



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

# OBSERVATION POST

THE OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER OF THE SA & NT BRANCH

PATRON: DR ANDREW SOUTHcott MP

NOV-DEC 2011

## Inside This Issue



## FESTIVE SEASON 2011



### VALE

Lt Gen  
Sir Donald Dunstan  
AC KBE CBE  
Col Challenger RAA  
Hobart

### RAP

Kiwi Thurston  
Mal Digance

### HOSPITAL

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- TPI NOTES
- NOSTALGIA
- DVA NOTES
- 31 AUG 12

- STOP PRESS
- DID YOU KNOW?

On This Day.....

**Around The Guns**

Selamat datang.....

The Festive Season is here again. Can you believe that!? When we look back at this calendar year, it has been a year of immense loss and devastation in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The back to back cyclones and flooding which roared through the eastern states were, some said, once in a hundred years occurrences. If that is the case, it would seem that all of the disaster modeling methods that were in place, were not even close to being able to withstand the forces unleashed. The predicted flood levels, and the spread inland, proved the faulty thinking. Were there any "worst case" scenarios in the plans? It seems not.

Climate change "experts" are now saying that there will be worse to come in the tropical areas. Are there any contingency plans being developed for season 2012/13?

Traditionally, in Australia we take annual holidays for 3 weeks, or more, from around Christmas Eve. It is a time for relaxing, taking it easy, and expending funds at a great rate of knots. In most (of our) cases, the grand children reign supreme. Have you noticed that the younger ones, can be just as excited about a simple toy costing a couple of bucks, or less, and will play with that item a lot longer? The major chain stores have had a selection of Christmas decorations on display since September, and the junk mail volume has been on the increase with "sales" of toys since August in some areas. Not a bad idea if you can lay-bye. It will be interesting to see what happens with the post Christmas sales, a lot more people are definitely aware of the savings for many items that are in the clothing and footwear stores. Good luck !!



To All of Our Members ,  
Families and Friends in SA & NT,  
Interstate and Overseas

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

and a

**HAPPY, SAFE  
NEW YEAR  
2012**



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

1918-2011, some 93 years since the Armistice was signed to end

### "The Great War"

The statistics are mind numbing. If you can comprehend the loss of life in some parts of Europe, the sheer weight of munitions that was expended and the effort that was made to construct the mile after mile of trenches, you must wonder at the decisions made.

### WORLD WAR 1

All Services from Australia	
Total Enlistments	416,809
Total Served Overseas	331,781
Total Battle Casualties	214,360
Gassed	16,487
Died of Gas Poisoning	325
POW	4,057
Wounded in Action	135,687
Allies Mobilised	42,188,810
Allies Casualties	22,204,109

### WORLD WAR 2

All Services from Australia	
Total Enlistments	993,000
Total KIA Casualties	40,464
POW (German)	8,093
POW (Japan)	14,337
Wounded in Action	25,662
Missing (Presumed Dead)	53
Allies Mobilised	61,704,246
Axis Mobilised	21,630,000
Allies Casualties	27,797,042



## D V A NOTES

**Margie Gutteridge** has been appointed as the DVA Service Coordinator for DVA SA. This is a new role and each state office has the role in place. The Service Coordinators will report directly to the Deputy Commissioners and act as a single point of contact for dependants, including parents and, or, next of kin of deceased ADF members. They will ensure the delivery of all statutory DVA obligations to dependants and will streamline claims processing to ensure all entitlements are received as easily as possible.

The DVA Coordinators will work closely with Defence to ensure a smooth transition for the dependant and help them navigate the services of other Commonwealth agencies. The introduction of these positions will provide support while dealing with the concerns of dependants, such as being overwhelmed with information in a time of grief. These appointments are one of a number of measures that DVA is putting in place, including better support for wounded and injured ADF

members, to ensure DVA service continues to meet the changing needs of their clients.

### *Saluting Their Service*

Members with any questions have several methods available to make contact with DVA in SA:

Mail: GPO Box 9998  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Metro Ph: 133 254  
Country Ph: 1800 555 254  
E: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

## TPI NOTES

### **Car Parking — All Hospitals.....**

The backlash to this government decision is yet to be realised. The new legislation is still to be applied to all SA metro hospitals. In the case of Gold Card and White Card holders with some accepted conditions, it will be necessary to claim reimbursement AFTER the event.

**FORM D800** must be signed by a designated person at the treating hospital with receipts needed for amounts of \$30.00 and above.

**RGH Chaplains** are again soon to be out of funding by the end of the first quarter of 2011/12. RGH has been asked to provide ongoing funding, the reality is that this is unlikely to occur. Our two main traditional Commemorations, e.g. ANZAC DAY and REMEMBRANCE DAY at the RGH Chapel are now in jeopardy. DVA will provide funding for these. **Who makes** these decisions to cut out such an important and traditional role?? **Ed.**

Recently a group of TPI train travellers (not from SA) were de-trained from their journey because they chose to bring their own grog on board and became similar to a group of drunken end of year football supporters. Not only does this contravene the law, such action is irresponsible and places at risk this invaluable **rail concession** for all of us. There is no excuse for such behaviour. The train staff and other passengers must have been appalled.

## EARTHQUAKE !!

If the earth seemed to move for you at 0222hrs on 19 Oct 2011, you weren't imagining it..... there was an earthquake at Upper Sturt , 20 clicks from the CBD, SE of Adelaide, with a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale. The noise initially sounded like a very sharp crack and was immediately followed by a rumble which caused windows to rattle. The story that dogs react prior to earthquakes is true, the author's

dog, Harry, (and every other dog in the area), barked and howled but, when the event was over, were again quiet ? The 'quake was felt up to 35 clicks from the epicentre. Adelaide is sited over one of the main 'quake fault areas of Australia and there are over 300 recorded annually. The majority are not heard or felt. Signs of previous damage can be seen around the suburbs where

there are old stone and masonry buildings. The visible outer walls will have large metal rods and plates bolted through them, and in some cases, steel rods are anchored to the ground as support mechanisms. One of the "decisions" made by the outgoing SA Premier, is the new multi billion \$ Adelaide hospital, will be built over a known fault line that traverses the CBD.....you tell me.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to the incoming

**NMBVAA Inc**

### **National President**

**Owen Marshall**

and incoming

### **National Treasurer**

**Ben Thurlow**



**Battle of  
MARYANG-SAN  
Remembrance  
Service  
was held on  
Sunday, 2 October  
at the 3RAR  
Memorial on the  
Pathway of Honour  
Torrens Parade  
Ground**

## DIARY NOTES

### **Christmas Lunch 9 Dec 11**

TPI House 1200 hrs.  
Bring a plate please.

## **2012 MEETING DATES**

**17 Feb** RAR Club

**20 April** RAR Club

**15 June** RAR Club

**17 Aug** AGM TPI House

**31 Aug** Malaya & Borneo  
Veterans Day

1100 hrs SA War Memorial

**12 Oct** RAR Club

**20 Oct** Annual Dinner

1900 hrs RAR Club

**7 Dec** TPI House

**7 Dec** Christmas Lunch

**SA & NT Branch Committee**  
**meetings** are held at 1200  
and then **Branch General**  
meeting at 1300 hrs.



## NOSTALGIA



111LAABtY RAA patrol returns to Grik



LST loading 111Bty for China Rock



Supplementary water transport



Brit Ferret near Grik, Thai Border



Landing barge China Rock



111Bty near Ipoh en route CR

## VALE

## NMBVAA PLAQUE



Barry Algar and Reg Miller on RnR Penang Island circa 1964.

**Lt Gen Sir Donald Dunstan  
AC KBE CB  
1923–2011  
A WARRIOR  
And  
GENTLEMAN**

**Ken Duthie** has manufactured, and presented a large NMBVAA plaque to the SA & NT Branch. It is in full colour and mounted to allow it to be hung properly. We will request it to be displayed at the RAR club so that all members and visitors will be able to see another theatre of conflict that many are not aware of. Bagusia! On behalf of all SA & NT Branch members, Thank you Ken. *Ed.*

## ANNUAL DINNER

## 31 AUG 2012

## TPI SA

The SA & NT Branch Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, 15 October at the RAR Club. There were 35 Members and guests who enjoyed a evening of convivial conversation and the Guest Speaker, Mike Von Berg MC, was very entertaining and spoke of his career and his high level involvement for the recognition of Australian armed forces units, post WW2, in the SE Asian area of Malaya and Borneo. Banyak Bagus !

**Preparations** have now commenced for the Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day service next year. The Adelaide City Council has confirmed our use of the SA War Memorial and the seating and marquee company has been advised for similar equipment again. Catering arrangements will be different, in that, we know we can do a better job by using the talents of our own members. Ideas welcome.

The **TPI Executive in SA** has been re-established after the recent changes due to departures and national elections:  
 President : L G Eddy  
 Vice Pres : A J Mogridge  
 Vice Pres : J G Genovese  
 Secretary : L Walker  
 Dep Sec : Ms J Conry  
 Treasurer : R D Garland  
 Congratulations and Best Wishes to all.

**SA & NT MEMBERSHIP**  
In addition to Ordinary Membership our Branch includes.....

**Associate Membership** for Family members over 18 years of age.  
**Social Membership** for those interested in joining and helping us, and **Junior Membership** for family and friends under 18 years of age.

**Ordinary membership** is for ex-service personnel, and those currently serving in the ADF, who have served in the prescribed areas during WW2, the 1948-1960 Malayan Emergency, the 1962-1966 Indonesian Confrontation and all service post 1966 to the present.

**Annual fees** are:  
**\$15.00** Ordinary,  
 Associate and Social.

**\$10.00** RAR subs.

**\$5.00** Junior members.

Those already members of the RAR Association do not pay the above subs of **\$10.00** .

Nor do Juniors *Ed.*

**ANOTHER ONE GONE !!**  
**SUNDANCE Resources, a WA Iron Ore Explorer has cashed in to HANLONG China for AUD\$0.57 per share .**  
**The takeover also gains Bannerman Resources, a uranium miner !!**  
**How?**

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
TO**

The Editor  
SA & NT Branch  
73 Berrima Rd  
SHEIDOW PARK SA 5158  
  
Phone: 08 8387 1672  
Mob: 0416 118 843  
E: brian.selby@virginbroadband.com.au



THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS  
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED  
ESTABLISHED JUNE 1995

**ON THIS DAY .....**

NOVEMBER.....

**1 1914** First contingent of the 1st AIF sailed from Albany WA. 2 of every 3 men were KIA or WIA.  
**1 1951** 77Sqn RAAF awarded the South Korean Presidential Citation for ground support actions.  
**2 1942** Kokoda airstrip recaptured.  
**3 1918** Austria-Hungary sign the Armistice.  
**4 1944** Troops land at Jacquinot Bay New Britain.  
**5 1950** 3RAR commences the Battle of Pakchon Korea against Chinese and North Korean troops.  
**7 1917** Third battle of Gaza allows advance to Jerusalem by the Australian Light Horse.  
**9 1914** HMAS Sydney (1) destroys the SMS *Emden* off Cocos Island.  
**11 1918** Germany signs the Armistice to end WW1.  
**13 1965** "Dasher" Wheatley VC posthumously.  
**24 1943** "Diver" Derrick DCM awarded VC.  
**28 1942** Sgt RH Middleton RAAF VC posthumously.

**ASSOCIATION AIMS**

**COMRADESHIP** for those who served in Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Ubon, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei and Timor during WW2, the MALAYAN EMERGENCY and during the INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION.

**To ASSIST** members in times of need.

**To REMEMBER** with Pride, Respect and Gratitude, those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the line of duty and to ensure those who fell are represented on ANZAC Day in Australia and Remembrance Day abroad.

**To PROMOTE** the Association and it's Aims.

**To STRENGTHEN TIES** with Malaysia and Singapore.

**AROUND THE GUNS**

**Hey Digger**, they reckon there are too many immigrants in Britain... a recent survey found; 38% YES, 6% NO and 56% asked for a translation of the question !!!!

John Lennon would have been 71 on 10 October 2011.

Elvis would have been 76 this year.

**Quill Paper Products**.....  
100% Aussie owned, Milled in Indonesia and Packed in China....

Don't mess with old men.....they didn't get old by being stupid.

Bottled beer should be stored upright to avoid oxidization from the cap.

**Cenosillicaphobia** is the fear of an empty (beer) glass.

Drawn at Christmas Lunch BBQ  
**Christmas Raffle tickets** are now available at \$2.00 each for the major prize this year, a "Naked Army" 1960s era, cold cast bronze Digger wearing patrol order webbing and holding a 7.62 SLR. 150 tickets only  
Phone Jenny 08 8264 2858 to order your tickets asap.

**DUST**...Mud with the juice squeezed out.....

**INFLATION**...Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.....



Now, **THAT'S** a bird of prey !

**STOP PRESS**

**Rio Tinto**, one of the largest mining groups in the world has sold all it's aluminium smelters in Australia to an undisclosed number of foreign interests .

**State Contacts:**

**Queensland**

**Laraine Edwards**

Ph : 07 3396 6705

**ACT**

**Maureen Davenport**

Ph : 02 6258 8988

**New South Wales**

**Maureen Davenport**

Ph : 02 6258 8988

**Victoria**

**Ben Thurlow**

Ph : 03 5952 1794

**Tasmania**

**Lyn Miller**

Ph : 03 6229 6500

**South Australia**

**Don Cameron**

Ph : 08 8264 2858

**Western Australia**

**Interim ACT contact**

**FOOT NOTE**

The assistance to print this news letter is gratefully acknowledged to the office of Dr Andrew Southcott MP, SA & NT Branch Patron.

**Buddah said .....**

*"I never see what has been done.....I only see what remains to be done".....*

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

**GOOGLE** is the name of any number with 1 million zeros.

If you **STOP** being thirsty, you need to drink more water.

When a human is dehydrated, the first mechanism to shut down is thirst.

**Zero** is the only number that cannot be represented with Roman numerals.

**Nine out of every 10 living things** on earth, live in the ocean.

**Everything** weighs 1% less on the equator. **Chee Woh.**