Hello to you all........what a fantastic year it has been for the NMBVAA Inc. We have held, or, attended numerous events throughout 2013. The latest being organised by JOM Magazine for the Malaysian Festival in Melbourne near the casino. We had use of a marquee to display pics and details of the Association. Among the guests were the Malaysian Foreign Minister and the Consul General. The speech by the Foreign Minister paid great tribute to the contribution made by Australia’s armed forces in both post WW2 conflicts. I was quite humbled to represent the NMBVAA Inc and the function was a significant benefit to the profile of the Association. I will be discussing next year’s event with the organisers in due course.

On behalf of the National Committee........

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Members, their Families and Friends.

If you are travelling, take care and have a safe journey.

Our recruiting campaign has been very successful and the latest results via VetAffairs has seen new members in all states. We must continue to include the younger vets in our efforts. The new Minister has “Broken the Mould” and it is noticeable that both campaigns are now mentioned in any media releases, and is a direct result of the efforts made over the decades.....it has been a long time coming.

In closing, may I leave you with these thoughts.....As Christmas approaches it is important for us all to take the time to reconnect with family and friends. Christmas is a time of celebration and relaxation for many, but it can also be a lonely and difficult time for many in the veteran and defence communities. We especially remember those families grieving the loss of a loved one for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

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This Christmas, I encourage you to call someone that you haven’t spoken to for a while, invite a neighbour over for a festive drink and most importantly, tell your wife, partner, children and friends you love them.

For those who may be at a loss on what to do over the period, many ex-service organisations hold events that you could join in with. Importantly, if you need help, the Veterans and Veteran’s Family Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours on 1800 011 046 and DVA’s At Ease website http://at-ease-dva.gov.au

I wish all in the veteran community your families and friends, a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year........

Michael and Cate Ronaldson
Inoculations for overseas travel prior to 1 August 2010 were not reimbursed by DVA, the approach was that it was a private expense. As from 1 August 2010 all Gold card holders are eligible to be covered for required vaccinations. The procedure is you attend your local GP and obtain a DVA Authority prescription and have it filled by the pharmacy of your choice. If you require more details call your local DVA VAN office to ask any questions. DVA

Australian Partners of Defence has launched a new nationwide discount website to all serving and retired military personnel and their families. These discounts are available through a membership program called APOD-Defence Discounts Online at www.apod.com.au. Products include dining, gifts, accommodation, fashion, jewellery and beverages. Browse at www.apod.com.au/browse-defence-discounts for latest offers.

RSL SA & NT has teamed up with Soldier On to a new “Drop In” referral centre for servicemen and women who have served in recent conflicts including Iraq and also Afghanistan. The centre offers referrals to veterans who have been wounded physically, or, psychologically on contemporary war, or, on peace keeping operations. The new centre offers a range of information and referrals under one roof, so that veterans can get the right advice. RSL SA President, Brig Tim Hanna AM, has welcomed the initiative. “The centre draws on the expertise and resources of a number of welfare and ex-service organisations in pursuit of a common goal” he said. “The RSL serves those who serve our community. Our mission crosses generations. We are here to offer independent advice and referrals and make sure that all veterans get the support they’re entitled to”. RSL SA NT

Albany WA was the embarkation point for most of the men who were the 1st AIF. Planning is well advanced for commemorative activities that will have a interactive interpretive centre and provide visitors with a better understanding of the departure of the ANZAC convoys from 1914. France has asked to be involved in the planning of commemorative activities for the Western Front from 2016 and will provide funds.

Soldiers from 2 RAR became the first Australians, in 27 years, to win a Gold Medal on the Cambrian Patrol in Wales. It was a reconnaissance mission to locate a training camp, in a Kosovo style stabilisation scenario with a bit of Iraq and Afghanistan thrown in. On the way we were re-tasked to carry out river crossings, observation posts and first aid tasks. Soldiers patrolled for 48 hours without rest. Distances were up to 18 km for a task. Penalties were given if sections arrived early. Diggers from 3CER-based RSF deployed into the Philippines on 28 November. The work includes extensive cleanup and rebuilds in Cogon, a severely damaged area in the city of Ormoc. Within 12 hrs of arrival, troops were supporting the residents and providing disaster and humanitarian relief operations. The scale of damage caused to the Philippines by the cyclone is unprecedented in the region and it will take years to rebuild.

ADFA Veterans put pen to paper and paint brushes to canvas, taking part in the inaugural Veterans Corps Inc Veterans Art and Photography Exhibition at the AWM on 9 November. 15 veterans took part and the funds raised by the sale of their exhibits went to the continued support of veterans and their families. TVCI aims to provide new skills and qualifications for reintegration into the civilian community.
DID YOU SERVE with any Australian or Allied Armed Forces, post WW2, during the Malayan Emergency from 1948—60 or the Indonesian Confrontation from 1962—66, and since then with the RAR Rifle Company at Butterworth?

If so, you are very welcome and you are eligible to join the NMBVAA Inc. Branch details are shown on page 4 for all your enquiries.

Veterans and Veterans’ Family Counseling service has been extended to include Border protection personnel, Australian and Overseas Disaster zone personnel, personnel involved in training accidents and submariners; partners and dependent children to the age of 26 of these groups; partners and dependent children to the age of 26 and parents of veterans killed in service-related incidents;

The first of four mounted troopers has been modelled in plasticine and will be upscaled in clay before going to the foundry to be cast in bronze. Finished size is 1.5 life size. Sculptor is Louis Laumen. When finished the memorial will have four mounted troopers emerging from bushland beside ANZAC Pde in Canberra. 23,000 Australians served in the war and 1000 died including one of 60 nurses who went to South Africa.

In April 2014, The Ghan will make a special journey from Darwin to Adelaide. The Ghan’s ANZAC tribute will be a 4 day commemoration of the sacrifices made by the Australian Armed Forces......the tour is 4 days and 3 nights and including the Dawn Service in Alice Springs, and a side trip on the Pichi Ritchi Troop Train.Enquiries and bookings to Great Southern Rail Ph 13 21 47 and greatsouthernrail.com.au

DID YOU KNOW......

- Glass takes at least a million years to decompose which means it never wears out and can be recycled endlessly
- Nine out of ten living things live in the oceans
- When a person dies, the last sense to go is hearing...the first is sight
- Earth gains 100 tonnes in weight annually due to falling space dust
- Due to earth’s gravity it is impossible for mountains to exceed 15,000 metres
- Regardless of how long it is used, Gold will never rust

TROJAN’S TREK
RSL SA and RSL Care SA supported and participated in the Trojan’s Trek, Walk, Run or Roll the 3 and 5 km routes around the River Torrens on 24 November. Trojan’s Trek is an initiative that directly assists younger veterans in SA.
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ON THIS DAY ....MALAYA Post WW2...

ASSOCIATION AIMS
COMRADESHIP for those who served in Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei and Timor during WW2, the MALAYAN EMERGENCY and the INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION post WW2.
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.

PICS AND NOTES
Every ESO should have one...... DVA could fund them...It??

now...THAT’s a dukw !!

Australian PM Harold Holt with BC Maj Brian Topfer visited 111 Bty 1965 at Butterworth.