Black AM RFD
John Spencer OAM RFD
Dr Warwick Raymont

RAP

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

On 1 September, Vice-President Don Cameron attended the 2022 SA Deputy Commissioner's Consultative Forum hosted by Mrs Janice Silby, Assistant Secretary Income Support Branch and Deputy Commissioner SA.

Planning is proceeding for the 2023 combined Australia-New Zealand service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching 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.

Paul and Crisel Rosenzweig and Don and Jenny Cameron made a private trip to Kuching in September, as a reconnaissance and liaison visit on behalf of the Branch, to discuss plans and options for this reunion.

Arrangements were kindly made by Fiona Marcus Raja (Chair of the Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation). Generous support was given by Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM PGBK (Australian Honorary Consul).

The recon party was received at various functions, starting with a welcoming reception hosted by Lieutenant-General Datuk Steven Mundaw (ret'd) and members of the Sarawak Veterans' Association.

They planted a Norfolk Island Pine in the Heroes Memorial Park in memory of Brian Selby, and honoured the anniversary of the liberation of Batu Lintang POW Camp and Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO, Commander Kuching Force.

They travelled to Sekolah Kebangsaan Serabak in the Bau District to hand over the Branch donations and Certificates of Affiliation to our three adopted schools – SK Serabak, SK Suba Buan and SK Stass.

The party also met with YB Datuk Sebastian Ting, Deputy Minister for Tourism Sarawak, and presented him with the Branch donation to go towards the development of a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang, the first in a series of sites which will comprise the Sarawak Defenders Heritage Trail.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date of interest: Remembrance Day: Friday 11 November

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/>



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

We thank our Branch Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, and Mr Rod Bunten for their attendance as our principal guests of honour at this year's Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, held in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens on Friday 26 August.

We also thank Mayor Michael Coxon of the City of West Torrens for giving the Acknowledgment of Country, which added to the significance and solemnity of the service.



The Air Force Cadets from No 601 Squadron (Keswick Barracks) and No 604 Squadron (Hampstead Barracks) especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with Her Excellency and Mr Bunten after the ceremony.





OPERATION 'HORNBILL 2022'

From 4 to 15 September, President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron and their wives Crisel and Jenny conducted a reconnaissance and liaison visit to Sarawak (at their own expense).

The purpose was to renew friendships and to make preparations for the service of commemoration we and the New Zealand MVA plan to hold in August 2023.

Another key purpose was to hand over our financial donation to each of the schools we support in the Bau District, and also to present our donation for the development of a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang, the first of the sites which will comprise the Sarawak Defenders Heritage Trail.

COVID restrictions have eased significantly and tourism in the region is set to flourish.



The view of the Sarawak River from the Kuching Hilton, looking past the new Darul Hana Bridge and the Sarawak Plaza building, to the distant Matang Range and the peak of Gunung Serapi.



Don and Jenny Cameron at the Sarawak Club with Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM, the Australian Honorary Consul in Sarawak.



Our recon party at the Siniawan Night Market in Bau District, with Fiona Marcus Raja, Desmond Wong and Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM (right).



Don and Jenny with Hannah, owner of the James Brooke Bistro and Café on Kuching Waterfront, the venue of our informal meet'n'greet function in 2019,



Our party at the Hilton Kuching with Barbara Atan, who some members will recall meeting when she led a Sarawak Tourism Board visit to SA in February 2015.



Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park

Friday 9 September

A special service and tree-planting ceremony was held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching in memory of Brian 'Snowy' Selby (1945-2022). It was arranged by the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, and was supported by the City Council of North Kuching (DBKU).

Paul and Don planted a Norfolk Island Pine, and then placed a wreath, kindly provided by the Sarawak Tourism Federation. Jenny Cameron placed a tribute on behalf of Christine Selby, and Don placed a tribute in memory of the Iban Trackers who had supported the Australian and Commonwealth forces during the Malayan Wars.

This was followed by the placing of personal floral tributes by those in attendance. Don recited the Ode of Remembrance, and Paul acknowledged with sadness the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia and Head of the Commonwealth.

Lest we Forget



Fiona Marcus Raja, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee of the Sarawak Tourism Federation, gave the introduction and welcome.



Branch President Paul Rosenzweig OAM delivered the Eulogy, and afterwards Vice-President Don Cameron recited the Ode of Remembrance.



Paul and Don planted a Norfolk Island Pine in memory of Brian 'Snowy' Selby, and were then joined by Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM PGBK, Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak (left) and Fiona Marcus Raja.



Batu Lintang Liberation

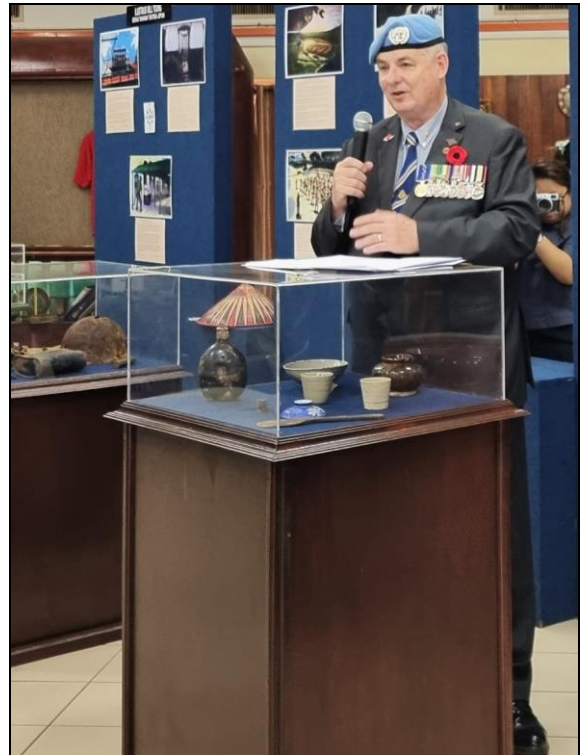
Sunday 11 September

In Kuching on Sunday 11 September, our executive party marked the anniversary of the liberation of Batu Lintang POW Camp at the *Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Batu Lintang* (IPGK) – a teachers' training college which has stood on the site of the wartime Batu Lintang POW Camp since July 1948.

The service was held in the impressive IPGK Batu Lintang Historical Museum (*Muzium Sejarah IPGK Batu Lintang*). The ceremony was arranged by the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee of the Sarawak Tourism Federation.

After the service, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the adjacent Batu Lintang Memorial Square and Memorial. Paul and Datuk Wee Hong Seng, Mayor of Kuching South, placed a wreath, kindly provided by the Sarawak Tourism Federation.

Don recited the Ode of Remembrance, and Paul acknowledged the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, by the Grace of God King of Australia and Head of the Commonwealth.



This service marked the liberation of Batu Lintang POW Camp by the 9th Australian Division, and recalled the service of Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO, Commander Kuching Force.

The timely liberation of the camp prevented the murder of over 2,000 men, women and children.



Fiona Marcus Raja, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, and Mr Don Cameron placed a tribute in memory of those who died.



Datuk Wee Hong Seng, Mayor of Kuching South, and Mr Don Cameron placed a tribute in honour of the Iban Trackers who supported Australian troops.



Sekolah Kebangsaan donations

Our approach to commemoration includes the aims to 'Remember Malaysia' and to 'Look to the future'.

We provide ongoing financial assistance to three adopted schools [*Sekolah Kebangsaan*] in the Bau District of Sarawak, near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border where Australian force elements established defensive positions in 1965 and 1966.

On Tuesday 13 September, our recon party visited SK Serabak school in Serikin where a ceremony was hosted by Ms Magdalena anak Joseph Nyadi.

We presented our donation for **SK Suba Buan** and a Certificate of Affiliation to Mr Teo Soon Kiun, Science Teacher (right: centre of image).

Joining us were Fiona Marcus, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation, who made the arrangements for our visit, and Datuk Philip Ting AM PGBK, Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak, who added to each of our donations.



We presented our financial donation for **SK Stass** and a Certificate of Affiliation to Ms Jacelyn Nihar, English Teacher (left: centre of image).

From March to June 1965, 'A' Company 3RAR occupied a fortified company patrol base at Kampung Stass where the school is today. During June and July 1965, 'D' Company 3RAR was based here. Then 'B' Company 4RAR occupied the Stass patrol base between April and September 1966.

We presented our financial donation for **SK Serabak** and a Certificate of Affiliation to Mr Lipeng Nyogen, English Teacher (right: centre of image).

The SK Serabak school in Serikin was built on the site where 'C' Company 3RAR had occupied a fortified rifle company patrol base from March to July 1965. These bases had the aim of protecting Kuching by defending the approaches to Bau – "the key to the door of Kuching".





Kampung Gumbang

We have also made a commitment to support the creation of a 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail' in the Bau district of Sarawak.

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 proposed site is a park in Kampung Gumbang, to be established beneath giant boulders which marked the path to the Australian position.



Don Cameron served on Borneo in 1965 during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, with 6 Platoon, 'B' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

'B' Company 3RAR occupied a forward defensive position near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border adjacent to Kampung Gumbang.

Left: Don Cameron shows the location of the pathway which led from Kampung Gumbang to the 'B' Company base, named 'Bukit Knuckle'.

When Don was serving at Bukit Knuckle in 1965 with 'B' Company 3RAR, the local store owner in Kampung Gumbang was Mr Chin Kim Chong.

Don met Mr Chin again in 2014. Members of the visits in 2016 and 2019 may recall meeting with him and his family. Sadly, Mr Chin passed away last year.

During this visit to Kampung Gumbang, Don and Jenny met up with Mr Chin's son and presented him with a 3RAR polo shirt.



On Tuesday 13 September, our recon party met with Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting, the Sarawak Deputy Minister for Tourism.

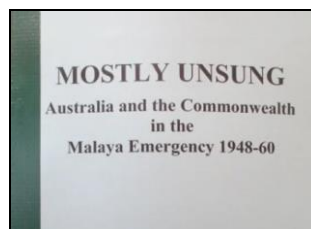
We discussed the Branch Vision and aims, and we presented him with the Branch donation to go towards the development of a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang, the first in a series of sites which will comprise the Sarawak Defenders Heritage Trail.



'Mostly Unsung' supports the NMBVAA

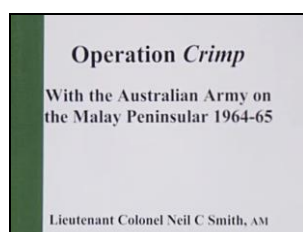
Lieutenant-Colonel Neil Smith AM (ret'd) runs the research and publishing company, 'Mostly Unsung Military History Research & Publications'. More detail can be found on their website: <https://www.mostlyunsung.com.au>

Neil has produced three key publications, which he is offering to our members under a generous arrangement. He is offering these books at the recommended retail price listed below, but with free postage to NMBVAA members. In addition, 20% of the purchase price will be passed on to the Association. The books are:



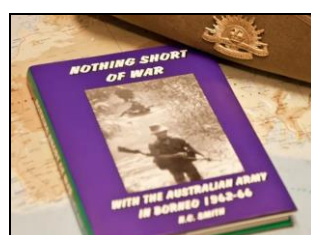
"Mostly Unsung. Australia and the Commonwealth in the Malaya Emergency 1948-1960"
Published 1989, \$25

An overview of Australian operations during the Malayan Emergency. Includes a detailed alphabetical roll of all Australian Army personnel who served.



"Operation Crimp. With the Australian Army on the Malay Peninsular 1964-65"
Published 2004, \$25

An overview of Australian operations during the Indonesian Confrontation, with a detailed alphabetical listing of Army personnel who qualified for the General Service Medal 1962 with bar Malay Peninsular [sic] including extensive research on other service, honours, etc.



"Nothing Short of War. With the Australian Army in Borneo 1962-1966"
Published 1999, \$40

A history of the Australian involvement in the Indonesian Confrontation. Rolls compiled from Unit Routine Orders Part II, plus all recorded casualties, honours and awards and other service listed.

This is a chance to learn more about these campaigns, or perhaps look up your name to show your grandchildren, while at the same time supporting the NMBVAA. If you are interested in this offer, please contact Neil directly. He will mail the book(s) with an invoice – no money is required up front.

His business address is: Mostly Unsung, Box 7020, Brighton, Victoria, 3186

Email: milhis@hotmail.com or call 0411 143 041



NMBVAA MERCHANDISE

Don't forget our NMBVAA merchandise – the proceeds of which go towards our donations to the three schools in the Bau district of Sarawak and the 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail'.

We are ready to take new orders for the Malaya-Borneo scarf. They are very high quality, and excellent value at \$33 each, plus postage if you need it mailed to you.

Stubby coolers are available, in the ribbon colours of the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*, for just \$10 each.

Plus we have a selection of badges and other memorabilia.

Please contact Mal White: malwhite@mail.com



SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch Saturday 10 December

Members, partners and guests are cordially invited to join us at Club Marion for our 2022 Annual Christmas Lunch.

We will have a traditional three-course Christmas meal, and you can buy your drinks from a private bar. With sufficient notice, guests with dietary requirements can be catered for.

All funds raised through the raffles will go towards our sponsorship of the three schools in the Bau district of Sarawak. Any additional contributions would be greatly appreciated.



Lunch Menu

Entrée: Cream of Pumpkin Soup

Served with house made garlic and herb croutons

Main Course: Christmas Turkey

Oven roasted turkey served with a medley of vegetables finished with traditional gravy and cranberry sauce

Dessert: Plum Pudding

Traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy custard, vanilla ice-cream and glazed cherries

Kids' Menu (for ages 12 and under)

K1 Chicken Nuggets

Served with tomato sauce and chips

K2 Pasta

Fresh-cooked pasta served with napolitana sauce and grated cheese

K3 Fish and Chips

1 piece crumbed hake, with chips and tomato sauce

K4 Mini Hotdogs

2 miniature hotdogs with cheese and tomato sauce and served with chips

K5 Tasting Plate

Sliced ham, cheese, carrot and cucumber sticks, crackers and dip

Details

Date:	Saturday 10 December 2022 12 for 12.30 pm
Venue:	Hills Room East Function Room Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion
Refer here:	http://www.clubmarion.org.au/
Dress:	Smart Casual <i>Please wear or bring your full-size medals for the group photograph</i>
Cost:	\$40 per person (3-course Christmas lunch) \$12 for children (five options available) Payable in advance by Saturday 19 November <i>Non-refundable after 24 November</i> \$10 cashback on the day to financial members

Full payment is due to Jenny by Saturday 19 November, including details of any dietary requirements and how many children will require the kids' menu (specify which menu).

RSVP: Jenny Cameron
by Saturday 19 November
08 8264 2858 || 0430 401 939
wildcanyon@adam.com.au





MALAYAN VETERANS DAY 2022 – NEW ZEALAND

On Friday 16 September, members of the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association and whānau [extended family] were welcomed at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington to commemorate the New Zealand servicemen involved in military operations in Malaya/Malaysia.

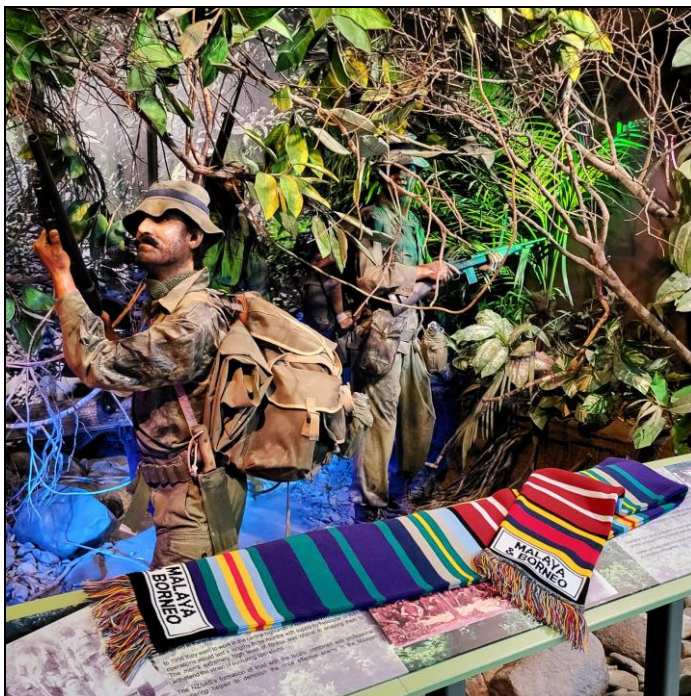
The High Commissioner of Malaysia to New Zealand, Her Excellency Nur Izzah Wong Mee Choo (centre of photo below) was in attendance.



Left to right: Major-General John Boswell DSD, Chief of Army, with Malayan veterans Ray Marshall and Bill Russell.

Ray was the 'Parade RSM' who marched in the New Zealand MVA Contingent for the combined commemoration service in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching in August 2019.

Bill is Vice-President of the MVA and was contingent commander for the visit to Kuching in 2019.



Tracking

The soldiers in this diorama are deep in a dense Malayan jungle, searching for an enemy that often proved elusive.

The New Zealand troops used tracking teams who became skilled in the small signs that could mean nearby enemy soldiers. First they had to learn how the jungle looked in its natural state in order to spot anything that might be out of the ordinary. Broken branches, squashed sticks, or skid marks might be a giveaway that someone was close, or a broken spider web might indicate the route taken by a hunted man.

The scouts who led patrols required nerves of steel and had to be constantly alert to signs of enemy activity, or the possibility of an ambush lurking in the jungle shadows.

The second man in this patrol is an Iban tracker – a local Malayan helping the Kiwis fighting in the jungle. The indigenous Ibans became an integral part of the platoons they were attached to, since they were expert trackers and had terrific navigation skills.

Waiouru National Army Museum

Halfway down the North Island of New Zealand between Auckland and Wellington, on State Highway One on the North Island Volcanic Plateau, is the small town of Waiouru.

A key feature here is the National Army Museum Te Mata Toa. The museum opened in 1978, and features many static displays of New Zealand's military heritage.

Waiouru is the perfect site for such an outstanding museum: it is a military town, with the New Zealand Army Camp and the Training Group which is responsible for the training of recruits and other soldiers. The Royal NZ Navy's Irirangi communications station with its huge antennae is 2 km north of Waiouru.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force uses Waiouru Airfield for practice landings of C-130 Hercules aircraft, and Jameson Field for NH-90 and A-109 helicopters.

Find out more about the National Army Museum here:

<https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/>

Among the many features in the museum is this diorama, part of an Emergency-Confrontation display:

<https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/visit/exhibitions/malaya/>

New Zealand deployed an infantry battalion and SAS troops to assist the British in putting down the rebels during the Malayan Emergency.

Then during the insurgency known as 'Confrontation', New Zealand again contributed infantry and SAS troops. After Confrontation ended in 1966, New Zealand stationed an infantry battalion, first in Malaysia and afterwards in Singapore. This battalion came home in 1989.

MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – October

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.

2/410190 Private Alfred William Keen,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
21 October 1956

Lest we Forget

