



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-by. 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

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 derailed 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



111LAABtyRAA 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. Bagusla! 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?

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.



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

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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"

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 .

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.**